

Wîhkwêntôwin ᐃᓄᓐᓂᓄᓐ (Oliver) Neighbourhood Renewal Exploring Options and Tradeoffs Round 1

Engagement Summary | June/July 2024

REFINE

The Wîhkwêntôwin ᐃᓄᓐᓂᓄᓐ (Oliver) Neighbourhood Renewal Project Team organized a number of engagement opportunities during the **Exploring Options and Tradeoffs Round 1** project stage. Community members provided valuable feedback on what they like and what could be improved about design options for identified opportunity areas in the neighbourhood and on the project's draft **Vision and Guiding Principles**.



Pop-up events

The Project Team popped up at six locations throughout Wîhkwêntôwin ᐃᓄᓐᓂᓄᓐ (Oliver) between July 4 and 15, 2024. Locations included GEF Seniors Housing/Kiwanis Place, Oliver Exchange Building, Paul Kane Park, Wîhkwêntôwin (Oliver) Park/Pool, 124 Grand Market and Constable Ezio Faraone Park.

These pop-ups created general project awareness, shared design options for feedback and encouraged participation in the public engagement events and online survey.

250+ participants



Public engagement events

Public engagement events were held on the evenings of July 11 and July 17, 2024 at Holy Child School and Wîhkwêntôwin ᐃᓄᓐᓂᓄᓐ School respectively. Round 1 design options were shared and participants were encouraged to provide feedback by writing comments on sticky notes and attaching them to display boards featuring the design options. Hundreds of comments were received.

240 participants



Survey

An online survey was available for the public to complete from June 25 to July 25, 2024. The survey asked participants what they liked and what could be improved about each of the design options and whether they thought the draft Vision and Guiding Principles reflected what was important to them.

A paper survey was available by request and was completed by a few community members.

1,361 respondents

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Stakeholder meetings

During this engagement period, 10 meetings were held with property owners, churches and interest groups to share design options and gather feedback.

- + Wihkwêntôwin ᐃᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ School / Edmonton Public School Board – June 24, 2024
- + Paths for People – June 25, 2024
- + Wihkwêntôwin ᐃᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ (Oliver) Community League – June 27, 2024
- + YEG Bike Coalition – July 2, 2024
- + Oliver Exchange Building / Beljan Development – July 3, 2024
- + 124 Street & Area Business Association – July 4, 2024
- + 124 Grand Market – July 5, 2024
- + Robertson–Wesley United Church – July 5, 2024
- + Holy Child School / Edmonton Catholic School Division – July 16, 2024
- + Anglican Parish of Christ Church – July 17, 2024

10 stakeholder meetings



Business walk

To generate awareness of the design options and engagement opportunities, members of the Project Team visited businesses located in opportunity areas where changes are proposed.

20 businesses



How we communicated

We encouraged community members to visit the project web page to access information about the project and the engagement opportunities. Other tools to promote the engagement opportunities included:

- + 21,003 newsletters
- + 21,003 postcards
- + Six road signs
- + 40 yard signs
- + 20 pole signs
- + 50+ posters
- + 12 A-frame signs
- + Social media reach: 131.5K impressions and 23,600+ individuals
- + An email was sent to residents who signed up for email updates
- + An email was sent to project stakeholders
- + Project Team members responded to email and phone inquiries

5,185 web page views

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What we heard: Vision and Guiding Principles

About two thirds of respondents believe the draft Vision and Guiding Principles express what is important to them. Those who do not agree want the City to recognize the importance of minimizing impacts of bike lane infrastructure, one-way streets and closed roads to residents who drive and park in the neighbourhood.

The Vision and Guiding Principles have been modified to reflect this feedback and are shared as final below. Changes are highlighted in green text.

Vision

Wihkwêntôwin ᐃᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ (Oliver) provides spaces and opportunities for residents and visitors to come together to meet, gather and build community. Walking/rolling and biking are prioritized and are safe and convenient for all ages and abilities. **The transportation network works together to connect key places in and around the neighbourhood, making it easy for everyone to get around—whether walking/rolling, biking, or driving.** Trees and greenery beautify the neighbourhood and support environmental sustainability. The neighbourhood's location, design and walkability are celebrated and make it unique in the Edmonton context.

A full **What We Heard Report** summarizing all feedback from the Exploring Options and Tradeoffs stage will be available following Round 2.

For more information and updates on Wihkwêntôwin ᐃᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ (Oliver) Neighbourhood Renewal, please visit: edmonton.ca/BuildingWihkwentowin.

Guiding Principles

- 1. Provide for both casual and commuter oriented walking, rolling and biking connections that are clean, smooth, comfortable, convenient, safe and link to key destinations in and out of the neighbourhood for all users.**

Supporting design principles:

Along with replacing all sidewalks, adding curb ramps and upgrading street lights, the Project Team will explore ways to:

- + Provide walking, rolling and biking connections to key destinations including transit stops
- + Prioritize City-owned spaces for those who walk, bike and roll
- + Improve crossing safety
- + Meet the active transportation needs of all ages, abilities and identities
- + Improve wayfinding signage
- + Design infrastructure that is usable in all seasons
- + Include comfortable seating areas along highly used walking, rolling and biking routes
- + Enhance the urban tree canopy
- + Provide safe and convenient bike parking

- 2. Provide green, welcoming, vibrant and accessible parks and open spaces that are an inviting and thriving extension of living spaces where residents and their visitors feel safe to relax, gather, socialize and play year round.**

Supporting design principles:

The Project Team will explore ways to:

- + Improve the visibility of users
- + Improve connections to and through public spaces
- + Enhance the urban tree canopy and naturalization
- + Create welcoming gathering areas
- + Incorporate active and passive recreation and activity areas
- + Explore opportunities to add additional green space within road right-of-way

- 3. Provide people driving with smooth, navigation-friendly roads that focus on taking them slowly and safely to destinations within the community rather than through it.**

Supporting design principles:

Along with replacing roads and upgrading street lights, the Project Team will explore ways to:

- + Enhance safety at intersections and reduce conflicts between people walking/rolling, biking and driving
- + Design roadways that encourage slow speeds and **minimize shortcutting**
- + **Maintain driver access to destinations within and outside the neighbourhood, while preserving on-street parking, where feasible**
- + Improve wayfinding and traffic signage

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