

What We Heard - Public Event #2 (Jan 23, 2019)

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

124 Street Renewal (111-118 Ave) Strategy

SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY

This is your city.

We welcome your input on how we maintain, grow and build Edmonton.

We believe engagement leads to better decision-making.

We are committed to reaching out to our diverse communities in thoughtful and meaningful ways.

We want to understand your perspectives and build trusting relationships with you.

We will show you how you help influence City decisions.

Share your voice with us and shape our city.

SUMMARY

The 124 Street Renewal (111-118 Avenue) project team participated in the *Inglewood is Changing* drop-in engagement event hosted by Building Great Neighbourhoods at the Winnifred Stewart Association (11130 131 Street NW) on January 23, 2019. The objective of this public engagement was to show how input heard at the previous engagement event in October will be addressed in the future design analysis. The public had the opportunity to validate their expectations and priorities and share feedback on potential road cross-sections that could be considered for the 124 Street Renewal.

WHAT WAS DONE

The public engagement was held to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review and validate their expectations and priorities for the street, and to share comments on typical road cross-sections that could be considered for the 124 Street renewal.

This event was promoted through a number of activities including promotion as part of the Building Great Neighbourhoods communication tactics:

- direct mail of event postcards to residents of Inglewood, including 124 Street between 111 Avenue and 118 Avenue
- emails and information to community organizations, institutions, and businesses
- emails to those signed up for Inglewood Neighbourhood Renewal and 124 Street Renewal project updates through the respective project websites
- signs along arterial roads bordering Inglewood advertising *Inglewood is Changing* and 124 Street Renewal projects, including a road sign on 124 Street at 112 Avenue targeting 124 Street commuters
- City of Edmonton website
- 124 Street Renewal project team walked along the businesses on 124 Street, met with business managers/operators and handed out invitations to the public event
- additional advertising support from local community organizations, institutions, and businesses to promote the event to the populations they serve

196 people visited the *Inglewood is Changing* public engagement event on January 23, 2019 which included the *124 Street Renewal* project display area.

The 124 Street Renewal project team analysed the public feedback received at the previous public event in October 2018, and presented that information on display boards and an aerial map. Two possible road cross-sections were also presented for the public to comment on. Participants were invited to use sticky notes to record feedback and place their comments on the displays. Members of the project team were in attendance to facilitate discussions with participants and to help record feedback.



ENGAGEMENT RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Summary of the received feedback is grouped into common themes below. Where applicable, the comments received for the 124 Street project have been shared with the Inglewood Neighbourhood Renewal project.

Roadway

Comments received at this event concurred with what we heard at the previous public event. For example, we heard comments about the poor road conditions (e.g. pot holes on 124 St in front of the Credit Union) and that the road gets busy during peak hours of the day. Retaining the current road capacity was re-stated as a priority by the majority of the open house visitors; no changes to the number of lanes were expected. Concerns were expressed that street parking during peak time could block the curb lane for traffic. A comment suggested that narrower travel lanes could free up more space for sidewalks. Comments related to traffic operations suggested longer advanced green is needed at the southbound left-turn at 124 Street and 111 Avenue.

On-Street Parking

Visitors shared that while the off-peak parking is a convenience to the residents who reside on 124 Street, cars have often been observed parking in violation during the peak hours and had blocked the curb lane traffic. Some comments indicated that properties on 124 Street already have on-property parking that is accessible from the back alley. Pre-event consultation with some of the businesses at 124 Street and 114 Avenue revealed that drop-off areas and short-term parking are essential for the operation of some business (e.g. the day care facility, convenience and liquor stores at 114 Ave), and that their drop-off and short-term parking needs are currently met through patrons parking on the side streets (e.g. parking on 114 Avenue east of 124 Street). Open House visitors identified, once again, the high parking demand for church patrons at 113 Avenue intersection on Sundays. The suggestion that road visibility off the side streets (avenues) could be improved by pulling the 124 St. parking areas a few metres away from the intersections was well received.

Pedestrian Crosswalks

Comments received at this event concurred with what we heard at the previous public event. One of the priorities for local residents was pedestrian safety. Comments suggested more crosswalks and better visibility of the crosswalks - through better lighting or on-demand flashers which, some people suggested, would be preferable to fixed traffic signals. Received feedback indicated that pedestrian crossings are particularly needed at intersections where bus stops are located. For example, comments suggested marked crossings or on-demand pedestrian flashers to access the bus stops at 112, 113, and 114 Avenues.

Sidewalk, Boulevard and Trees

A primary objective of this public engagement event was for the project team to illustrate how the future road could be redesigned and two possible scenarios were presented: monolithic and boulevard separated sidewalk. Both scenarios were understood by the public but the *boulevard sidewalk* was favoured since it would provide better pedestrian comfort, safety, and snow storage area in the winter. There was a strong support for planting trees alongside the sidewalk, due to their environmental benefits, reduced pollution and noise mitigation. Trees should be planted away from the road curb to mitigate potential damage from the snow clearing.

Bike Lanes, Traffic Lights, Bus Stops

Public feedback looked favourably on the newly proposed shared-use-path along 114 Avenue and suggested that a new traffic signal would make the 114 Ave intersection even safer to cross for pedestrians of all ages and abilities. There were comments expressing satisfaction with the newly installed pedestrian flasher at 116 Avenue. Once again, several comments suggested that on-demand flashers would provide a safer access to the bus stops along 124 Street.

Overall Street Character

Conversation with stakeholders reiterated the residents' desire to see an active, street-oriented and festive character on 124 Street north of 111 Avenue, as a continuation of the look and feel of 124 Street south of 111 Avenue. We heard that 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.

NEXT STEPS

The project team will evaluate and explore public input from the two public engagement events of 124 Street Renewal (111-118 Ave) in the context of the current city policies and standards, and within the available arterial renewal budget for the 2019-2022 capital budget cycle, in order to determine what is feasible. The *Strategy Phase* will conclude with formulating recommendations for design development in the *Concept*, *Preliminary* and *Detail Design* phases that will follow over the next two years. The project team will attend the next *Inglewood is Changing* public engagement event in spring 2019 to share project information. More opportunities will be available for stakeholders to provide input as the design progresses.

Citizens who are interested in the next stages of the project can sign up to the project update mailing list through the project web site at www.edmonton.ca/124StreetRenewal