Local Improvements

City prepares Local Improvement Plan
Notices sent to owners
Bylaw prepared

**WE ARE HERE**
30-day petition period

Bylaw voted by City Council
Construction
Local Improvement Tax Levy

edmonton.ca/localimprovements
Local Improvements

Local improvements are construction projects undertaken near or adjacent to your property, which City Council considers of greater benefit to your area than to the municipality as a whole. Local improvements are regulated by the Provincial Municipal Government Act.

The cost sharing of a local improvement depends on the type of local improvement. For City-initiated sidewalk reconstruction, the cost is shared 50–50 between the City at large and property owners.

Property owners have two payment options for their local improvement costs:

1. Lump sum payment: One-time full cost payment.
2. Amortized payment: The cost is paid gradually on your yearly property taxes (includes interest charges). The local improvement tax stays with the property; if you sell, the next owner will continue to pay the balance.
Decorative Street Light Local Improvement

Property owner initiated local improvements, such as decorative street lights, must go through a two-step process where community preference is identified through an Expression of Interest and then decided by a Local Improvement process.

Local Improvement Areas and Selected Designs

Highlands:
The selected decorative street light option in Highlands is a black fluted pole with heritage arm.
Decorative Street Light Local Improvement

Expression of Interest Process and Results

The Expression of Interest period was held in fall 2018. EOI packages were mailed to all property owners asking them to respond whether or not they are in favour of the decorative street light local improvement.

Highlands:

Requirements to demonstrate community support:

• Minimum 413 valid responses to be considered representative sample
• 50% + 1 of representative sample must be in favour

Results:

• 487 valid responses received:
  • 394 in favour = 81%
  • 98 not in favour = 19%
Decorative Street Light Local Improvement

Process

• The process for decorative street light local improvement is the same as for sidewalk local improvement.

• Property owners who do not support the local improvement have 30 days to petition against it.

• For the petition against decorative street lights to be successful, the petition must receive support from 50% + 1 of the property owners in the project area.

• If the petition against is successful, the City will notify property owners, the decorative street lights will be not installed, and standard galvanized street lights will be installed at no additional cost to property owners.

• If a sufficient petition against the local improvement is not received, City Council will pass a Local Improvement Bylaw and the decorative street lights will be installed.

Cost

• The City still contributes the equivalent cost of standard galvanized street lights, and property owners share the incremental cost of decorative lights above the standard street lights.

• Assessable metres for a property are determined in the same way as for sidewalk reconstruction.

• Estimated rates for decorative street light local improvement (subject to change):
  • Lump sum: $16.95 per metre assessed
  • Amortized over 15 years: $1.51 per metre assessed per year
Local Improvements: Cost

Property owners pay 50% of the sidewalk reconstruction based on their lot length assessment. The 2019 rate (50% of the cost) is: $205.39 per metre assessed as a lump sum or $15.02 per metre assessed per year.

A typical 50ft (15.24m) lot would cost about $3130 or $229 per year over 20 years.

Corner Lot Assessment

Corner lots that have proposed local improvement renewal on both the front and the side of the property are assessed the full length of the frontage (short side) and 15% of the flankage (long side). House orientation does not affect frontage/flankage.

Condo Unit Assessment

The assessed total length of the lot is divided by the amount of units in the condo, including parking and storage spaces if they have tax roll accounts.

Pie or Odd-Shaped Lot Assessment

Pie or odd-shaped lot frontage is determined by adding the front and rear lot dimensions and dividing the total in half.

The rear dimension of a pie shaped lot is scaled off the corner at the shortest side and is projected at a right angle to the longest side.

The exact cost for the local improvement is included on your local improvement tax notice the year following the completion of the sidewalk reconstruction.
Local Improvements: Process

Property owners receive a local improvement notice in the mail about 4–6 months before neighbourhood reconstruction begins.

- Property owners have **30 days to petition** against the local improvement
- A valid petition against must include **witnessed signatures of all title owners** and must swear an affidavit before a Commissioner of Oaths

Neighbourhoods are divided into project areas for the sidewalk reconstruction.

For the petition **against** sidewalk reconstruction to be successful, the petition must receive support from 50% +1 of the property owners within the project area (See Project Map).

*Please note: there is no cost to property owners for brand new sidewalks that may be added to the neighbourhood as part of the neighbourhood reconstruction process.*
Local Improvements

If the petition against the sidewalk reconstruction local improvement succeeds, the property owners within that project area will be notified and the sidewalk will not be reconstructed. The existing sidewalk will still undergo regular maintenance at the City’s cost.

Examples of sidewalk maintenance include: grinding, patching and mud-jacking.
Local Improvements

If the petition against the sidewalk reconstruction local improvement fails, the City will proceed with sidewalk reconstruction as scheduled.

Sidewalk reconstruction local improvement costs include:

- Removal of existing concrete
- Excavation
- Laying of gravel base
- Pouring new concrete with reinforcing steel
- Connecting sidewalk to property owners’ sidewalk and driveway
- Re-landscaping disturbed areas to City specifications
- A two-year construction warranty