

# WHAT WE HEARD

Edmonton

## Ritchie Corner Store Pilot Project Public Realm Enhancements

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017 the City will invest in public realm enhancements as part of the Ritchie Corner Store Pilot Project. Improvements are planned for the corner at the intersection of 76 Avenue and 96 Street.

In March 2017 the project team shared the project concept plan to get resident and business owner feedback and support to inform the final design.

Respondents showed 86 per cent support for the proposed enhancements.

### BACKGROUND

The Corner Store Program aims to re-establish the neighbourhood shopping centre as a hub of activity in Edmonton communities through improvements to City infrastructure, buildings and businesses. The public realm enhancements concept plan focused on the City infrastructure components of the Corner Store Pilot Program.

The concept plan considered input gathered from residents, business owners, and stakeholders during the strategy phase in 2016. The proposed project area is within City road right-of-way and includes:

1. Converting the grassed boulevard to a hard surface with paving stones and plantings.
2. Adding a porous surface such as mulch or pour-in-place material around existing trees to keep them healthy and vibrant.
3. Adding a space to accommodate bike racks.
4. Adding a seating area with benches.

Lighting upgrades adjacent to the commercial area and additional improvements shown in the concept plan are part of the overall public realm enhancements for Ritchie and were completed earlier.

### WHAT WE HEARD

A total of 150 letters were sent to property owners, business owners, and residents within a two-block radius of the Ritchie corner stores. The City received 21 online responses.

Option	Responses
I support the public realm enhancements as shown on the concept plan as presented with comments. ( <i>comments below</i> )	12
I support the public realm enhancements as shown on the concept plan as presented with no comments.	6

I do not support the project.	1
No response.	2

## COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

- *That seems like the best space to increase parking. The businesses along 76 Avenue have terrible parking options.*

The project goal is to provide spaces for community members to gather. The project connects businesses and the community with amenable, attractive infrastructure and landscaping that serves cyclists and pedestrians, and makes the space more inviting. Enhancements such as seating, bike racks, and landscaping were identified and prioritized through a community survey and open house held in November 2015.

- *Move benches closer to sidewalk. Too close to the road.*
- *The bike area has too much wasted space. Have bike racks two back-to-back. Bikes can go on either side of racks. Move sidewalk over to bike racks. Have more park space. Move benches farther back from road. It's too noisy, dusty or wet so close to the roadway traffic.*

There is a water main underground in the area between the trees and the sidewalk. This limits the ability to place benches and other infrastructure, like bike racks, in this area. To accommodate seating and bike racks, the City has placed the benches on the west side of the trees, added landscaping between the benches and the roadway, and shifted the bike racks to the west.

- *Will there be a repository for cigarette butts? I assume that there will be garbage cans that will be emptied regularly.*
- *The spot would benefit from a garbage can and a poster board or a post to promote city events. Also I think two to three benches would be sufficient, which may free up cost and space for other things.*
- *Please put a poster board near corner. Round one, like on Whyte Ave.*
- *Kiosk for posters - inlaid plaque inserted with the ground from Ritchie Community League in one of the circles (first tree). Garbage bins and recycle bins.*
- *I would like to see an opportunity for Ritchie to take part. We need signage of some sort to acknowledge the role everyone played in this including the businesses and City of Edmonton.*

A garbage receptacle and cigarette repository will be added to the site elements. Other enhancements, such as seating, bike racks, and landscaping were identified and prioritized through a community survey and open house in November 2015.

Any additional amenities like kiosks, poster boards, or plaques can be added through a separate project, or as a phase 2 to the project. The City has connected with members of the community league to discuss this further. In addition, you may pursue these

enhancements by getting in touch with the community league and/or the community recreation coordinator, Susan Dack, at [susan.dack@edmonton.ca](mailto:susan.dack@edmonton.ca).

- *Provide a breakdown of costs to be posted on community league website.*

Project information, including the budget, are available at [edmonton.ca/RitchieCornerStore](http://edmonton.ca/RitchieCornerStore)

- *Why such a delay? Late 2015/early 2016 work was to be completed in/during 2016. Now 2017/18. Why the delay? Also, on the open house, decorative light: yes, some install, but not as shown by designers. Why? Would really like to see this completed before the snowfall in fall of 2017. Can we also get a more detailed cost breakdown?*

The project timeline includes all the project phasing from concept to build. It takes time to gather feedback from residents, business owners, and property owners. The feedback form closed on March 31, 2017. The concept phase is now wrapping up, with design scheduled for summer 2017 and construction in fall 2017 or spring 2018.

- *I like the addition of bike racks; right now there aren't any at that corner but there's lots of businesses I'd bike to.*
- *I live immediately behind this area and I fully support this project. Looks great!*
- *It looks very nice and we are excited to have this corner become a focus of activity.*

Thank you for your comments.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The City has reviewed respondents' comments and will complete design in summer 2017. Construction is anticipated to begin later in fall 2017 or in spring 2018. Ritchie residents and business owners will be given a minimum of two weeks' notice prior to construction.

For more information, please visit [edmonton.ca/RitchieCornerStore](http://edmonton.ca/RitchieCornerStore)