

Ada Boulevard Community Conversation

January 22, 2018

Edmonton

What is Building Great Neighbourhoods?

Building Great Neighbourhoods (BGN) is a new branch with a goal to increase vibrancy and improve infrastructure in Edmonton's mature neighbourhoods. We take a holistic approach to making changes beyond infrastructure improvements, working in partnership with residents to focus on what they want to see.

Bellevue, Virginia Park and Highlands are all scheduled for neighbourhood renewal. The neighbourhoods aging road surfaces, sidewalks and light standards are scheduled to be replaced starting in 2018 in Bellevue and Virginia Park and Highlands in 2019.

Why is Ada Boulevard being discussed independently of the Virginia Park, Bellevue and Highlands Neighbourhood Renewal projects?

Ada Boulevard is a unique feature area that runs through 4 neighbourhoods – Virginia Park, Bellevue, Highlands and Beverly Heights. This street is historically significant, connects to Edmonton's River Valley, is a highly utilized area for cyclists, and hosts high profile events like the Edmonton Marathon. We understand how important this area is to the citizens of Edmonton, as demonstrated here tonight. To ensure that the vision for the future of Ada Boulevard is included in the Virginia Park, Bellevue and Highlands Neighbourhood Renewal timeframes for construction, planning for Ada Boulevard is being addressed independently from other neighbourhood streets. The Beverly Heights portion of Ada Boulevard will be addressed when that neighbourhood is up for renewal.

How will this discussion align with the Virginia Park, Bellevue and Highlands Neighbourhood Renewal projects?

The input from the January 22, 2018 discussion as well as any follow up engagement activities will inform the design for the Neighbourhood Renewals along Ada Boulevard. We must consider not only the technical aspects, City policies and budgetary constraints but also the length of construction and its impacts on property owners, other stakeholders and events. Due to these factors, the design solution for Ada Boulevard may or may not be consistent along the entire length of the boulevard.

Are there other opportunities for public input?

There will be a number of opportunities to continue with tonight's discussion and bring the ideas forward as decisions are made. The next sessions for input are:

- Online survey - early February
- Bellevue/ Virginia Park Pre-Construction Meeting - February 7, 2018
- Highlands Renewal Introduction Meeting - March 2018
- *What We Heard* Report from today's workshop and follow up survey - March 2018

Who was invited to attend this discussion?

The discussion was open to anyone wishing to attend with an interest in Ada Boulevard. We tried to ensure that we had a varied stakeholder list and are reaching a broad audience. Stakeholders were identified through the Community Leagues, Abundant Communities, Festival and Events that use the space, local businesses, all residents south of 112 Avenue and anyone who had previous communication with us about Ada Boulevard.

How will the previous public engagement input be considered?

Many residents from Highlands and adjacent neighbourhoods participated in a design charrette in 2005 with Dan Burden. Participants were asked “when walking along Ada Boulevard in 2020 what do you hope to see?”. This public input will also be considered in the discussion about the future of Ada Boulevard. Here are some examples of what we heard:

- Separate pedestrians and bicycles from traffic along Ada Boulevard, perhaps by creating a dedicated bicycle lane.
- Define and create a pedestrian walkway along Ada Boulevard.
- Create a mini-median along the south roadside.
- Start a walking path at 55th Street that extends to 65th Street.
- At the 50th Street pedestrian bridge, create a “pocket” park.
- Improved lighting and stairs to the river valley trail.
- Install mini-circles at 60th, 62nd and 64th streets.
- Install table bumps to replace speed bumps, which are not sufficient to reduce speeds.
- Reduce pavement and increase green space.

Is the City already committed to put in a sidewalk along Ada Boulevard?

A sidewalk along Ada Boulevard was shown through the communities of Virginia Park and Bellevue based on feedback and the Active Transportation Policy at a public meeting in early 2017. We are revisiting the design and will be using the feedback tonight and from the follow-up survey to inform the final design and construction timelines.

Why is a sidewalk being considered?

City Policies such as the Sidewalk Strategy and Complete Streets Policy are one of three inputs when considering design solutions. The City of Edmonton’s Sidewalk Strategy states “*City of Edmonton should continue with current standards (sidewalks on both sides of arterials, collectors, and local roads) unless there is clear justification that sidewalks will not significantly contribute to the objectives of encouraging walkability, connectivity and active transportation.*”

What are the implications to changing the construction timeline for Virginia Park and Bellevue?

Depending on the feedback received, construction timelines may have to change. This may cause an additional year of construction for some neighbourhoods.

What input will the public have in discussions of trade-offs required to reach a final design solution?

The public will be invited to discuss what benefits and trade-offs are required with one or more design solutions for Ada Boulevard. An example of a benefit is: *putting in a sidewalk or pathway will allow a safe space for pedestrians to walk off of the roadway in all seasons.* An example of a trade off is: *putting in a sidewalk or pathway may require the road to be narrowed which **may** result in no on-street parking or one-way traffic along portions of the Boulevard.*

