

# WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

## Strathcona Area Redevelopment Plan Application (LDA19-0340)

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**PROJECT ADDRESS:** Strathcona Area Redevelopment Plan Boundary (Strathcona and portions of Garneau, Ritchie, Queen Alexandra, Strathcona Junction and CPR Irvine)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Amendment to the Strathcona Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) to incorporate the direction of the plan Whyte Land Use Study

TYPE OF ENGAGEMENT	DATE	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
Public Engagement Session	September 24, 2019	91

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### ABOUT THIS REPORT

The information in this report reflects feedback gathered during the September 24, 2019 Public Engagement Event. This report is shared with everyone who has emailed the file planner directly, and all attendees who provided their email address during the event. This summary will also be shared with the applicant and the Ward Councillor. If/when the proposed amendment advances to Public Hearing this report will be included in the information provided to City Council.

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### MEETING FORMAT

The meeting format was a drop-in open house where attendees were able to view display boards with project information and ask questions of City Staff. Participants were invited to share their feedback on feedback forms and on a “Graffiti wall” by offering general feedback and questions via sticky notes. We received 15 feedback forms with written comments and 28 sticky notes. The comments & questions we received are summarized by the main themes below and the number beside each comment indicates how many times it was heard.

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## WHAT WE HEARD

### Parking and Traffic:

- Would like to see an increase in protected bike lanes and bike parking (4)
- Concerned about what is being done to address on street parking needs, including those associated with high volume traffic during major events/farmers market in the area (3)
- Concerned about increasing and excessive level of motor vehicle noise on Whyte Ave (3)
- Concerned about a lack of traffic/crossing lights on existing residential streets (2)
- Would like to see underground parking at the existing Farmer's Market parking lot with either a park, playground, or building on top (2)
- Concerned that little consideration is going into vehicle owners in comparison to bike lanes and the reduced street parking that comes with this (2)
- Would like to see additional "ride-share" and new forms of transit utilized, such as bike share (2)
- Roads in the Strathcona area did not anticipate as heavy of traffic flows as we see now
- Concerned that the focus on cyclist and public transit infrastructure is unrealistic in a winter city where residents are unlikely to give up cars
- Would like to see parking requirements eased
- Would like to see another main arterial for west to east vehicle traffic to allow for an enhanced pedestrian experience on Whyte Ave

For more information about Parking in Edmonton:

[https://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/urban\\_planning\\_and\\_design/parking-requirements.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/urban_planning_and_design/parking-requirements.aspx)

For more information about Bicycle Infrastructure:

[https://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/cycling\\_walking/bicycle-transportation-plan.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/cycling_walking/bicycle-transportation-plan.aspx)

### Strathcona Character:

- Concerned about height of new developments
- Concerned that an increase of chain stores on Whyte Ave will cause a decrease in local shops
- Concerned that altering the various aspects of Strathcona, including historical, commercial, and entertainment, will cause permanent changes to the area
- Concerned that some of the language used in the online report references an envisioned change to character

## **LRT/TRANSIT:**

- Concerned about an above grade LRT system down Whyte Ave and impacts on Old Strathcona (3)
- Would like to see additional sheltered bus stops at reasonable distances along Whyte Ave (2)
- Unaware of the proposed LRT line running down Whyte Ave
- Would like to see more information regarding the Centre Line LRT
- Would like to see the implementation of a trolley-system down Whyte Avenue which connects to a designated parking lot in West Richie, eliminating traffic and enhancing the pedestrian experience

For more information about the Centre LRT Study:

[https://www.edmonton.ca/projects\\_plans/transit/centre-lrt-study.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/projects_plans/transit/centre-lrt-study.aspx)

## **CONSULTATION:**

- Concerned about the involvement of “communications consultants” within this process (2)
- The City has no consideration for residents or public input (2)
- Information boards were excellent and City staff was knowledgeable and courteous
- Would have liked to see a formal presentation in addition to boards and handouts
- This proposal is already 75% complete leaving little room for public input
- Skeptical that comments will be recorded in the What We Heard Report
- Concerned that the public engagement process has no credibility
- Negative experiences at previous public hearings
- Concerned about deficiencies to the City’s notification system

## **OTHER:**

- Overall happy with the proposal and the planWhyte study (3)
- Would like to see the Strathcona Police Station brought back (3)
- Would like to see increased density (3)
- Would like to see an increased number of playgrounds (3)
- Would like to see something done about the homeless population ruining the area
- Would like to see the homeless population addressed through kindness, tolerance, and services
- Love the new sidewalks and improved walkability in the area
- Would like to see a continued enhancement of mixed-use historic properties
- Would like to see increased green spaces
- Would like to see more commercial in neighbourhoods
- In favour of keeping the historical area as is
- In favour of taller buildings being planned towards the southern industrial area
- In favour of ensuring no shadows on the northern side of Whyte Ave during winter months
- Would like to see European-style, pedestrian-only “plazas”

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## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

- Would like to know if the use of the term “application” refers to the City applying to its citizens to change the ARP or if it refers to the Planning Department applying to council?
  - This application reflects Administration applying to council to amend the Strathcona ARP to implement the results of the planWhyte study. The planWhyte study incorporated feedback received through public consultation.
- Would like more information on how to actively participate in public engagement and application processes - including signing up to speak at public hearings.
  - Members of the public can participate in public engagement by:
    - Attending public engagement sessions and providing detailed feedback;
    - Writing to their file planner and/or Ward Councillor; and
    - Becoming active in their community league
  - Members of the public can find information regarding active applications online at [https://www.edmonton.ca/residential\\_neighbourhoods/your-neighbourhood.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/your-neighbourhood.aspx) by selecting their respective neighbourhood and the planning application of interest. This particular application has its own webpage at <http://edmonton.ca/planwhyte>.
  - Once a Public Hearing date is set, the date will be posted on this website. Members of the public can then sign up to speak by visiting <http://coewebapps.edmonton.ca/rqspeak/default.aspx> or by calling the City Clerk’s office at 780-496-8178.

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If you have questions about this application please contact:

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