



NEIGHBOURHOOD RECONSTRUCTION

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PROGRAM

The Neighbourhood Renewal Program is a cost-effective, long-term strategic approach to address infrastructure needs such as rebuilding and renewing roads, sidewalks and streetlights in Edmonton's neighbourhoods and on collector roadways.

Renewal work varies depending on the state of neighbourhood infrastructure:

BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Neighbourhood reconstruction is coordinated under the Building Great Neighbourhoods initiative, a collaboration between three City of Edmonton programs:

- Drainage Neighbourhood Renewal
- Neighbourhood Renewal
- Office of Great Neighbourhoods Capital Program

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- **Preventive Maintenance:** reseal roads to extend their lifespan.
- **Overlay:** repave roads and treat sidewalk panels to eliminate trip hazards.
- **Reconstruction:** repave roads, replace streetlights and sidewalks. Does not include arterial roads nor alleys.
- **Collector Road Renewal:** priority given to bus routes.

By combining reconstruction, overlay and preventive maintenance, all Edmonton neighbourhoods can be improved within 30 years. This benefits neighbourhoods more quickly and at a lower cost than a reconstruction-only program.

FUNDING

The Neighbourhood Renewal Program was created in 2009. It is paid for through a combination of property taxes, provincial funding and cost-sharing with property owners.

On average, the City invests about \$20 million in a neighbourhood's reconstruction, not including underground utility work. The program is funded through a combination of:

- Grants from the Provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI).
- Revenue in the Neighbourhood Renewal Program fund built up since 2009.
- Sidewalk reconstruction and decorative streetlight local improvements.
- Pay-As-You-Go funding.
- Savings from other capital projects.

City Council has suspended the Neighbourhood Renewal Program Tax Levy increase for 2016 and 2017.

RECONSTRUCTION DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- Bring infrastructure up to current design and construction standards.
- Where needed, resize roads to current City of Edmonton road design standards.
- Improve pedestrian safety and accessibility.
- Review circulation/traffic control signals to determine if changes are needed.
- Add curb ramps to intersections, eliminate "over-designed" intersections and improve curb radii.
- Install roll-faced (mountable) curbs or straight-faced curbs based on design requirements and surrounding environment.
- Consider curb extensions at pedestrian crossings near schools, community halls and playgrounds.
- Implement bike routes through on-street bike route markings or wide sidewalks/shared-use paths.
- Ensure streetlights meet current lighting design practices and standards, including LED upgrades.



LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

These are projects considered of a greater benefit to a particular neighbourhood than to the city overall. Local improvements are typically undertaken near or adjacent to a property and include sidewalk reconstruction and decorative streetlights. Both sidewalks and decorative streetlights are subject to the approval of a **Local Improvement Bylaw**.

Sidewalk Reconstruction

- City-initiated, with the cost shared 50-50 between the City and property owners.
- Neighbourhoods are divided into project areas and property owners are mailed a local improvement notice prior to reconstruction.
- Property owners may petition against sidewalk reconstruction for their project area within 30 days of the local improvement notice date. Sidewalk reconstruction will not proceed if the City receives petitions from the majority (50% + 1) of property owners within a given project area.
- If a local improvement is defeated, the City will undertake regular sidewalk maintenance (grinding, asphalt patching or mudjacking) to make the sidewalk safe for pedestrians.



Decorative Streetlights

- Property-owner initiated, with 100% of the cost above standard galvanized poles paid for by the property owners.
- Neighbourhoods are responsible for gathering support. The City sends an Expression of Interest (EOI) package containing estimated costs to property owners. After the EOI collection period, the signatures are validated by the City. If the majority (50% + 1) of property owners support the EOI, then the City initiates a Decorative Streetlight Local Improvement.

SELECTING NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Of the City's over 300 neighbourhoods, more than 150 require renewal. Of these, there are more than 100 that require full reconstruction. For the program to be sustainable, 10 to 15 neighbourhoods should be renewed annually. However, the City lacks both funding and

capacity to address all outstanding infrastructure issues in the short term. Every year, 25% of local roadways are visually inspected to assess the condition of pavement, curbs and sidewalks. Deficiencies are compared with previous ratings, then averaged for the neighbourhood. This average determines the kind of renewal needed. Factors affecting selection and timing include infrastructure condition, budget and coordination with utilities.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The City hosts three meetings in each community slated for reconstruction. Public involvement begins about 18 months prior to reconstruction. First, the City meets with the community league executive to discuss the process and gather information. A second meeting with both residents and property owners is then held about a year prior to review preliminary designs. Shortly after local improvement notices are mailed to property owners (about four months prior to reconstruction), a third meeting is held to go over the final neighbourhood design, inform property owners about the local improvement process and tell residents what they can expect during the multi-year construction period.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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