

## Building Great Neighbourhoods *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, streetlight, 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.*

## What We Heard - Renewing Ada Boulevard

<p><b>Name</b> <b>Date</b> <b>Location</b></p>	<p>Renewing Ada Boulevard January 22 - February 19 Community Conversation at Highlands Golf Course - January 22, 2018 Online Survey (<a href="http://www.edmonton.ca/surveys">www.edmonton.ca/surveys</a>) - February 7 - 19, 2018</p>
<p><b>Contact information</b></p>	<p>Sherry Wallace, Project Manager Email: <a href="mailto:sherry.wallace@edmonton.ca">sherry.wallace@edmonton.ca</a> Phone: 780-496-4780</p>
<p><b>Level of public engagement</b></p>	<p>The Public Engagement Spectrum is a tool that explains the four roles the public can play when they participate in City of Edmonton public engagement activities. As you move within the spectrum, there is an increasing level of public influence and commitment from the City and the public.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #4a90e2; color: white; text-align: center;">ADVISE</div> <div style="padding: 5px; background-color: #c8e6c9; text-align: center;">REFINE</div> <div style="padding: 5px; background-color: #e1bee7; text-align: center;">CREATE</div> <div style="padding: 5px; background-color: #ffcdd2; text-align: center;">DECIDE</div> </div> <p>When we ask to <b>advise</b> the public is consulted by the City to share feedback and perspectives that are considered for policies, programs, projects, or services</p> <p>For more information on the how public engagement shapes decision making visit <a href="http://edmonton.ca/PublicEngagement">edmonton.ca/PublicEngagement</a></p>
<p><b>Description</b></p>	<p>Citizens were asked to <b>ADVISE</b> on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ways that they want to be able to use and enjoy Ada Boulevard.</li> <li>• The most important design features to ensure Ada Boulevard is accessible and safe for all while keeping its unique charm.</li> </ul>

## Project Background

- The City of Edmonton is planning neighbourhood renewal construction for [Virginia Park](#) (2018), [Bellevue](#) (2018-2019) and [Highlands](#) (2019-2021).
- Neighbourhood renewal typically involves the renewal of streets, sidewalks, and lighting. It also includes an opportunity to discuss other neighbourhood initiatives important to residents, such as improvements to neighbourhood liveability, pedestrian connections, and open park spaces.
- The construction of Ada Boulevard will be completed with the upcoming neighbourhood renewal work.
- Ada Boulevard spans four neighbourhoods north of the North Saskatchewan River.
- There is currently no sidewalk or path along most of Ada Boulevard. To meet City standards, through renewal it needs to be accessible and safe for people walking, biking and driving.
- In February 2017, a public meeting outlining the neighbourhood renewal for Bellevue and Virginia Park was held. The addition of a sidewalk on the north side of Ada Boulevard was shown, to meet the goal of providing a separate space for people walking.
- Some Virginia Park and Bellevue residents expressed that they would prefer Ada Boulevard to remain a shared use roadway without the addition of a sidewalk as proposed.
- With this feedback from the community, the City undertook a Community Conversation with the public and hosted an online survey in January and February 2018 to gather further input on the upcoming renewal of Ada Boulevard.

## SUMMARY

The City of Edmonton asked people who live and work in Highlands as well as interested members of the public to provide advice on:

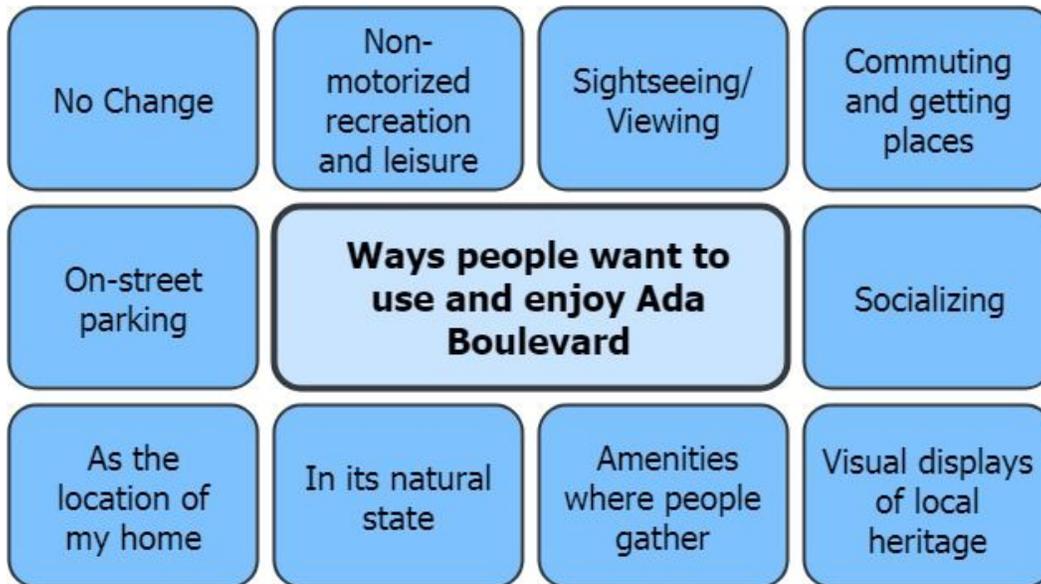
- The ways that people want to be able to use and enjoy Ada Boulevard.
- The most important design features to ensure Ada Boulevard is accessible and safe for all while keeping its unique charm.

The advice was collected through:

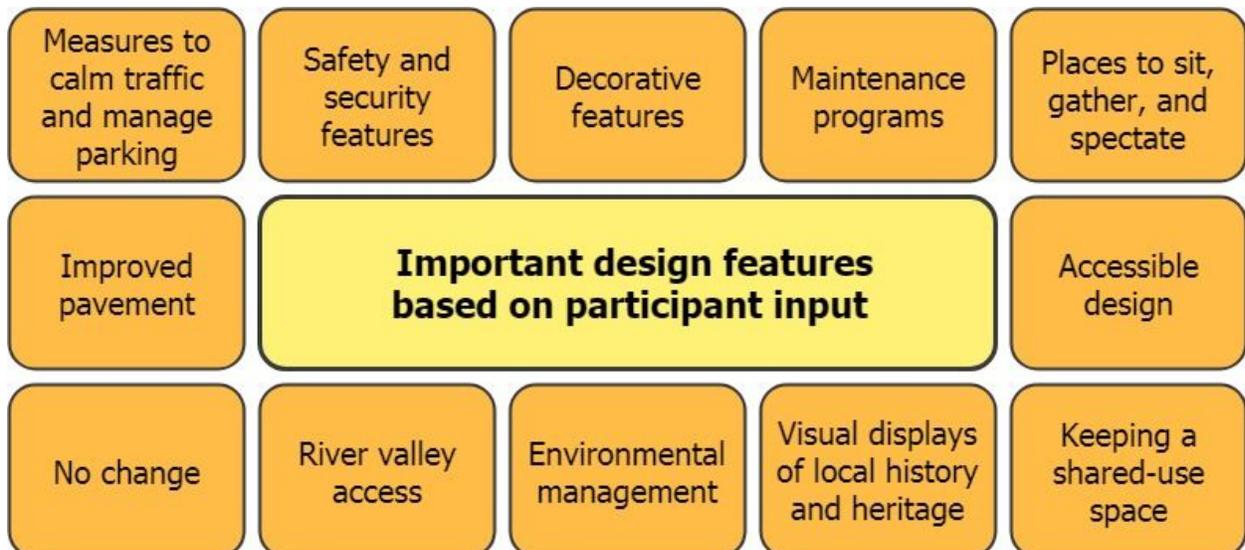
- An in-person workshop at the Highlands Golf Course on January 22, 2018, between 6:30 and 9:00 p.m.
- An online survey between February 7 - 19, 2018, at [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca).

A total of 162 people provided input as part of the Ada Boulevard public engagement activities; the majority of participants were residents of the Virginia Park, Bellevue and Highlands neighbourhoods.

When it came to the ways that people want to be able to use and enjoy Ada Boulevard, your input included:



When it came to important design features, your input focused on:



Through this input, the City of Edmonton heard that Ada Boulevard should be a safe, shared-use space for everyone. It should be a beautiful, clean, welcoming, accessible space, and it should reflect the character, history, and heritage of the neighbourhood. It should support a strong connection to natural assets and Edmonton's river valley.

Based on participants' input, the City of Edmonton will proceed with its 2018 construction schedule for the Virginia Park section of Ada Boulevard. The City will coordinate the renewal construction along Ada Boulevard in Bellevue with the Highlands renewal. This will allow the opportunity for more public input on Ada Boulevard, east of Wayne Gretzky Drive, prior to developing the designs and the construction schedule.

## WHAT WAS SAID

The public engagement included and encouraged participation that reflects Edmonton's diverse population in two ways:

- By taking a targeted approach to reaching out to and connecting with members of the public and stakeholder groups with an identified relationship to Ada Boulevard.
- By using communications activities to invite all interested members of the public to participate in the public engagement.

The targeted approach focused on:

- Emailing, calling, or meeting a number of stakeholders located within or who serve residents in the Virginia Park, Bellevue and Highlands neighbourhoods (i.e., community leagues, Abundant Communities block connectors, community-based organizations and local businesses.)
- Providing established neighbourhood groups and organizations with information about the public engagement activities to share through their regular meetings and communications channels (e.g. , websites, social media).
- Completing a maildrop to all residences and businesses between Ada Boulevard - 112 Avenue and 48 Street - 75 Street
- The Highlands Community League sent out an email notification to community league members on January 15, 2018.

The communication approach focused on:

- Promoting the public engagement activities through the City of Edmonton website and signs along prominent roadways.

The following public engagement activities were offered:

- An in-person workshop at the Highlands Golf Course on January 22, 2018, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- An online survey between February 7 - 19, 2018 at [edmonton.ca](http://edmonton.ca).

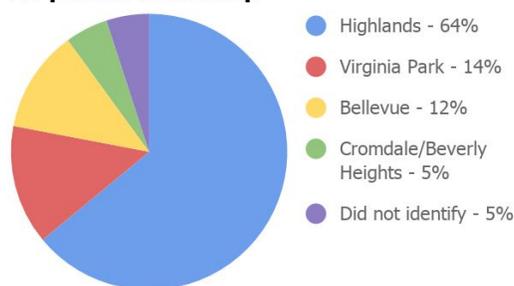
A total of 162 people provided input as part of the Ada Boulevard public engagement activities:

- 65 people attended the in-person workshop
- 56 people completed the online survey
- 33 people attended the workshop **and** participated in the online survey
- 8 people submitted handwritten or email-based comments to the Project Manager during the survey period

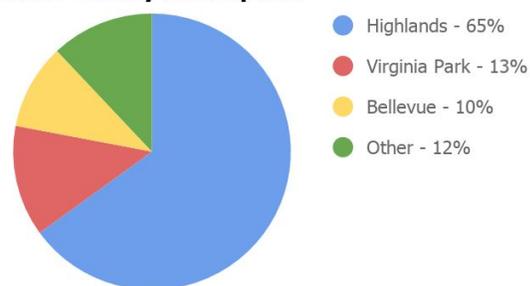
Although the public engagement activities were open to all members of the public, the majority of participants were from the Highlands neighbourhood. This was the case for both the online survey and the in person workshop.

## Engagement Participants by Neighbourhood

**In-person Workshop**



**Online Survey Participants**



## ENGAGEMENT RESULTS AND FINDINGS

### *What you said...*

*We asked... How do you want to use and enjoy Ada Boulevard into the future?*

### *Participants said...*

- No changes
- Non-motorized recreation and leisure (e.g., walking, biking, playing, picnics)
- Sightseeing/Viewing (e.g., observing events, nature, yards and homes)
- Commuting and getting places (e.g., gathering places, other neighbourhoods, river valley)
- Socializing (e.g., greeting neighbourhoods, visiting)
- Visual displays of local heritage
- Through amenities where people can gather (e.g., add gazebos, lookouts, restaurants)
- In its natural state (e.g., ecological preservation, watershed conservation)
- As my home (e.g., the location of my residence)
- On-street parking

*Note: The first six categories were identified in both the in-person conversation and survey. The seventh category was specific to the in-person conversation. The last three were specific to the survey results.*

*We asked... What are the most important design features that will help to ensure Ada Boulevard is safe and accessible, and maintains its unique character?*

*Participants said...*

- Effective and attractive measures to calm traffic and manage on-street parking
- Safety and security features, with an emphasis on enhanced street lighting
- Beautification using decorative features that fit with the character of the neighbourhoods
- Maintenance programs to care for the natural vegetation and keep the area clean
- Places for people to sit, gather, and spectate along the top banks of the river valley
- Accessible design that provides opportunities for people with mobility challenges
- Keeping Ada Boulevard a unique shared-use space for people who walk, bike and drive
- Visual displays and recognition of Highlands' history and local heritage
- Environmental management, including ecological and watershed conservation
- Good connections to and access into the river valley
- Improved pavement
- No changes

***What we heard...***

There are six themes in what we heard from people who participated in the public engagement activities:

- Ada Boulevard is a shared-use space that should be safe for everyone; safety can be supported through managing traffic, looking at street lighting, and accounting for the many different ways that people use and enjoy the space.
- There is a desire to beautify Ada Boulevard with design features that recognize and celebrate the neighbourhood's history and heritage.
- Ada Boulevard is unique within Edmonton because it is a space that all different types of users (e.g., walkers, bikers, drivers) share.
- About  $\frac{1}{3}$  of respondents want to maintain the status quo along Ada Boulevard (i.e., no changes, no sidewalk), another  $\frac{1}{3}$  are recommending solutions to enhance accessibility (i.e., sidewalk) and the other  $\frac{1}{3}$  made no mention either way.
- Ada Boulevard is unique in that it runs through multiple neighbourhoods; it is important to look at the boulevard holistically through its renewal.
- There is a strong connection to the neighbourhood's natural assets, gathering spaces along the top banks of the river valley, access points into the river valley, tree and landscape maintenance programs and conservation efforts can all enhance this connection.

## AS A RESULT, WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE PROJECT?

What has changed?	What influenced that decision?
<p>The City of Edmonton will maintain the 2018 construction schedule for Virginia Park, including Ada Boulevard between 75 Street and Wayne Gretzky Drive.</p>	<p>→ Maintaining the 2018 construction schedule will allow construction to be completed in Virginia Park in one year rather than over multiple years, limiting the disruption to the neighbourhood.</p>
<p>The City is proposing to install a shared use path along Ada Boulevard in Virginia Park. This path would run on the south side of Ada Boulevard from 73 Street to 75 Street, completing a connection into the river valley.</p>	<p>→ This feature will provide a connection to the river valley that is a safe and accessible shared use space for people to walk and bike along Ada Boulevard in all seasons.</p> <p>→ We used the strong messaging from public engagement that the community values its connection to the neighbourhood's natural assets, gathering spaces along the top banks of the river valley, and access points into the river valley. This will enhance the connections and bring the street up to current standards.</p> <p>→ The maintenance of this new shared-use path will be the responsibility of the City of Edmonton, as per the Snow and Ice Policy.</p>
<p>At 73 Street, the shared use path will transition to the north side of Ada Boulevard to replace the sidewalk in front of Concordia University.</p>	<p>→ Allowing users to safely connect east to the Ada Boulevard Bridge in all seasons.</p>
<p>A paving stone raised crosswalk is being considered for installation at the intersection of Ada Boulevard and 73 Street.</p>	<p>→ This will connect the two paths and calm traffic, while acknowledging the historic character of the area and increasing pedestrian and cyclist visibility when crossing the road.</p>
<p>The east section of Ada Boulevard, from Wayne Gretzky Drive to 50 Street, will now be coordinated and constructed as one section and incorporated into the Highlands neighbourhood renewal schedule in 2019-2021. Bellevue's neighbourhood roads will still be constructed in 2018-2019, with the exception of Ada Boulevard.</p>	<p>→ Taking this approach will allow us to fulfill our construction schedule on the west side of the Ada Boulevard Bridge, and</p> <p>→ Give us more time to invite public input on the important design features for the east stretch of Ada Boulevard, from 50 Street through to Wayne Gretzky Drive.</p>

The design solution for Ada Boulevard in Virginia Park does not dictate the design for Bellevue and Highlands.

## WHAT'S NEXT

The next steps involved in renewing Ada Boulevard include:

- Sharing a What We Decided report for Virginia Park's neighbourhood renewal
- Sharing a What We Decided report for Bellevue's neighbourhood renewal, which will note that the Bellevue section of Ada Boulevard (Wayne Gretzky Drive - 67 Street) will be coordinated with Highlands' neighbourhood renewal schedule in 2019-2021
- Reporting back to the public on the input received at the April Walk and Vision Workshops
- Further public engagement activities will take place for Ada Boulevard, east of Wayne Gretzky, in the Highlands and Bellevue neighbourhoods. These engagement opportunities will be announced through the neighbourhood webpage, [edmonton.ca/BuildingHighlands](http://edmonton.ca/BuildingHighlands).

While the neighbourhood renewal public engagement activities are complete for Virginia Park and Bellevue, members of the public can participate in the conversations about Highlands' neighbourhood renewal, including the stretch of Ada Boulevard between Wayne Gretzky Drive and 50 Street, between April and November 2018.

A full schedule for Highlands' neighbourhood renewal public engagement activities can be found at [www.edmonton.ca/BuildingHighlands](http://www.edmonton.ca/BuildingHighlands). Events and dates will be updated on this page as information becomes available.

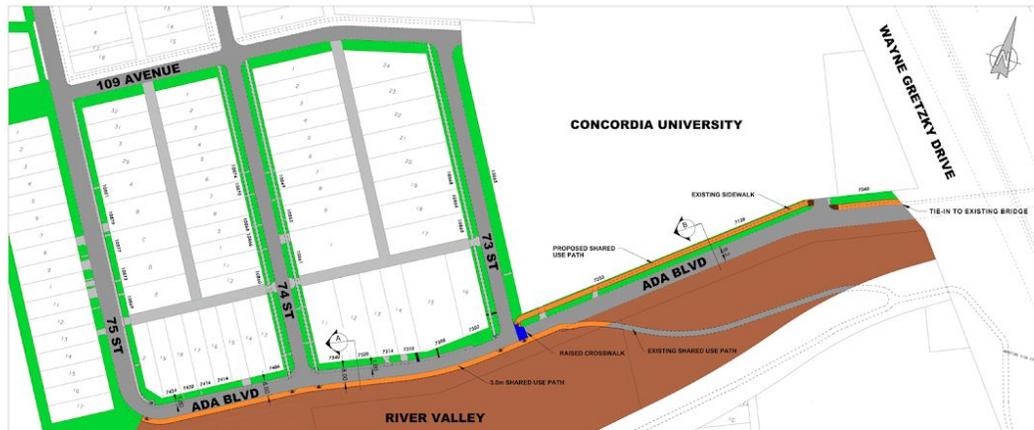
***Thank you for participating in sharing your voice and shaping our city.***

For more information on the City of Edmonton Building Great Neighbourhoods, please visit [www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods](http://www.edmonton.ca/BuildingGreatNeighbourhoods)

THE WAY AHEAD

## BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

TRANSFORMING EDMONTON  
BRINGING OUR CITY TO LIFE



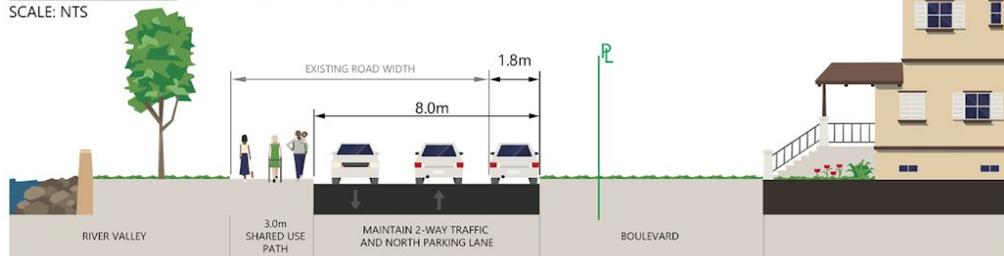
### LEGEND

- EXISTING CURB/SIDEWALK
- PROPOSED CURB/SIDEWALK

- █ PROPOSED SHARED USE PATH
- █ POTENTIAL RAISED CROSSWALK
- █ RIVER VALLEY
- █ BOULEVARD

### CROSS SECTION A (73 STREET - 75 STREET)

SCALE: NTS



### CROSS SECTION B (71 STREET - 73 STREET)

SCALE: NTS

