



Reporting Back

SHARE YOUR VOICE

SHAPE OUR CITY

This is your city.

We welcome your input on how we maintain, grow and build Edmonton.

We believe engagement leads to better decision-making.

We are committed to reaching out to our diverse communities in thoughtful and meaningful ways.

We want to understand your perspectives and build trusting relationships with you.

We will show you how you help influence City decisions.

Share your voice with us and shape our city.

105 Avenue (Columbia Avenue) 112 to 113 Plaza Stakeholder Workshop and Meetings

Project/Initiative Background	
Name Date Location	105 Avenue (Columbia Avenue) Streetscape 112 to 113 Plaza Stakeholder Meeting February 23, 2019 Roundhouse, Allard Hall, MacEwan University
Contact information	Linda Billey, P. Eng. Project Manager linda.billey@edmonton.ca
Level of public engagement	CREATE
Description	<p>The 2006 and 2013 streetscape preliminary designs for 105 Avenue, from 97 Street to 116 Street, provided a vision for a green, pedestrian oriented street (complete street) and were updated in 2018 to include separated (protected) bicycle lanes within the road right of way (ROW).</p> <p>A plaza between 112 and 113 Streets was proposed in the 2006 and 2013 preliminary designs but did not receive any further design development during the 2018 preliminary design update. The intent was to have stakeholder engagement specifically on the plaza once the preliminary design was approved by City Council's Urban Planning Committee, which occurred in late 2018, along with the budget approval for the next phase of construction from 109 Street to 116 Street. This phase will also include the plaza construction from 112 Street to 113 Street.</p>



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	<p>A stakeholder workshop was held to develop the vision, and gather information about programming, activities and priorities for the plaza. In addition, stakeholder meetings with two stakeholders who could not attend the workshop were also held to gather feedback. Information received will be used by the project team to develop solutions for the design of the plaza.</p> <p>A public event will be held in spring 2019 to introduce the plaza design to the public and stakeholders, and to gather additional feedback.</p>
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SUMMARY

Sixteen stakeholder groups were invited to a stakeholder workshop to discuss the vision and programming for the plaza. The workshop, with 14 attendees from eight organizations including internal City stakeholders, was held at the Roundhouse, Allard Hall, MacEwan University from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on February 23, 2019. A visit to the plaza area provided site context and size of the plaza occurred at 10 am. The group moved to the Roundhouse after some onsite discussion. A short presentation about project background and the workshop intent was followed by a facilitated discussion. Feedback was collected from the stakeholders during the facilitated discussion with notes recorded on flip charts. A comment form was available at the event and focussed on the event experience. Eight comment forms were received.

Following the February 23 stakeholder meeting, two additional meetings were held with individual stakeholders who could not attend the workshop. The same presentation was made and discussions followed the format of the original meeting. Comments were collected for consideration. Additional items from the two separate stakeholder meetings are added in *italics* in this document.

The following information was provided for project background and the starting point for discussion:

1. The preliminary design has been approved for the 105 Avenue Streetscape, from 97 Street to 116 Street, by the City Council’s Urban Planning Committee.
2. The plaza between 112 and 113 Street was part of the approved preliminary design.
3. A construction budget for the next phase (109 Street to 116 Street) has been approved by City Council in December 2018. This includes building the plaza.
4. Construction will start with utilities in 2020. Roadway construction will start in 2021.
5. Pedestrians and cyclists will use this space. It will be available to them 24/7 and 365 days of the year.
6. Fire rescue services do not require access through the plaza.
7. Once the plaza is built, any user groups will need to go through the Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator to book the space for an event in the plaza.

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8. Due to funding constraints, the plaza will have the standard utility installations, such as, streetlights and hydrants.

The intent of the stakeholder meetings was to:

- Identify the vision for the plaza
- Determine the potential programs or activities – both passive (seating) and active (events) - that the stakeholders would like to see occur in the plaza
- Determine what is required to make those activities a success
- Prioritize the activities and the amenities required to facilitate the program

The following vision was developed from the feedback (additional items from the two separate stakeholder meetings added in *italics*):

Vision: The plaza will be a **flexible space** and will safely accommodate a wide range of activities and programs for the immediate and long term use. It must be recognized that the activities and programming considered today may not be the same in the future.

The stakeholders had listed the following priorities that they felt the plaza should include:

- Active/gathering/display areas (open space)
- Passive/quiet/reflective areas (intimate space)
- Moveable features, such as furniture to accommodate various activities - *flexibility and multipurpose elements are key*
- An identifiable anchor to provide a sense of place, such as, but not limited to, a piece of art or a structure
- Relief from various weather conditions (rain, snow, sun, wind)
- Soft and hard landscape (planting and paving)
- Opportunities for sponsorship (e.g. art, structures)
- Infrastructure to support a variety of activities (water, power, gas)
- Ease of maintenance and longevity of materials

Potential year-round activities (in addition to day-to-day activities):

- Pop-ups
- Movies
- Children's play (integrated play elements - not focused on structures such as a playground)
- Concerts (ranging from buskers and jam sessions to bands)

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- Food events (e.g. food trucks and cafes)
- Markets
- Exercising
- Weddings
- Other as determined by the community

Potential seasonal activities:

- Skating
- Ice sculpture
- Frozen bar
- Barbeque
- Car club displays
- Street party
- Others as determined by the community

Specific elements to be considered to assist with activities/programming:

- Trees, shrubs - *consider long term planting areas*
- Hard surfaces - *avoid slippery materials*
- Seating and picnic tables
- Structures, such as a gazebo
- *Barriers on either end of the plaza to discourage vehicle driving through the plaza*
- Lighting
- Exhibit space (e.g. art, car show)
- Stage/performance area - *consider which way the sound travels as it may disturb the residents*
- Games tables, such as chess - *consider on where to store these items*
- Exercise equipment
- Informal skating rink
- Firepit
- Digital messaging/displays
- Water filling station
- *Public washrooms*
- *Garbage bins placed throughout to discourage littering.*
- Power/water/gas
- *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)*

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Potential opportunities:

- Corporate sponsorship for features, including structures
- Name for plaza
- Opportunities to acknowledge the past, i.e. rail, Indigenous history - *Consider manhole covers that are artistic in nature that honour the history of the area*
- Public art through the Percent for Art program
- Integration with adjacent land uses/types, including cafes and restaurants i.e. temporary seating
- Changing demographics - more families moving into neighbourhood *and an increase in young professionals*
- *Utilize bike and walking corridors to divide site for more than one activity at a time*
- *Utilize various materials to differentiate zones*
- *Opportunities for the community to contribute to ongoing art or plaza elements in the future - space required for this to occur*

Potential constraints:

- Volunteer fatigue - communities require assistance from City for programming
- No additional infrastructure to facilitate programming Maintenance for features -*Overall site maintenance (i.e. lack of garbage receptacles)*
- *Larger events may require temporary road closures beyond the plaza in order to have sufficient space*
- *Challenges with flexibility on a public site*
- *Some proposed activities may impact neighbouring land uses (in particular residential)*
- *Inappropriate behaviour in the plaza*
- *Maintaining bike and pedestrian connectivity through plaza during events*



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RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The following summarizes the results of the comment form (provided at the February 23 workshop only): 14 attendees (including 3 City of Edmonton internal stakeholders and 2 Edmonton Arts Council representatives). 8 comment forms filled in. NA = No responses

1. Please share your feelings on the following:

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The purpose of this activity was clearly explained.	7/88%	1/12%	NA	NA	NA
I understand how the input from this activity will be used.	7/88%	1/12%	NA	NA	NA
I had enough information to contribute to the topic being discussed.	7/88%	1/12%	NA	NA	NA
I felt respected during the activity.	7/88%	1/12%	NA	NA	NA
I felt safe during the activity.	7/88%	1/12%	NA	NA	NA
I feel my views were heard during the activity.	6/75%	2/25%	NA	NA	NA
I feel my input was adequately captured and recorded during the activity.	6/75%	2/25%	NA	NA	NA
I feel that the input provided through this activity will be considered by the City.	5/63%	2/25%	1/12%	NA	NA
This activity was a good use of my time.	5/63%	3/37%	NA	NA	NA
This activity was well organized.	7/88%	1/12%	NA	NA	NA
The display boards were easy to understand and informative.	8/100%	NA	NA	NA	NA



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The event set-up was appropriate.	8/100%	NA	NA	NA	NA
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2. What did you like the most about this public engagement event?

- The opportunity to provide input that was recorded and discussed by the attendees
 - Hearing the views of the other stakeholders
 - Listening to everyone's ideas
 - Consultation
 - Positive outlook within group. Thank you for time.
- 3 - No response

3. Was the time of this public engagement event accessible/convenient for you?

- 5 - Yes
- 3 - No response

4. Was the location of this public engagement event accessible/convenient for you?

- 6 - Yes
- 2 - No response

5. Was the date of this public engagement event accessible/convenient for you?

- 5 - Yes
- 1 - No
- 2 - No response

6. Do you have any additional suggestions on how the City could improve future events?

- Comparative examples or benchmarks would be helpful
 - I would like to know if there are other ways of engaging with the community to include diverse voices. How do you include newcomer perspectives, tai chi school? Will the City make the extra effort to include these voices? In the beginning, encourage diversity of voices, male voices were dominant in the beginning of engagement session.
 - Make budget available for interpretation
- 5 - No response

7. Comments

- I would appreciate to remain consulted. 1 handout of the schedule and key accomplishments, to date, would be beneficial. Great location!
- 7 - No response

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WHAT'S NEXT

All feedback will be considered by the project team as the project moves forward with the development of the preliminary design for the plaza.

A public meeting for this project is planned for the spring of 2019 and the date will be posted on the project webpage when it is known. How the feedback received from this stakeholder meeting is used will be presented, as well as the reasons for why, or why not, feedback was used.

Thank you for participating in sharing your voice and shaping our city.

For more information on City of Edmonton public engagement, please visit www.edmonton.ca/publicengagement.