

What We Heard/ What We Did Report

50 Street to
North Saskatchewan River:

Yellowhead Trail East Widening

Winter 2019

**SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY**

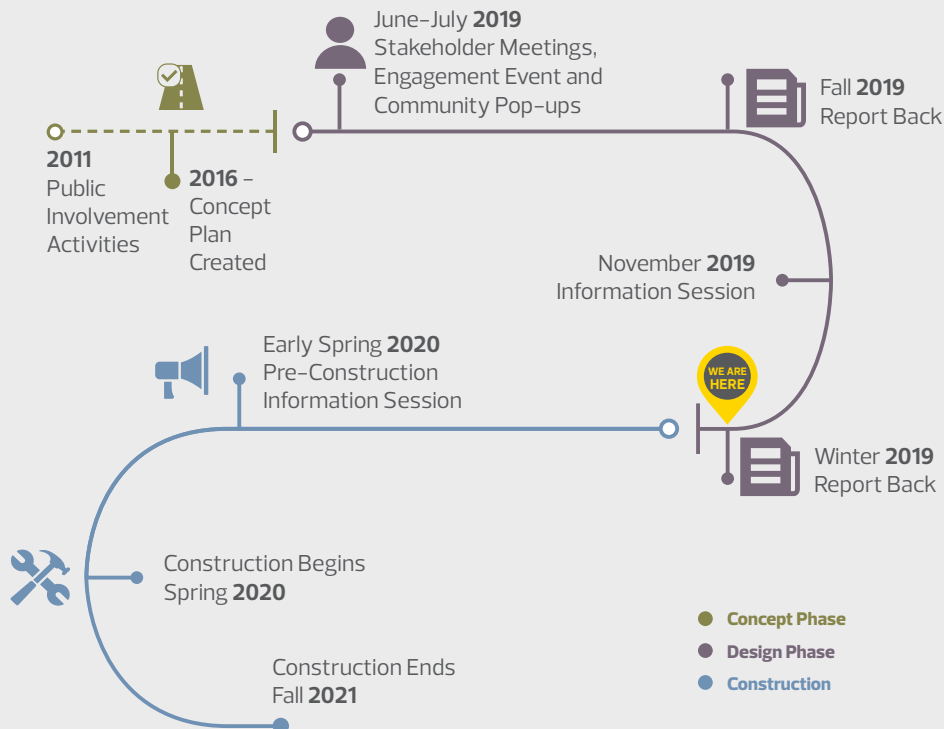
Edmonton

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In 2011–2012, the City of Edmonton completed and endorsed a strategic plan for the development of Yellowhead Trail to become a freeway. This means six lanes of free-flowing traffic travelling at a target speed of 80 km/hr along most of the corridor. As part of the Yellowhead Trail East Widening Project, Yellowhead Trail will be widened to three travel lanes in each direction, between 50 Street and North Saskatchewan River, to improve safety and traffic flow. Improvements will also be made to the existing ramps at 50 Street and Victoria Trail interchanges. As the first major project to take place on the Yellowhead Trail corridor, the East Widening project is an exciting step towards the completion of the overall freeway conversion.

50 Street to North Saskatchewan River: **Yellowhead Trail East Widening**

Project Timeline



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

+ How we asked



2 community pop-ups: over 60 participants

- + Industrial Heights area
- + Victoria Trail shared-use path



1 public engagement event: over 70 participants



8 stakeholder meetings: over 15 participants

+ What we asked

The Yellowhead Trail East Widening project drew on public insights to develop a design that balances the vision and requirements of the Yellowhead Trail Freeway Conversion Program with community, business and commuter needs. We asked the public and stakeholders to ADVISE the project team on the following areas for consideration during project design and communications:

- + Current user experience along Yellowhead Trail between 50 Street and the North Saskatchewan River
- + Current user experience with the shared-use path along Victoria Trail
- + Communications preferences for project team consideration

The feedback helped the design team better understand the project area and how people experience walking, biking and driving in the area.

+ When we asked

Between June and August 2019

PUBLIC INFORMATION OPPORTUNITY

On November 13, 2019, we invited the public to attend a public information session at Riverview Crossing Mall to learn about the Yellowhead Trail Freeway Conversion Program's goals, objectives and motivations. Attendees were also invited to learn about how the East Widening project contributes to the overall vision of the Yellowhead Trail Freeway Conversion Program.

At the event, attendees were provided with an opportunity to review what was heard during the project's public engagement events held in summer 2019 and learn about the design plans for Yellowhead Trail from 50 Street to the North Saskatchewan River. Over 90 people attended.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN



Enhancements to the Yellowhead Trail from 50 Street to the North Saskatchewan River will include:



Yellowhead Trail from 50 Street to the North Saskatchewan River will be widened from two to three lanes in each direction.

- + From 61 Street to 50 Street 3 paved lanes exist. New lanes will be added along the shoulder to provide 3 continuous through lanes in each direction, as well as new auxiliary lanes between the ramp at 50 Street and 61 Street on the north side, and the future ramp at 66 Street and the ramp at 50 Street on the south side.
- + From 50 Street to the North Saskatchewan River, Yellowhead Trail will be widened by adding additional lanes in the existing median.



Existing northbound to eastbound ramp at Yellowhead Trail and Victoria Trail interchange will be closed until the North Saskatchewan River bridges are widened.

- + Construction will include the removal of pavement, curbs, gutters and light poles.
- + The area will also be landscaped with topsoil and grass seed.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN



A new ramp connection will be provided for the northbound to eastbound movement at Yellowhead Trail and Victoria Trail interchange.

- + The intersection of Victoria Trail and the Yellowhead Trail eastbound on- and off-ramps will be modified to accommodate two northbound left-turn lanes on Victoria Trail.
- + Improvements will include new signal lights to accommodate the new northbound left turns, and a new yield for southbound right turns.
- + The merge lane from the loop ramp onto Yellowhead Trail will be extended by 170 metres to help safe merging movements.



Ramp changes will be made on an as-needed basis to provide safer conditions for drivers.

- + Improvements will be made to enhance right turns:
 - + northbound 50 Street to Yellowhead Trail on-ramp;
 - + eastbound Yellowhead Trail off-ramp to 50 Street;
 - + eastbound Yellowhead Trail off-ramp to Victoria Trail;
 - + northbound Rundel Park Drive to Victoria Trail; and,
 - + southbound Victoria Trail to Yellowhead Trail on-ramp.
- + Ramp lengths will be adjusted to help safe merging movements for the speed of the freeway at merge points.



Median openings and accesses will be reviewed to provide safer conditions for drivers.

- + Median opening near 34 Street will be removed.
- + Median crossover at the Ukrainian Centennial Pioneer Forest will be removed to prevent shortcutting.

WHAT WE HEARD/WHAT WE DID

+ Yellowhead Trail: 50 Street to North Saskatchewan River

What we heard	What we did
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Drivers expressed that the current lane configuration and pavement markings at interchanges do not clearly guide people into the correct lane when turning on and off Yellowhead Trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Pavement markings will be improved to better guide traffic along the route. + Signage will be reviewed to help improve intersection navigation.
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The public suggested that the length and spacing between northbound to eastbound and southbound to eastbound ramps at Victoria Trail are not adequate for safe merging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The northbound to eastbound ramp will be removed and combined with the southbound to eastbound loop ramp. + The ramp merge will be lengthened to allow traffic adequate distance to increase speed to merge onto Yellowhead Trail.
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + People who drive in the project area noted that their sightlines are impacted by larger vehicles turning across intersections in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Sightline issues are being reviewed. Where changes are needed, they will be included with the final design.
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The public was concerned with the amount of traffic in the project area, particularly during peak times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Improvements along Yellowhead Trail will help to improve traffic flow and will significantly improve safety at several high collision locations.
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Members of the public suggested that the current noise wall does not adequately block traffic noise near St. Maria Goretti School. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Noise modelling was conducted at locations that the public identified as concerns. + Modelling showed that noise levels in the area ranged from 54.12 to 62.6 dBA, which is below the City of Edmonton's threshold of 65 dBA for the installation of noise mitigation.

+ Shared-use path

What we heard	What we did
 <p>+ People shared that they enjoy using the path for both recreational and commuting purposes.</p>	<p>+ To improve the area for recreation and commuting, opportunities for additional landscaping are being explored.</p>
 <p>+ People shared concerns about some activity that occurs along the shared-use path, particularly in the underpass, which is hidden from public sight.</p>	<p>+ Improvements to lighting on the shared-use path are being designed. These improvements will help to deter unsafe activity.</p>
 <p>+ People who walk and bike shared that the lack of lighting along the shared-use path along Victoria Trail and the underpass is a safety concern, particularly at night and early in the morning.</p>	<p>+ Lighting improvements along the shared-use path are being designed. This will help to improve safety in the area.</p>
 <p>+ People who use the shared-use path voiced that sightlines are a concern in some locations.</p>	<p>+ The shared-use path follows the natural features and contours of the area, including going through an underpass at Victoria Trail to avoid conflicts with cars. Landscaping and lighting will be reviewed to mitigate sightline issues.</p>
 <p>+ The public expressed concern about litter, debris and unsafe items that are discarded along the shared-use path.</p>	<p>+ Users of the shared-use path can alert maintenance crews to any issues related to litter, debris and unsafe items by calling 311 or using the 311 app.</p>

Next Steps

Construction is projected to start in spring 2020. Watch for an invitation to a pre-construction information session.

For project updates sign up for the email list or visit the project website at edmonton.ca/yellowheadeastwidening.