

# District Planning

Conversation Starter #4

How will Edmontonians Provide Input?





#### **How to Use the Conversation Starters**

The **Conversation Starters** are mini information packages that introduce Edmontonians to District Planning and explore key topics. There are six Conversation Starters. Each is dedicated to a different aspect of the project. We encourage Edmontonians to explore all topics to learn more about District Planning and help prepare them for upcoming public engagement.

# **Conversation Starter Topics**

- + What is the District Planning Project?
- + What are the District General Policy and the District Plans?
- + How are the District General Policy and the District Plans being Drafted?
- + How will Edmontonians Provide Input?
- + How are the District General Policy and District Plans Intended to be Used?
- + How will the District General Policy and District Plans be Monitored and Updated?



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#### Introduction

The District Planning project is making 15 district plans that will direct development in Edmonton as the city grows. Part of the project will be replacing older plans with district plans. The project team has written 15 district plans and is going to ask people what they think about them, starting in June 2022. By asking people what they think, the team hopes to improve the plans.

The City approved a new citywide plan in 2020, called The City Plan. The project team used The City Plan to make the district plans. The district plans will make planning simpler and easier to understand. They are made up of two things:

- 1. District General Policy general policies that apply in all districts
- 2. District plans the specific ideas for each of the 15 districts

In this Conversation Starter, we will discuss:

- + What the project team is doing to make sure people know about the project
- + How you can learn more about it
- + How you can tell us what you think
- + How we are making it easier for people to tell us what they think
- + How feedback will be used

See Conversation Starter #2: What are the District General Policy and District Plans? to learn more about the project and what they are about.

We need to talk more with Edmontonians before the district plans are complete. We have three parts to how and when we will talk with you. Each part has lots of different ways for the project team to connect with people and hear what you have to say. We have started sharing information about the district plans. We want to hear what you have to say starting this summer and fall (2022). After that, we will ask for your feedback again in the spring of 2023. We will think about what you tell us when we finish the district plans and tell Council about them in late 2023.

#### **Communication and Engagement to Date**

- + We used your feedback from The City Plan engagement to draft the district plans.
- + Some Edmontonians that we talked to about ConnectEdmonton (the City's Strategic Plan) and The City Plan looked at sample drafts of three district plans and a draft



District General Policy last year. They told us what they thought and we used their ideas to draft all 15 district plans.

+ The project team put on eight online information sessions open to all Edmontonians in June and July 2021. They were to let people know about the project and see what questions they had.

### Why Engage Now?

Drafting all 15 district plans is a lot of work and the project team is working on a few district plans at a time. We will release all 15 district plans at the same time. We are doing it this way to make sure that each district has a plan to look at and engage. We are ready to hear everything you have to tell us about the District General Policy, as well as the district plan that interests you the most.

We drafted these district plans using The City Plan, as well as all the older plans that have directed development in the past. Getting your ideas on how these drafts can be better is the next step before City Council looks at them and decides whether to approve them.

#### Why is it Important to Engage on District plans?

The district plans and the District General Policy will guide new development in communities, such as, where apartment buildings should go. They will help City staff and Council make decisions about what kind of buildings get built and where they get built. We want people to have choices about where they live and in what type of building. We also want people to know that changes might happen in their communities. We want people to know what kind of changes to expect. We think these district plans will help with that.

What we really want to know from people is:

- + How can district plans better align with The City Plan
- + How can district plans be improved to inform planning recommendations and decisions
- + How can district plans be improved so they can guide the physical change in your district
- + Whether district plans are easy to understand and use

#### What to Expect From Engagement

The District Planning project engagement will include three parts, each with various ways for you to learn and to tell us what you think.



- + In Part 1, we will let Edmontonians know about the project and when and how they can tell us what they think.
- + In Part 2, we will listen to what everyone says, to adjust the first drafts of the District General Policy and district plans.
- + In Part 3, we will share the updated drafts and collect everyone's thoughts to help the project team make the final district plans.

#### Why Engage over Summer?

Project engagement Part 2 is between June 2022 until October 2022. These five months allow Edmontonians time to review and engage on the draft materials with options to engage outside in better weather.

The City uses something that we call our "Engagement Spectrum" to plan how to talk to people about projects. It is a tool that shows how big of a role the public has in making decisions about a project. The engagement approach for the District Planning project will focus on two roles for Edmontonians: Refine and Advise.



City of Edmonton Engagement Spectrum



#### **How Will My Feedback Be Used?**

The district plans were made using content in The City Plan and existing approved plans. Because of that, we are asking for your ideas about very specific parts of the plans. We aren't creating new thoughts, ideas or visions. We are just making sure that what we've put in the district plans matches what's in The City Plan and other plans.

In this regard, we are asking you to share your feedback ("advise" on the spectrum) and also to adapt the district plans that have been already written ("refine"). It's important for everyone to know that we aren't creating new directions or visions in the project.

See Conversation Starter #3: How are the **District General Policy and the District** Plans Being Drafted? to learn more about their content sources and constraints.

# **District Planning and the Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative**

Over the next year, District Planning and the Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative will work together to make it easier for Edmontonians, industry and community organisations to tell us what they think.

To read more about the **Zoning Bylaw** Renewal Initiative, visit edmonton.ca/zoningbylawrenewal or contact them at 311.

#### Who Will be Engaged?

The project team really wants to hear from lots of different people. We know it is important to City Council that we hear from many Edmontonians about these plans. We will use lots of different ways for people to learn about the project and also to tell us

what they think.

#### **Indigenous Engagement**

Indigenous Nations and Communities have significant historical and cultural connections to the land in Edmonton. To respect the unique engagement interests, cultural context and capacity of Indigenous Nations and Communities, Indigenous engagement will be carried out through a separate engagement stream.

We hope to hear from:





Community Leagues



Institutions



Industry and the business community



**City Staff** 



#### **Gender-Based Analysis (GBA+)**

GBA+ analysis is a process used to understand how different people with diverse identities might experience policies, programs and initiatives. GBA+ tries to identify and remove barriers to promote inclusivity.

Sometimes the way we expect people to talk to us is hard for some people. The project team will use a GBA+ analysis to make it easier for lots of different types of people to talk to us about the project.

Some barriers might be:	The project is going to use the following things to address some of the barriers:
<ul> <li>+ Trouble accessing or understanding online software</li> <li>+ Trouble accessing information online</li> <li>+ Not enough money to participate in leisure activities</li> <li>+ Not enough time to participate in events</li> <li>+ Feeling excluded or unsafe</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>+ Use language that is easy to understand</li> <li>+ Provide different ways of communicating</li> <li>+ Talk to community organisations that work with groups of people that have barriers</li> <li>+ Talk to people where they already are, such as grocery stores, local events, libraries and recreation centres</li> <li>+ Offer short and medium time-length activities</li> <li>+ Offer a variety of engagement approaches (i.e., in-person, online and self-directed) so participants can choose how they wish to be engaged</li> </ul>

#### **Part 1: Communication and Awareness**

Part 1 will be making sure people know about the project and how they can tell us what they think. The project team will use lots of different ways to tell people about it.

You can learn about the project and engagement through:





#### **Using our Existing Networks**

We will ask for help from our core stakeholders and existing networks in the community to share communications related to upcoming District Planning engagement opportunities. In working together, we can broaden our reach.

#### **Part 2: REFINE Engagement**

In Part 2, we will ask people what they think about the first drafts of the District General Policy and district plans. People can tell us what they think about:

- + Are the plans clear?
- + Are they missing anything?
- + Is there any wrong information?
- + Do existing plans have an impact?
- + Do they give the right amount of information?
- + Do they have the same direction as the City Plan?

Engagement between June 2022 and August 2022 will focus on the content of the District General Policy. All 15 district plans will be ready for engagement in August 2022. Edmontonians can submit input and feedback on both the district plans and District General Policy until October 2022.

# **Part 3: ADVISE Engagement**

In Part 3, we will share how what you told us in Part 2 was used to change the draft District General Policy and district plans. We will also tell you what input could not be used and why. You'll also be able to tell us what you think about the final plans, and we will share that with City Council.



#### What Type of Input does the Project Need?

The table below shows what we want you to tell us about the district plans. We want to know your thoughts about the clarity and completeness of the district plans. We also want to know how you think adopting the content in the district plans and District General Policy will make a difference in planning in Edmonton.

#### Input We're Looking For: In Project Scope Input that is Out of Project Scope Making sure the District General Policy and the Anything about creating of new District Plans reflect The City Plan information or new planning direction like: Making sure the district plans and District General Policy are as clear as possible + New Local neighbourhood visioning exercises Improving the usefulness of the District General Policy and district plans as a way to + Adding, removing or changing help us make decisions about how land is locations of proposed bike or used, moving around the City and making sure transit routes growth happens in the best places Traffic safety measures along a street + How well the District General Policies apply Park improvements citywide, across different parts of the city and if you are concerned about any of them Operational things like snow removal, waste collection or construction sites Gathering input on the impact of retaining or repealing any of the proposed guidelines or plans in effect + Are we missing anything in the District General Policy or District Specific Policy Tables from existing sources Any additions or changes needed in the draft District Context sections of each district plan

The District Planning project team is open to all your thoughts. We will still listen to ideas outside our project scope or that we can't address as part of the project. This information will be shared with Council. Council might ask Administration to address these items as part of future work after district plans are approved.



#### **How to Submit Feedback**

The District Planning team wants to make sure that they are hearing lots of different ideas in lots of different places. Some ways will be quick and simple and some will take longer and be more in depth. The team will also offer you and others a choice in how you can tell us what you think. Using different online, in-person and self-directed activities will help make sure we hear from as many people as we can.

#### **Ways We Will Engage**



#### What about Covid-19?

District Planning is planning for in-person events for Part 2 and Part 3. Meanwhile, online options will also be available. The project team is designing flexible activities so everyone can participate in whichever format they choose.

#### **Engagement Activities**

There will be activities for everyone, whether you are new to Edmonton's planning process, participated in The City Plan engagement or have been involved for many years. The table below describes the three types of engagement activities: Getting Started, Jumping In and Diving In.



Activities are categorised by how long each activity will take. Events will offer one or a combination of these types of activities. The ideas we collect for each activity will build off each other and help us decide what the next activities will look like.

Activity Type	Description	Audience	Time
Getting Started Activities	Sharing first reactions to, concerns and ideas about the draft district plans. Ideas will be used to plan future activities and topics to explore.	Open to Everyone	5 to 30 minutes
Jumping In Activities	Reviewing the draft district plans for gaps, clarity, accuracy.  Suggesting improvements.  These activities will happen more than Getting Started or Diving In Activities.	Open to Everyone	30 minutes to 2 hours
Diving In Activities	Engaging in informed discussions with the project team to evaluate the draft district plan materials and share specific feedback and recommendations for refinement.	Highly invested community members and industry	2 to 3 hours

#### **Get Involved**

We look forward to hearing from you. Visit edmonton.ca/districtplanning to learn more or contact us at <a href="mailto:districtplanning@edmonton.ca">districtplanning@edmonton.ca</a> or through 311.

Check out the other Conversation Starters to learn more about:

- What is the District Planning project?
- What are the District General Policy and the district plans?
- How are the District General Policy and the district plans being drafted?
- How are the District General Policy and District Plans Intended to be Used?
- How will the District General Policy and district plans be monitored and updated?