

# What We Heard 124 Street Renewal

Exploring Options  
and Draft Design

November 2019

REFINE

SHARE YOUR VOICE  
SHAPE OUR CITY

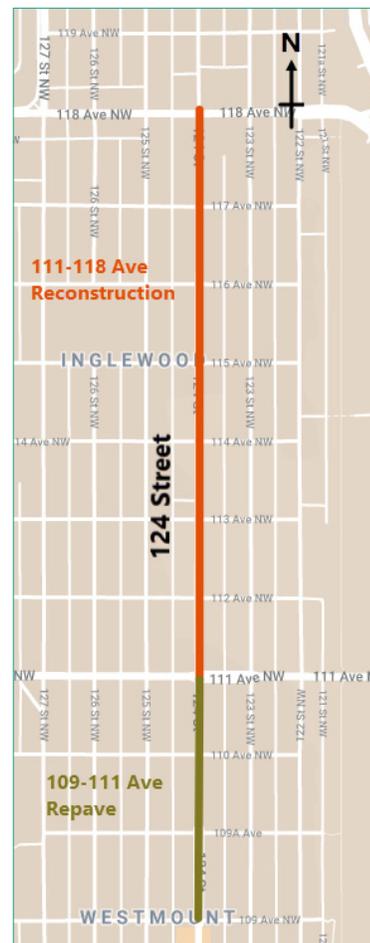
Edmonton

# A. Project Overview

Starting spring 2022, 124 Street will be renewed (111 Avenue – 118 Avenue). Construction is expected to take one year and consists of both sidewalk repair and renewal of the road (i.e. new road surfaces, curbs and gutters). From 109 Avenue to 111 Avenue, the roadway will be repaved. Opportunities to improve streetscaping and public spaces will also be explored, including streetlight replacement north of 111 Avenue. **124 Street Renewal** will be coordinated with the **Inglewood Neighbourhood Renewal** and **Inglewood Revitalization** projects in Inglewood.

## Fast facts about 124 Street from 109 Avenue – 118 Avenue

- + This portion of 124 Street is an arterial road though it also has multi-family residential areas and commercial/business locations
- + During peak hours, 124 Street can be very busy, supporting motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and transit users
- + 124 Street is a bus route. Some bus stops will be changing as a part of the Bus Network Redesign
- + This stretch of 124 Street spans two neighbourhoods, Westmount and Inglewood, as well as two business improvement areas, the 124 Street Business Improvement Area and the Crossroads Business Improvement Area
- + Between 1908 and approximately the early 1950s, three different streetcar lines travelled along 124 Street



# 124 Street Renewal project vision

Initial public engagement for **124 Street Renewal** was carried out with **Inglewood Neighbourhood Renewal** and **Neighbourhood Revitalization**. This public input was used to create the **project vision**:

## 124 Street is ...



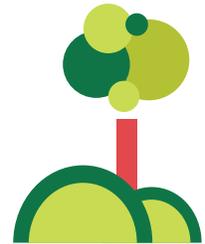
Walkable



A place for people to meet



Winter friendly



A green street



A space for business and residential



Bright and well-lit



An area that brings people to places



Safe to cross



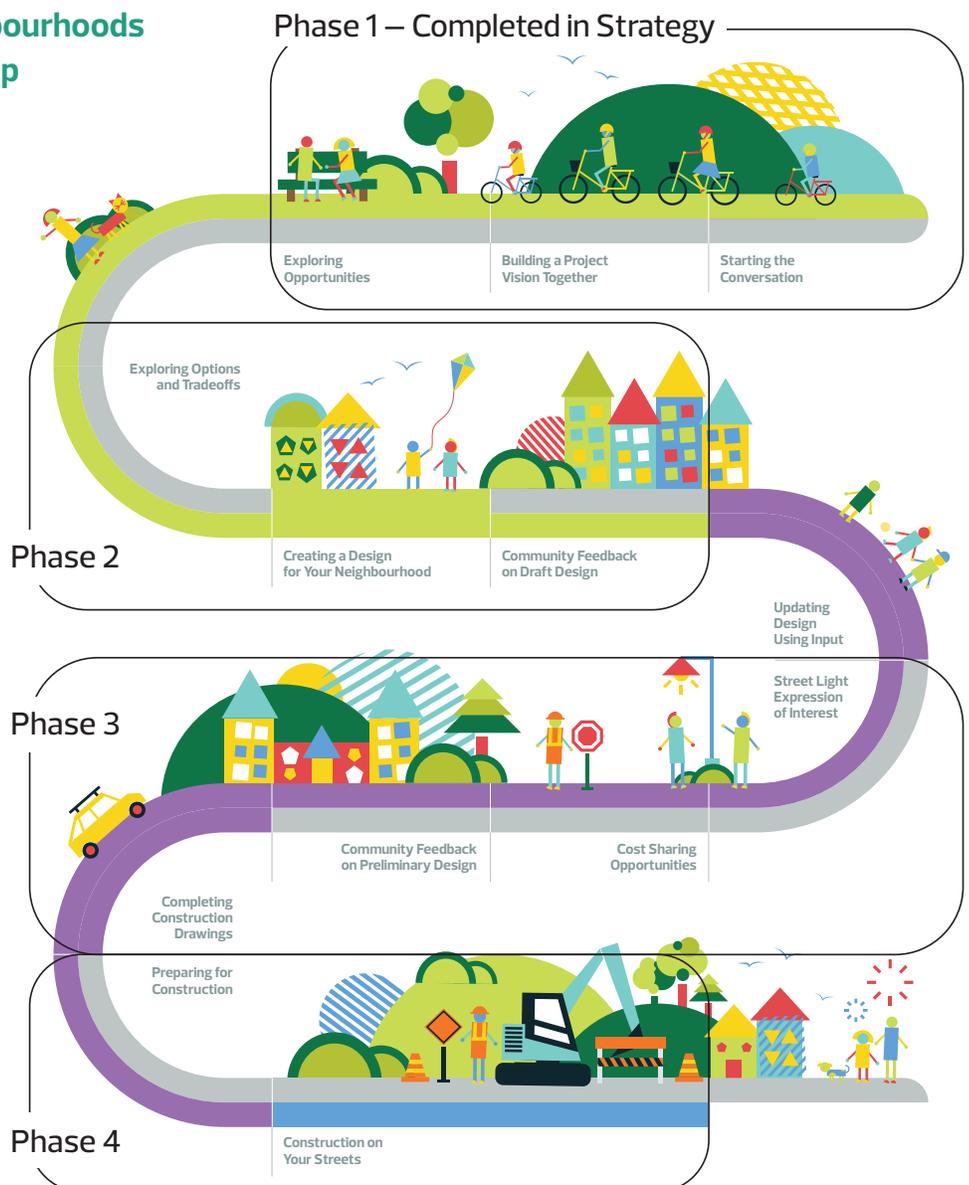
# B. Public Engagement and Decision making

## WHERE WE ARE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The 124 Street Renewal project team has created a road map to help you understand the steps of the renewal process and where you can participate. At each step, we will tell you what the purpose is and where your input will inform the decisions being made. We commit to reporting back on how we considered your input through What We Heard reports and at public engagement events. Please note that some steps may happen at the same time as other steps or in a different order than shown below.

### Building Great Neighbourhoods Engagement Roadmap

124 Street Renewal is in Phase 2 the Exploring Options and Draft Design stage



## 124 Street Renewal Project Schedule

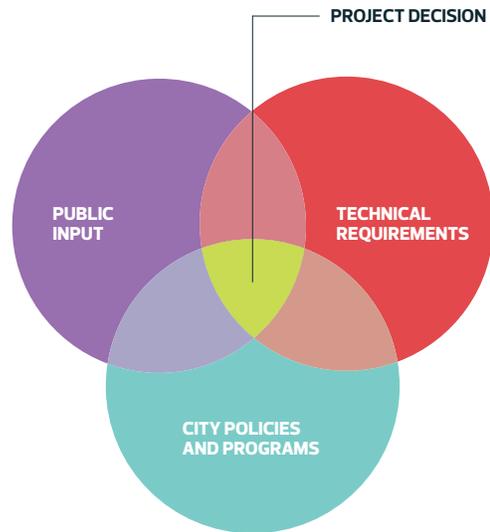


## How decisions are made

The decision-making process takes into consideration technical requirements, City policies and programming, as well as public input.

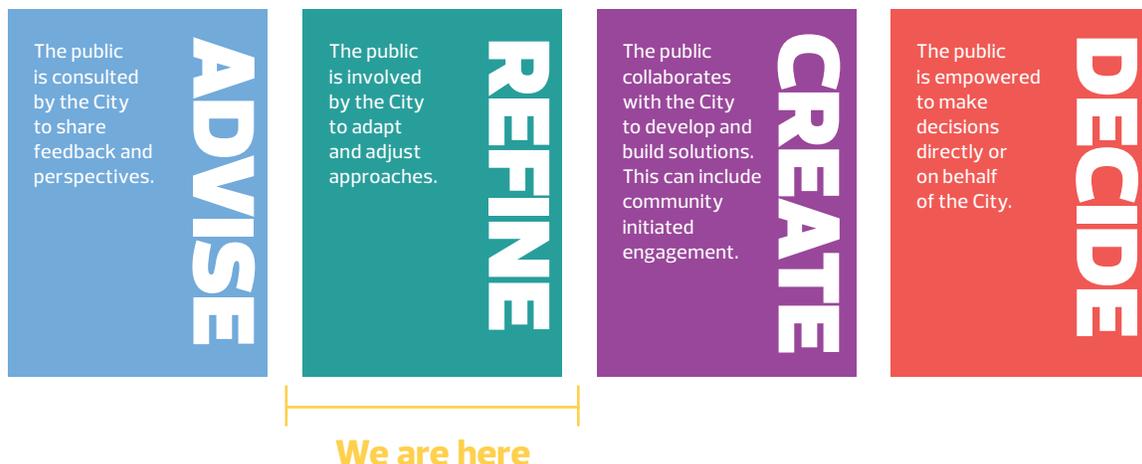
Technical requirements may include elements like roadway widths and constraints such as mature trees. City policy includes road design standards such as the Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards which support the City as a whole. Public input includes local knowledge, concerns and desires.

Every decision is different. This means that the level of influence that public input, technical requirements, and City policies have will vary for each decision.



We commit to telling you how public input influences decisions according to the public engagement spectrum.

Along with technical requirements and Policy and Program information, public input received at the Exploring Options and Draft Design stage will help us adapt and adjust the functional elements and the streetscaping to be included in the renewal of 124 Street.



# What was decided in the Strategy phase

During the 124 Street Renewal Strategy phase, public engagement input was used, along with technical requirements and policy and program information, to identify key functions of 124 Street.

The decisions made in the Strategy phase on the following items were:

## **Roadways:**

- + No changes to existing number of lanes and turning lanes
- + A boulevard added to each side of 124 Street

## **On-street parking**

- + Off-peak on-street parking, and restricted parking during peak hours
- + No curb extensions extending onto 124 Street.

## **Bike lanes:**

- + No bike facilities located on 124 Street

## **Bus stops:**

- + Removal of bus stops north of 114 Avenue, as part of the Bus Network Redesign

## **Decision making in the Exploring Options and Draft Design stage**

To understand public priorities and needs, the 124 Street Renewal project team collected input on the following items:

- + Boulevard Draft Design
- + Lighting options
- + Streetscaping
- + Green Street
- + Winter design elements
- + History and Character of 124 Street
- + Welcoming Businesses on 124 Street

## C. What we did

The 124 Street Renewal project team organized the following public engagement opportunities to help **REFINE** our design options and draft design for 124 Street.



### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENT – 110 PARTICIPANTS**

An “Exploring Options and Tradeoffs” public engagement event took place on **November 25, 2019**, at the Inglewood Community League Hall. At this event, the project team shared the draft designs for reconstructing 124 Street from 111 Avenue to 118 Avenue, and repaving 124 Street from 109 Avenue to 111 Avenue. Display boards with project information were placed around the room and attendees were invited to leave comments on sticky notes.



### **SURVEYS – 115 PARTICIPANTS**

An online survey was available from **November 26 – December 8, 2019**. The survey asked the public to provide feedback on design options including streetscaping, green streets, welcoming businesses, history and character, public space activities, winter activities, and lighting.

The input and results we heard from the public engagement event and online survey are summarized in Section E.



## D. Who Engaged

According to the results of the feedback survey, the majority of the people who responded were community residents who live on or near 124 Street. A significant segment of those who completed the survey are regular visitors of 124 Street and/or use 124 Street to commute to work each day. A smaller number of the respondents either work for or own a business on 124 Street.

After the event, a total of 53 attendees completed the City's participant feedback form. From this, the project team learned that a great majority of the attendees agreed that they were able to express their views freely, and that they felt safe and respected during the event. Many also agreed that they felt heard during the event. Most also felt, although to a lesser extent, that their input will be considered by decision makers.

Some of the comments received about the event included:

"Informative. Glad to see prior feedback incorporated into the design plan."

"Some technical terms were hard to understand (eg. bollard) Pictures would be better"

"I really like that the city is seeking input in a flexible way. Good stuff! I liked the maps printed out with sticky notes to add comments."

"Perhaps a bit more info on what exactly the consultation consists of – so I'm fully prepared on feedback"

"well done, but too complex in some areas. Needs to be simpler plans for the (average person)."

"You guys did great! So much info from many parts of the city. Thanks so much for all your hard work. The community appreciates it."



# E. What We Asked and What We Heard

During the public engagement activities above, the project team asked participants to:

- + Help us prioritize streetscaping elements to make this portion of 124 Street more pedestrian-friendly
- + Help us understand how people want to interact with each other on 124 Street
- + Help us understand what winter looks like on 124 Street
- + Share input on the draft design
- + Help us refine the landscaping and Greening of 124 Street
- + Help us identify what character or historic elements to celebrate on 124 Street
- + Help us determine lighting preferences and priorities for 124 Street

The following is a summary of what we heard through public engagement during the Exploring Options and Draft Design stage of this project.

The summary has been developed to reflect how often a comment occurred, and recognizes the diversity of the responses we received for the questions that were asked.

## Boulevard Draft Design

What you said	What we heard
"Need more friendly space for residents and pedestrians"	A boulevard sidewalk was favoured since it would provide better pedestrian comfort, safety, and snow storage area in the winter
"Most west lane is considered to be wide, would rather adjust size to smaller lanes and plant trees in free space"	People also wanted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Wider sidewalks</li></ul>
[add a] "Destination Plaza"	+ Boulevard with trees
"No more traffic lights along 124 ST"	+ Places to gather
	+ More pedestrian lighting

## Streetscaping

Streetscaping adds different amenities to a sidewalk to help make the area more interesting and comfortable for people walking and gathering. This can include:

- + Street furniture: benches, garbage bins
- + Public art
- + Wayfinding signage
- + Bike racks
- + Planters
- + Decorative street lights
- + Tree lighting

What you said	What we heard
"Shelter with heaters to sit and socialize"	We heard that people liked the idea of plaza-like destinations and places to gather and strongly supported additional lighting and decorative lighting.  People also wanted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ The unique history of the neighbourhood to be highlighted</li><li>+ Areas for pop up markets</li><li>+ Wider sidewalks with more amenities; benches, waste receptacles and bike racks</li></ul>
"Venues that stretch the seasons"	
"Add waste receptacles and bike racks"	

## Green Street

Green Streets are designed to capture rainwater at its source to provide water for plants and trees to grow in the area and also provides a natural filter to clean the water before it continues to the local waterway.

Elements to help make 124 Street a Green Street can include:

- + Trees
- + Shrub beds
- + Planter boxes
- + Rain gardens to collect and absorb rainwater

What you said	What we heard
"Trees and rain gardens"	We heard that people want more trees and green elements on 124 Street.  People also wanted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Rain gardens or shrub beds</li><li>+ Planter boxes and hanging flower pots</li></ul>
"Hanging baskets are beautiful"	
"Brings life/beauty to neighbourhood"	

## Winter design elements

As a winter city, we design our roads, sidewalks and amenities for year-round activities. Many items are taken into account including ease of snow-clearing maintenance and planning for winter comfort, safety and accessibility. We are looking for input to refine the options for winter enhancements.

What you said	What we heard
"Shelter with heaters to sit and socialize"	We heard that people had a lot of barriers to winter enjoyment of 124 Street. Improvements to lighting, wider boulevards with snow storage and warming features like windbreaks and sun utilizing/facing features would be beneficial.
"Improve street lighting"	
"Be mindful of creating ice with shadows"	
"Windbreaks with benches"	
"Outdoor heaters would help [at business areas]"	
	People also stated:
	+ The sidewalks are narrow, icy and treacherous in the dark of winter
	+ The street needs more lighting
	+ They would like to use 124 Street in the winter to walk and enjoy nature/outdoors with a hot drink and community events

## History and Character of 124 Street

**124 Street Streetcar:** Streetcar service was developed by the Edmonton Radial Railway Company in 1908 and was in service until approximately 1950. The streetcar travelled through the community to supply transportation service to the Calder railway yards.

**Fur Trading:** Prior to the 1880s, the area now known as Inglewood was an unsurveyed 'bush' country quite removed from then Fort Edmonton. The area was mainly significant for the overland fur trade trail that connected Edmonton House to the northwest trade and mission posts.

What you said	What we heard
"Addition of historical reference near bus stop on northeast corner of 112 ave"	+ Participants felt that it was important to highlight historic spaces or knowledge by using plaques, art/murals and other creative ways.
"Public signage regarding historic sites, events, people etc"	People also wanted:
"Art to commemorate the past/historic"	+ Welcoming businesses who honored the heritage of 124 Street
	+ Recognition of the trolley route / streetcar and the present character of the neighbourhood

## Welcoming Businesses on 124 Street

Businesses along 124 Street, from 111 Avenue to 118 Avenue belong to The Crossroads Business Improvement Area. These businesses are generally located at the intersections. The 124 Street Business Improvement Area includes business located from 111 Avenue to 109 Avenue on 124 Street.

The City of Edmonton has programs to support Business Improvement Areas. Great storefronts support great businesses and contribute to attractive, lively commercial main streets.

What you said	What we heard
"[Want] pedestrian level lighting"	We heard people would appreciate having more street-oriented commercial frontages as well as decorative lighting and trees wrapped with seasonal lighting similar to the area south of 111 Avenue
"Having a walkable vibe with plenty of people walking around"	
"[More] shopping destinations"	People also wanted:
"Space for entry features, seating, cafe/patio plants, signage on the sidewalk that does not impede pedestrian traffic"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ areas where they can walk, meet people, and sit / relax on 124 Street</li><li>+ improvements to lighting, street seating (patio areas) and the walkability of 124 Street</li></ul>

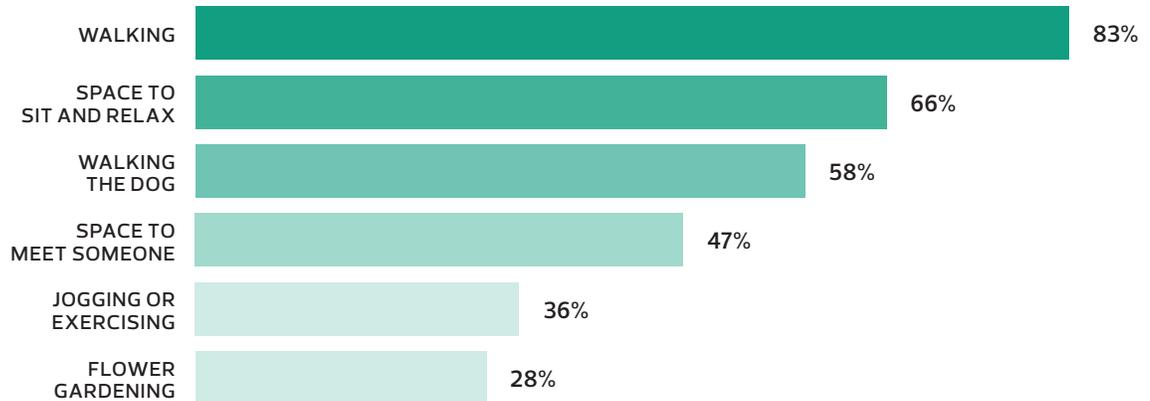
## Lighting options

There are two types of lighting options for the 124 Street Renewal: street lights and secondary lighting.

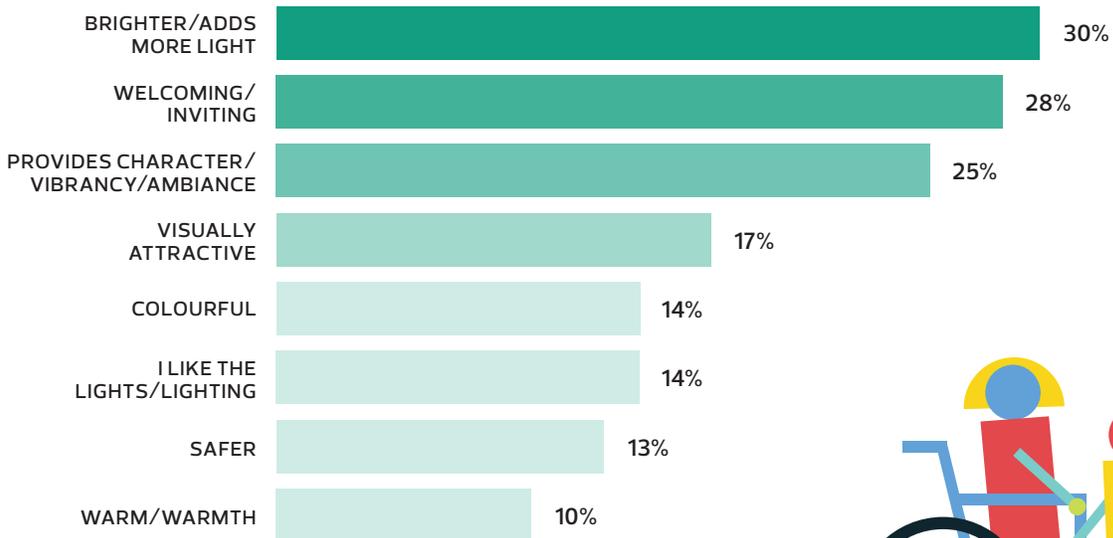
What you said	What we heard
"Consider lighted planters and or bollards lighted as well"	We heard that people want to see an addition of pedestrian level lighting that would increase a sense of safety, and secondary lighting to create a similar character to south of 111 Avenue on 124 Street
"Want more secondary lighting (like south 124)"	
"Like string lights and tree lights"	People also wanted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Lighting on trees or other ambient lights helps create and keep the character that is liked south of 109 Avenue</li><li>+ to see more color and warmth created through lighting</li></ul>

We asked participants to help us understand what kind of activities, amenities, character and welcoming environments they wanted to see on 124 Street. Seven themes were explored across engagement opportunities:

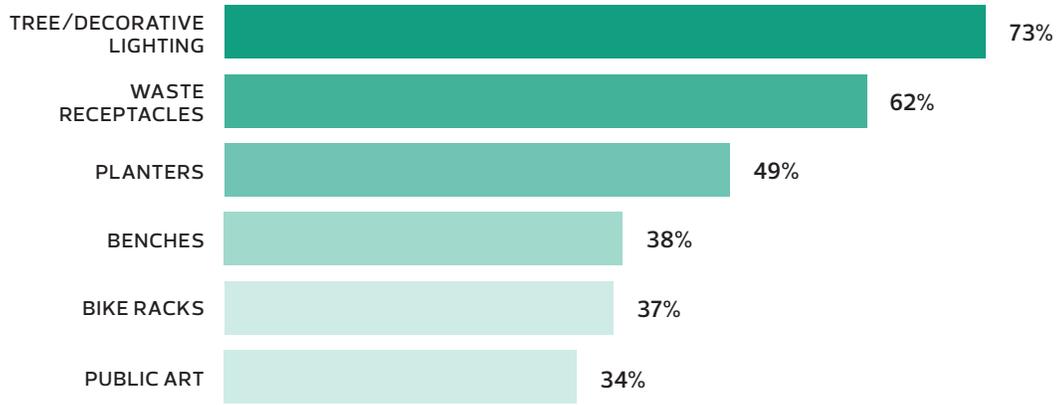
### Boulevard Activities



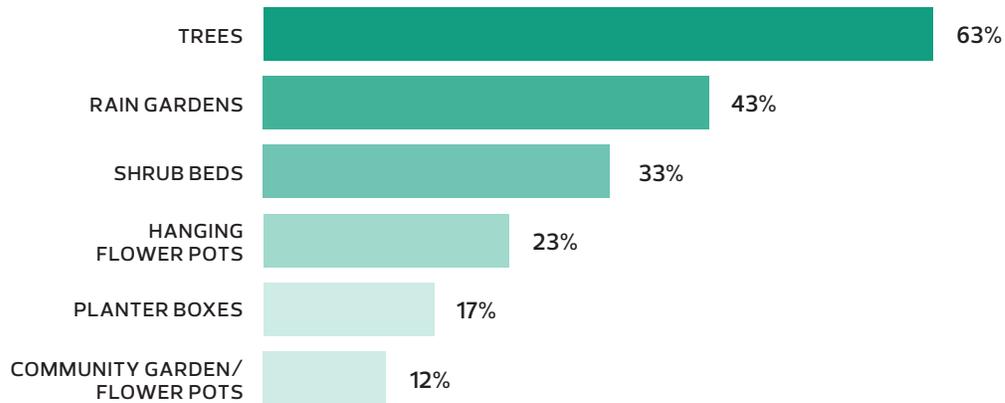
### Lighting Options



## Streetscaping



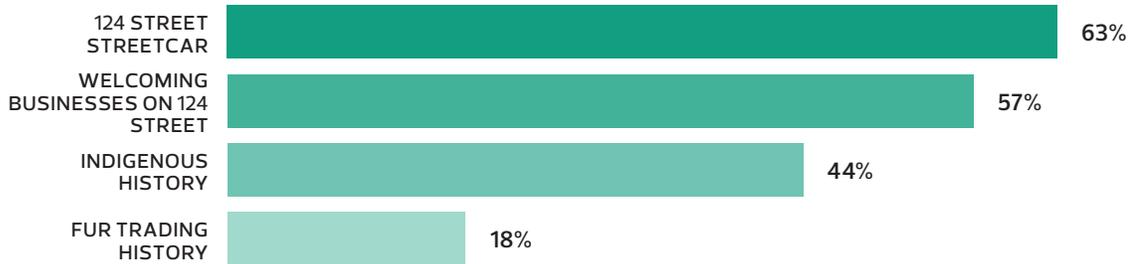
## Green Street



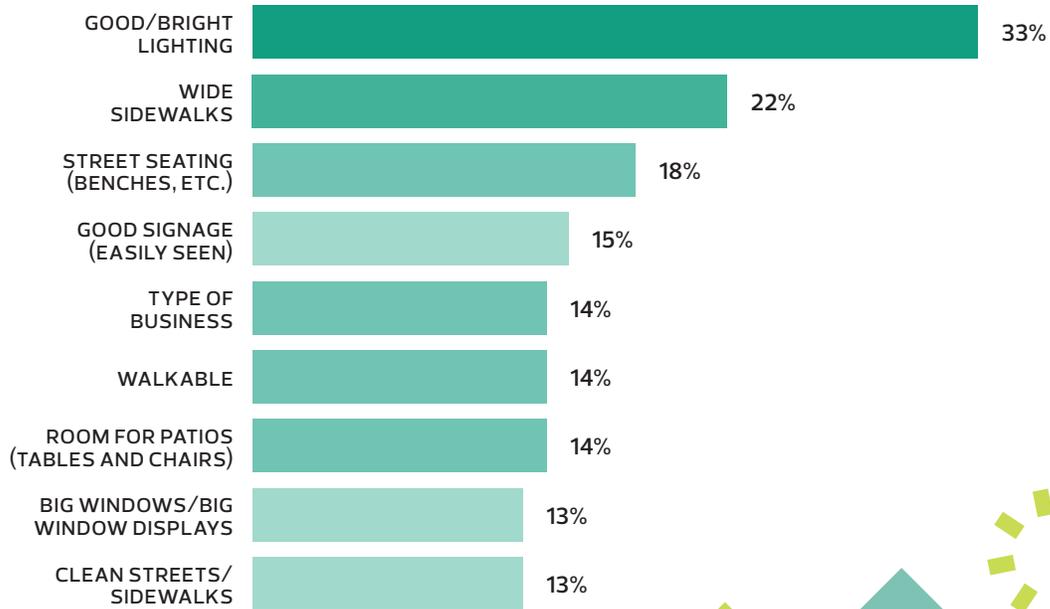
## Winter design elements



## History and Character of 124 Street



## Welcoming Businesses on 124 Street



# What Happens Next?

Thank you to all participants who shared their input during the Exploring Options and Draft Design phase of 124 Street Renewal. We will consider your input along with technical and policy factors while refining the design for the next phase. You will have the opportunity to ADVISE us on the final design at an event in early 2021.

For more information about future public engagement activities and to sign up for project updates, please visit [edmonton.ca/124StreetRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/124StreetRenewal) or email [124street@edmonton.ca](mailto:124street@edmonton.ca).





## Working together to make the most out of your neighbourhood.

This is your city and your neighbourhood. We want to understand how you experience your neighbourhood and ask for your input on what we might do to make it better.

We will engage and work with you on the renewal of roads, sidewalks, street lights, and park spaces, and promote other community opportunities to enhance how people live and interact in your neighbourhood. We commit to being open and transparent about how your input is used. Let's make the most out of your neighbourhood.

[edmonton.ca/124StreetRenewal](http://edmonton.ca/124StreetRenewal)

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**SHAPE** OUR CITY

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