

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

## 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	
<b>Name</b> <b>Date</b>	Jasper Avenue New Vision August 11, 2018
<b>Contact information</b>	Jacqueline Tessier, Principal Twenty/20 Communications jacqueline@twenty-20.ca
<b>Level of public engagement</b>	Stage 2 engagement included activities were at the Advise level of the spectrum: <b>ADVISE</b> Draft Concept Plans 92 Street to 96 Street and 102 Street to 109 Street Preliminary Design Plan 97 Street to 100 Street
<b>Description</b>	Jasper Avenue New Vision will guide the streetscape improvements and reconstruction of Jasper Avenue between 92 Street and 109 Street. The outcomes of this stage of the project will be Concept Plans for Jasper Avenue between 92 Street and 97 Street and 102 Street and 109 Street, as well as a Preliminary Design Plan for 97 Street to 100 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 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	Draft Concept Plan completed as part of this project phase. Funding is currently not available to proceed with construction of this section.
100 Street and 102 Street:	Constructed in 2013
97 Street and 100 Street	Construction is planned between 2019 and 2020 to coordinate with rehabilitation required for the Shaw Conference Centre under Jasper Avenue. A Preliminary Design Plan has been completed as part of this project phase.
96 Street to 97 Street	Concept Plan completed, but construction of this block will not proceed in 2019 and 2020 due to private development work east of 97 Street, which will take place in the near future.
92 Street to 96 Street	Draft Concept Plan completed as part of this project phase. Funding is currently not available to proceed with construction of this section.

### WHAT WAS DONE

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

- Stage 1: Concept Design for 96 Street to 100 Street
- Stage 2: Concept Design for 92 Street to 97 Street and 102 Street to 109 Street  
Preliminary Design for 97 Street to 100 Street

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This report explains the public engagement process for Stage 2 and summarizes what was heard.

Three primary audiences were included in Stage 2 of the public engagement process:

- Stakeholders including property and business owners in the project area
- Residents who live, work and play downtown
- All Edmonton residents

Stage 2 engagement took place between March and June 2018, including:

- Stakeholder meetings (land and business owners)
- Business survey (May/June 2018; 10 responses)
- Public engagement event (June 14, 2018; 109 attendees)
- Public survey (June 14, 2018; 145 responses)

## RESULTS AND FINDINGS

What follows is a compilation of common themes and issues identified in the public survey and during the public engagement event. This compilation is not ranked or rated in order of importance or commonality.

### ***Common Themes for the Jasper Avenue New Vision Project***

#### **Jasper Avenue as a Main Street**

Many comments received as a part of the Jasper Avenue New Vision engagement are related to reactions to and support for the transitioning of Jasper Avenue to a main street versus how the project is being implemented.

As the Jasper Avenue New Vision plan will accommodate and integrate multiple modes of transportation, there is concern that 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:

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- 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.
- At the other end of the spectrum, the vision is seen as putting the needs of a smaller group over the needs of many users. Vehicle users are concerned that overall, transportation time in, out and through the downtown corridor will be negatively impacted.

Additionally, as a Winter City, there is the belief that Edmontonians will not make effective use of improved sidewalks and/or bike accommodation.

### **Efficient Flow of Traffic (all modes) Should Be the Priority**

The flow of traffic should not be impeded by furniture zones, flex zones or greenery. These should be used to enhance, but never interfere, with the efficient movement of pedestrians, cyclist, vehicles, or transit.

### **Parking Issues**

Need for more bike and vehicle parking to provide riders access to local business (retail and restaurants).

### **Pedestrian Experience**

Ensure sidewalk material does not become a slip or trip hazard.

### **Scramble Crossings**

Strong support for the installation of a scramble crossing at 108 Street and desire to see scramble crossings implemented at other intersections.

### **Pedestrian Safety**

Improved pedestrian experience and safety is requested by ensuring there is a physical separation between pedestrians and vehicles.

### **Persons Experiencing Homelessness and Addictions**

Homelessness and addictions issues are prevalent along Jasper Avenue. Engagement participants want to ensure individuals currently experiencing these issues are treated

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respectfully and are not made to feel unwelcome. At the same time, respondents do not want the design to encourage more loitering, thereby deterring other pedestrians from using Jasper Avenue.

### ***Comments and Issues Unique to the Draft Concept of Jasper Avenue from 92 Street to 96 Street***

#### **Improved and Safer Pedestrian Experiences**

Respondents support the use of pedestrian islands, curb bulb outs, wider sidewalks and maintaining a separation between the sidewalk and roadway.

#### **Improved Intersections**

Intersections that are currently confusing and inefficient are appreciated for being improved for pedestrian, cycle and vehicle traffic.

94 Street requires improved sight lines and signage for left turning vehicles.

#### **Creates More Appealing Neighborhoods**

The draft concept plan is expected to encourage more activity in the area, providing an upgrade to an overlooked part of the city.

#### **Bike Lanes**

There continues to be diverging opinions on the inclusion of bike lanes along this portion of Jasper Avenue. There are those who would like to see bike lanes included or have sidewalks converted to shared use paths, and those who oppose having bike lanes included along the avenue. The downtown bike grid does not currently extend to the east end of downtown, and as such, cyclists are looking for bike lane options along the corridor.

### ***Comments and Issues Unique to the Draft Concept of Jasper Avenue from 102 Street to 109 Street***

#### **Pedestrian Safety and Intersection Design**

Many positive comments are made about the scramble crossing planned for 108 Street. Similarly, respondents appreciate the extended curbs at intersections to reduce the crossing distance.

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### **Free Standing Green Promotional Kiosks**

Recommendations to have the green kiosks removed or redesigned to have a smaller footprint and/or be more aesthetically pleasing.

### ***Comments and Issues Unique to the Preliminary Design Plan for Jasper Avenue from 97 Street to 100 Street***

#### **Provide a Connection Across 100 Street between Heritage Trail/McDougall Hill Road/MacDonald Drive and Funicular**

Would like to have more direct and convenient pedestrian and cycle crossing.

#### **Shared-Use Path to Funicular**

Concern about width being insufficient for shared-use path, but don't want to lose the connection to the bike lane.

Request to have Heritage Trail east of 100 Street to continue as a shared-use path for the remainder of Jasper Avenue.

#### **100 Street Intersection**

Because of the size of the intersection/number of lanes to be crossed, desire for curb bulb outs/pedestrian island for elderly/mobility restricted people.

#### **Deliveries and Loading Zones**

Need to provide loading zones and off-peak parking on north side of Jasper Avenue for World Trade Centre, 9Triple8, and Alberta Hotel.

#### **Intersections and Crosswalks**

For safety of pedestrians, recommendations are made to improve lighting, install flashers, and use bright/reflective paint at crosswalks.

#### **Economic Development**

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Concerns continue to be raised that there will be a negative impact on business development in the downtown core because *“travel and parking are impossible for clients.”*

### **Ongoing Maintenance and Upkeep**

There is a desire to see greater emphasis on regular maintenance and upkeep along Jasper Avenue versus instituting a construction project. Specifically, respondents encourage business and property owners to maintain and beautify their buildings. They also encourage the Jasper Avenue New Vision project to select furnishings that can be easily repaired or replaced, as needed.

## **WHAT'S NEXT**

Input received during Stage 2 will be used to inform the final Concept Plans for 92 Street to 97 Street and 102 Street to 109 Street and fine-tune the Preliminary Design Plan for 97 Street to 100 Street, if and where necessary/possible.

***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](http://www.edmonton.ca/publicengagement).