

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY



Reporting Back

**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.

Project/Initiative Background	
Name Date	Jasper Avenue New Vision March 13, 2018
Contact information	Jacqueline Tessier, Principal Twenty-20 Communications jacqueline@twenty-20.ca
Level of public engagement	
Description	Jasper Avenue New Vision will guide the streetscape improvements and reconstruction of Jasper Avenue between 92 Street and 97 Street, and 102 Street and 109 Street. The outcomes of this phase of the project will be a preliminary engineering design for Jasper Avenue between 97 Street and 100 Street and concept design plans for 92 Street to 97 Street and 102 Street to 109 Street.



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SUMMARY

Jasper Avenue New Vision is a major catalyst project identified in the Capital City Downtown Plan (2010). The plan calls for streetscape improvements and reconstruction of Jasper Avenue between 92 Street and 97 Street, and 102 Street and 109 Street to feature an enhanced pedestrian experience, and to balance the needs of all roadway users. The goal is to reestablish this section of Jasper Avenue as one of Edmonton’s main streets, which highlights Edmonton’s downtown core and acts as a symbol of vitality and energy; a place to make Edmontonians proud.

The Jasper Avenue New Vision project has been segmented into sections, each with its own timeline:

102 Street to 109 Street	Concept Plan - Spring 2018
100 Street to 102 Street	Constructed in 2013
97 Street to 100 Street	Draft Concept Plan completed as a part of this project phase Construction planned between 2019 and 2020 to coordinate with rehabilitation of Shaw Conference Centre under Jasper Avenue
92 Street to 97 Street	Concept Plan - Spring 2018

WHAT WAS DONE

The public engagement process for the Jasper Avenue New Vision project is divided into two stages:

- Stage 1: Concept design for 97 Street to 100 Street
- Stage 2: Concept design for 92 Street to 97 Street and 102 Street to 109 Street

This report explains the public engagement process for Stage 1 and summarizes what was heard.

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Stage 1 engaged three primary audiences:

- Stakeholders including property owners, businesses, and agencies operating and representing organizations that have an interest in Jasper Avenue
- Residents who live and work downtown
- All Edmonton residents

Public engagement kicked off in the fall of 2017 with a comprehensive engagement plan including:

- Stakeholder meetings - 23 meetings held (land and business owners and key groups/organizations with an interest in Jasper Avenue from 97 Street to 100 Street)
- Public engagement events with over 400 attendees
- A public survey with 144 respondents

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Different audiences shared many similarities of opinions. What follows is a compilation of common themes and issues identified across the different engagement tactics and audience groups. This compilation of opinions is not ranked or rated in order of importance or commonality.

Accommodating Multiple Modes of Transportation

- As the Jasper Avenue New Vision plan will accommodate and integrate multiple modes of transportation, there is concern that this increased access for all modes will put additional pressure/congestion on Jasper Avenue, and vehicles are expected to experience most of that pressure (roadway narrowing, decreased opportunities for right and left turns due to bike lanes and increased pedestrian use, removal of bus pull-out lanes).
- Significant differences of opinions are shared on the need for and value of improving accommodation for all modes of transportation:
 - At one end of the spectrum, there is support for the vision and encouragement to provide even higher service access for pedestrians and cyclists, and the balance of transportation modes

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- o At the other end of the spectrum, the plan is seen to be putting the needs of a smaller group over the needs of many users. Users are concerned that overall, transportation time in, out and through the downtown corridor will be negatively impacted.
- Concern that establishing this section of Jasper Avenue to meet Edmonton's Main Street Guidelines is being done without sufficient infrastructure changes (designation of other roadways as prime vehicular arterials and additional transit service) to support traffic calming measures. This may have negative consequences for surrounding roadways and residential communities as additional routes are sought in an effort to improve traffic flow.

Coordination of Construction Impacts

- Construction of Jasper Avenue New Vision projects needs to be coordinated with other roadway and LRT projects, and new commercial and residential projects, to ensure efficient traffic flow and minimize construction related impacts and costs.

Concerns about Escalating Downtown Congestion

- Peak period congestion is perceived to be increasing in the downtown core.
- Changes to downtown traffic flow (closing roadways around Churchill Square, accommodating Valley Line LRT line) exacerbates traffic flow issues.

Creating a Main Street Experience

- Those who support the transition of Jasper Avenue to a main street support the development of flex spaces, introduction of landscaping and furniture, and improving the pedestrian experience.
- There is a desire to ensure pedestrians are separated from the flow of traffic to enhance their safety and to establish the uptake of the expanded mainstreet services (flex spaces, furniture).
- Those who are concerned about the impact on the flow of traffic question if these changes will be adequately used by the community to justify the impact.

Intersection Issues

- A number of intersections east of 100 Street are unique in their design and can be unfamiliar/complicated for irregular users.

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- Major intersections (e.g., 109 Street, 100 Street, 99 Street, 95 Street to 96 Street) experience significant bottlenecks at peak periods (workday traffic, event traffic).
- These intersections can be challenging for all modes of transportation.
- High levels of pedestrian crossings (and crossing against the light) and the introduction of bike lanes along the streets can make right and left hand turns on to/off of Jasper Avenue challenging.
- Recommendations made to investigate opportunities for scramble crossings.
- Concerns from both vehicle users and pedestrians that traffic lights are not well coordinated, causing delays at each intersection and causing an unnecessary increase in travel time.

Parking

- Need to maintain short term, on-street parking for access to businesses, restaurants and services.
- Encourage longer term parking of two-plus hours to move to off-avenue parking lots and parkades.
- Cyclists need to have secure areas for parking/storing bikes. Bike stands should allow for secure lock-up and not interfere with or encroach onto pedestrian walkways.

Bike Lane Connection / Cyclist Experience

- There are opposing views on the establishment/extension of the bike grid to Jasper Avenue.
- Keeping the bike grid off Jasper Avenue with regular connections from the bike grid to Jasper Avenue will have the least impact on vehicular traffic.
- There is perceived to be a lack of bike lanes east of 96 Street and as a result, more comments asking for the inclusion of bike lanes along this end of Jasper Avenue.

Pedestrian Experience

- Request for wide walkways that are clear from obstruction.
- Request for flat, even pavement that will not create tripping or slipping hazards.
- Provide pedestrian lighting.

Transit Experience

- Concern that removing transit pull-out lanes will slow down the overall flow of traffic.

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Passenger Vehicle Experience

- The introduction of traffic calming measures will increase overall travel time.
- Need to maintain both right and left turn lanes at major intersections.

Movement of Goods

- Need for accessible loading zones.
- Jasper Avenue should not be a major transportation corridor for large transport vehicles, except to handle the delivery of goods along Jasper Avenue.

Traffic Laws

- With the accommodation of all modes of transportation, there is a need to enforce all traffic bylaws (jaywalking, crossing/turning after the light, speeding, parking violations, etc.) to ensure traffic flows smoothly and safely. Perception that with the increase in users of Jasper Avenue, traffic infractions could have more serious implications.

Winter City

- Because of the winter climate, questions were raised regarding the value and usability of enhanced pedestrian and cycling corridors.
- Requests for protection from the elements for pedestrians/transit users. At minimum, there are requests for transit stops that provide some protection from the weather.

WHAT'S NEXT

Input received during Stage 1 will be used to fine-tune the draft concept plan for 97 Street to 100 Street and shape the draft concept plans for 92 Street to 97 Street and 102 Street to 109 Street.

During Stage 2 of the Jasper Avenue New Vision public engagement, the following will be shared for feedback:

- Recommended concept plan for 97 Street to 100 Street
- Draft concept plans for 92 Street to 97 Street and 102 Street to 109 Street

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The logo for the City of Edmonton, featuring the word "Edmonton" in white text on a blue square background.

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Stage 2 will continue to engage the three primary audiences:

- Stakeholders including property owners, businesses, and agencies operating and representing organizations that have an interest in Jasper Avenue
- Residents who live and work downtown
- All Edmonton residents

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

For more information on City of Edmonton public engagement, please visit www.edmonton.ca/publicengagement.