

What We Heard

142 Street Pedestrian / Cyclist Bridge Public Engagement #2

April 2021

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SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

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142 Street Pedestrian/ Cyclist Bridge

Public Engagement #2

Project Background

The Terwillegar Drive Expansion Program identifies a new pedestrian/cyclist bridge over Whitemud Drive, between the Whitemud Drive/Terwillegar Drive interchange and Whitemud Creek. The bridge crossing is funded by the City and in partnership with the Government of Alberta. In addition to the pedestrian/cyclist bridge, the project also includes active mode connections and open space upgrades.

The City has initiated the planning and design of the bridge, including a comprehensive engagement program which will be used for the development of the concept and preliminary design. Construction will be in coordination with the Terwillegar Drive Expansion Program and is anticipated to start in 2025.

Community Committee

To assist in creating an effective engagement process, the City of Edmonton recruited volunteer members to a Community Committee for this project. Members include residents of the local neighbourhoods and representatives of community organizations and area schools. The committee is responsible for helping adapt and adjust the public engagement process in order to reach a broad and diverse range of people who are interested in the project.

The Community Committee does not provide input on the design of the bridge or surrounding amenities outside of the opportunities available to the wider public.

What We Did

The second round of public engagement was held between February 11 and March 5, 2021. During this phase, the public was asked to provide feedback on the draft vision, draft principles, three draft concept ideas for the bridge, active transportation connections, open space amenities, and landscaping. This feedback will be used to finalize the vision and principles, and develop concept options.

Communication

To promote the project and the engagement opportunities, the following communication methods were used:

Postcards

- + 2,240 sent to all addresses in Bulyea Heights and Brookside
- + Over 100 additional postcards hand delivered to addresses closest to the project area

Road Signs

- + 10 temporary signs were installed throughout the greater Terwillegar–Riverbend area

A-Frames

- + 11 temporary signs were installed in Bulyea Heights and Brookside

Online and Print Advertisements

- + Social media posts
- + Riverbend Ragg Times advertisement
- + Community League Posts and Signs

Project Email List Updates

Public and Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Recognizing that COVID-19 represents an unpredictable and unique scenario, the City has made the decision to cancel all in-person public engagement events until further notice. The City of Edmonton is committed to offering online engagement opportunities for the public to share their voice, while following public health guidelines for physical distancing. The following outlines the online public and stakeholder engagement activities used:

Online Presentation & Live Q&A Session

- + 102 registrations
- + 72 attendees

Engaged Edmonton Concept Ideas

- + 536 total contributions of ideas/comments

Engaged Edmonton Draft Vision

- + 24 total contributions of ideas/comments

Engaged Edmonton Draft Principles

- + 14 total contributions of ideas/comments

Direct Contact to Project Email

Paper mailout surveys were made available by contacting 311 to accommodate those with limited internet access. Two requests were received, however none of the surveys were returned at the time of this report.

What We Heard

This section is a summary of what we heard in the public and stakeholder engagement activities. The summary has been developed to reflect the relevancy, frequency, and diversity of responses we received based on the questions and prompts.

Online Presentation and Live Q&A Session

On February 11, 2021 the 142 Street Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge project team hosted and facilitated an online presentation and live Q&A session open to the public. Over 100 people registered and the event had an attendance of 72 members of the public. The presentation provided an overview of the project background, purpose and benefits, and shared a summary of what we heard from the first series of public engagement activities, including how we are using the feedback shared by participants. The draft vision and principles, and concept ideas including bridge alignment options, active transportation connections and open space amenity and landscaping opportunities were also presented. The presentation concluded with Instructions on how to provide feedback through the upcoming public engagement activities. After the online presentation, participants could ask questions to the project team. A summary of the questions and comments is included on the following page.



The idea to have a connection is great! Having to use Riverbend road to reach Brookview and beyond from Haddow is very inconvenient. It will also be a much safer alternative for me. I like the draft vision.



– Forum response to the draft project vision

Q: How does the bridge connect to Edmonton's existing and planned active transportation routes?

A: Connections to existing and planned active transportation routes are being considered as the design progresses. Anticipated connections include a connection to the future shared-use path along Terwillegar Drive, the existing east-west shared-use path north of Whitemud Drive, and 142 Street. Other possible connections illustration on the concept ideas are being considered as part of the public engagement and technical design process.

Q: Is this project considering planting additional trees in the area?

A: Additional trees and plantings will be considered as part of the open space amenity and landscaping opportunities.

Q: What will be the impact to existing trees?

A: The preservation of the environment, including minimizing impacts to existing trees will be a key consideration as planning advances.

Q: Can the bridge alignment be directly aligned with 142 street?

A: Three concept ideas are being considered. Offsetting the alignment slightly from 142 Street allows the design to avoid significant utilities which would be costly to relocate.

Q: How is this project coordinating with the Terwillegar Drive Expansion project?

A: Design and construction of the 142 Street Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge will closely coordinate with the Terwillegar Drive Expansion Project to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of both projects.

Q: Can construction take place in advance of the Terwillegar Drive expansion?

A: At this early stage of planning and design, based on an initial review of traffic detouring and constructibility requirements, construction of the pedestrian/cyclist bridge should begin after the Stage 2 upgrades of the Terwillegar Drive expansion are completed. As both projects advance, opportunities to align construction timelines will be further considered.

Q: Is there development planned for the open space located in the southwest corner of Brookside?

A: The open space in question is currently allocated as road right-of-way. Based on input received from the first phase of engagement, this area has been identified as an opportunity area for supporting open space amenities and landscaping.

Q: Where is the funding coming from for this project?

A: This project is fully funded by the City of Edmonton and Government of Alberta as part of the Terwillegar Drive Expansion Program.

Q: How will this project impact community safety?

A: The design of the project, including supporting amenities, will take into consideration public input as well as design best practices for safety. The scope of planning and design includes a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) review. A CPTED review is a method to improve infrastructure safety by reviewing the design to ensure it considers principles such as natural surveillance ("eyes on the street") and encouraging positive activity.

Q: What is the budget for pedestrian/cyclist bridge?

A: The budget for the bridge is a part of the Terwillegar Drive Expansion, with a contribution from the City through the 2019–2022 Capital Budget and the Province. The budget for planning and design is \$1 million. The estimated cost for detailed design and construction of the bridge is \$6 million.

Q: Are upgrades planned for the existing east–west shared–use path along the north side of Whitemud Drive?

A: Upgrades to the shared–use path to enhance user safety and comfort are being considered as part of the Stage 2 upgrades of the Terwillegar Drive Expansion Program.



Engaged Edmonton – Draft Vision Section

The public was asked to provide feedback on the draft vision. The public provided feedback by writing on the Engaged Edmonton “Forum” tool. Feedback could be provided by posting a comment on the forum below the draft vision. The public could also agree or disagree with what others had written. The draft vision presented was:

The 142 Street Pedestrian/Cyclist bridge connects southwest Edmonton to the city's larger active transportation network.

It enhances the surrounding neighbourhoods by providing access to trails and bike routes, Edmonton's River Valley and Ravine system and destinations in the surrounding community and beyond, increasing opportunities for recreation, exercising and commuting.

The bridge is a safe and effective link at all times of day and for all users and the neighbouring communities.

Prompting questions to spur feedback included:

- What do you like about the DRAFT Vision above?
- What could be changed?

The public's feedback received is summarized below.

Those responding to what they liked about the draft vision mentioned:

- + Agreement with the vision statement
- + Excitement to utilize the connection provided by the bridge for commuting and recreating
- + Desire for a safe and more efficient connection over Whitemud Drive that does not require confusing detours or sharp changes in elevation

Those responding to what could be changed mentioned:

- + Desire for the name of the project to be changed to the Brookview/Brookside Bridge
- + Desire for the vision to speak to preserving the existing look and feel of the surrounding neighbourhoods.
- + Desire to include wording about “year-round” use to highlight the importance to design for effective winter use

The project team will use this feedback to finalize the project vision.

Engaged Edmonton – Draft Principles Section

The public was asked to provide feedback on the draft principles. The public provided feedback by writing on the Engaged Edmonton “Forum” tool. Feedback could be provided by posting a comment on the forum below the draft principles. The public could also agree or disagree with what others had written. The draft principles presented were:

Provide an effective network connection

The bridge is aligned to connect to Edmonton's existing and planned active transportation network and provides clear links to desired destinations.

Design for all ages and abilities

The bridge will be accessible for everyone to use for year-round activities safely and comfortably

Create safe and secure spaces

The bridge and surrounding open spaces are designed with consideration for safety and security of all users and the neighbouring communities.

Support active lifestyles

The bridge location provides expanded options for recreation, exercise and commuting for a large area in southwest Edmonton.

Provide access to nature

The bridge connects users meaningfully to the Edmonton River Valley and Ravine System.

Prompting questions to spur feedback included:

- What do you like about the DRAFT Principles above?
- What could be changed?

The public's feedback received is summarized below.

Those responding to what they liked about the draft principles mentioned:

- + Agreement with the draft principles

Those responding to what could be changed mentioned:

- + Desire to add a principle which speaks to the aesthetic design of the bridge
- + Desire to add a principle which mentions coordination with the Terwillegar Drive Expansion project
- + Desire to add language which mentions enhanced connection to public transportation
- + Desire to add language which mentions the designs intention to enhance and protect the adjacent communities and natural areas
- + Desire to expand the principle regarding access to nature to include the full project area
- + Desire for the principles to capture the preservation and enhancement of the environment

The project team will use this feedback to finalize the project principles.

Engaged Edmonton – Concept Idea 1

The public was presented the following Concept Idea for feedback. Feedback could be provided by writing on the Engaged Edmonton “Ideas” Tool. People could respond to and ‘like’ posted ideas and ‘like’ ideas posted by others. The following information was shared on Concept Idea 1.

Bridge Concept Idea 1



Considerations

- Most direct access to possible active transportation connections to the west
- Longest bridge length (cost)
- Possible overlap with Terwillegar Drive Expansion
- Furthest from homes on the north side but close proximity to backyards on south side

The public was asked to provide their ideas for Concept 1, and was given the following questions as prompts for their feedback:

- What do you like about Concept Idea 1?
- Is there anything missing?
- What improvements would you make?
- What amenities would you like to see near the bridge crossing and along the active transportation connections?

The feedback received for Concept Idea 1 is summarized below.

Comments responding to what they liked about Concept Idea 1 mentioned the:

- + Location that provides a convenient connection across Whitemud Drive for pedestrians and cyclists using the future shared use path along Terwillegar Drive
- + Position that is situated farther away from neighbourhood entrances, minimizing the impact on the look and feel of the neighbourhoods
- + Alignment that is anticipated to provide connections that are accessible and do not require steep grades or ramps

Comments responding to what is missing or could be improved mentioned:

- + Close proximity to backyards on the southside
- + Possible impact on the existing tobaggan hill in Brookside

Other responses included:

- + A suggestion to rotate the alignment slightly "clockwise" to provide a more direct connection to the future Terwillegar Drive Shared Use Path and 142 Street
- + Increased route length for residents in Bulyea Heights and Brookside
- + Higher anticipated construction cost due to its increased length
- + Concerns regarding the upgrading the existing designated shared roadway bike route on 142 Street, including safety, winter maintenance and functionality considerations



Images of the 142 Street Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge Study Area

The feedback received is summarized below.

Comments responding to what they liked about Concept Idea 2 included the:

- + Logical and direct connections to existing and planned active transportation routes, including, but not limited to 142 street (which leads to 53 Avenue)
- + Anticipated ability to provide an accessible connection without steep slopes or ramps
- + The lower expected cost of the bridge compared to other options
- + Its alignment with previous plans for this bridge

Comments responding to what is missing or could be improved mentioned:

- + Concerns regarding increased pedestrian and cyclist traffic in Bulyea Heights and Brookside
- + Concerns regarding the bridge's impact to the existing HOA pathway in Bulyea Heights
- + A suggestion to advance the construction of the bridge so that it is completed before the work on the Terwillegar Drive Expansion, including the 40 Avenue intersection upgrades, to maintain a crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists
- + Desire to upgrade the existing east-west shared-use path along the northside of Whitemud Drive to improve user safety and comfort
- + Desire for an additional pedestrian/cyclist bridge crossing over 40 Avenue, at Terwillegar Drive
- + Desire for the City to consider an active transportation connection in the existing utility right-of-way north of Butterworth Way, east of the existing shared-use path.
- + Concerns over the new active transportation connection along the south side of Whitemud Drive might have to the look and feel of the neighbourhood and the environment

Engaged Edmonton – Concept Idea 3

The public was presented the following Concept Idea for feedback. Feedback could be provided by writing on the Engaged Edmonton “Ideas” Tool. People could respond to and ‘like’ posted ideas and ‘like’ ideas posted by others. The following information was shared on Concept Idea 3.

Bridge Concept Idea 3



Considerations

- Short bridge length
- Further from homes on north side, close proximity to backyards on south side
- Least direct connection
- Moving too far east may require approach ramps, impacting cost and accessibility

The public was asked to provide their ideas for Concept 3, and was given the following questions as prompts for their feedback:

- What do you like about Concept Idea 3?
- Is there anything missing?
- What improvements would you make?
- What amenities would you like to see near the bridge crossing and along the active transportation connections?

The feedback received is summarized below.

Comments responding to what they liked about Concept Idea 3 included the:

- + More direct connection to the ravine and for users going toward the University of Alberta, South Campus or 122 Street

Comments responding to what is missing or could be improved mentioned:

- + Higher expected construction cost
- + Inconvenient point of connection to existing and planned active transportation routes
- + Concerns with accessibility as substantial ramps are likely and the north landing is on a steep incline
- + Concerns with the bridge's position near backyards on the southside
- + Concerns with the environmental impacts of extending the active transportation connection along the south side of Whitemud Drive

Engaged Edmonton – Comments on Open Space Amenities and Enhancements

The public also provided feedback and ideas for open space amenities and enhancements throughout the three Concept Ideas. This feedback is best understood as applicable to the overall project, rather than a specific concept option. The most common ideas and feedback included:

- + Incorporate pedestrian-scaled lighting along the bridge and pathways to promote safety
- + Include deliberate active programming for the open space in the south west corner of Brookside. Suggestions included an off-leash dog park, mountain bike skills park, a larger toboggan hill, bathroom facilities, and more seating/meeting areas
- + Incorporate benches, garbage bins, and other street furnishings along active transportation connections
- + Create a small circular garden with seating at the north end of the bridge
- + Include signage to support wayfinding to nearby destinations and public transit stops
- + Include signage to control pedestrian and cyclist behaviour, especially signage that clarifies which routes are intended for cyclists and which are pedestrian-only, and where dogs should be on and off leash
- + Additional tree plantings

Other ideas and feedback included:

- + Concerns regarding the open space enhancements that encourage people to linger and gather within the neighbourhoods
- + Concerns with the proximity of the proposed active transportation connections, including the proposed pathway on the north edge of Bulyea Heights and potential upgrades to cyclist facilities on 142 Street to homeowner properties

Engaged Edmonton – Other Comments

Some participants on the Engaged Edmonton activity made comments that apply to the project overall, rather than a specific Concept Idea or open space enhancement, these included:

- + Concern regarding cyclists using the narrow and privately maintained HOA walkway in Bulyea Heights
- + Concern regarding the impact on the look and feel of the nearby neighbourhoods, including safety and increased levels of activity
- + Statements that neighbourhood safety is likely to increase as a result of this project, due to increased lighting and "eyes on the street"
- + Overall excitement for the connection this bridge will bring to previously isolated neighbourhoods

Project E-Mail Address

Members of the public also reached out to the project email address, 142streetbridge@edmonton.ca, to ask questions and provide comments. These questions and comments were considered along with the other input received, and are included in the summary sections of this report.

Lessons Learned

Based on feedback received the project team will continue to improve the availability of engagement materials for those who are unable to participate online. Additionally, communication materials will focus more so on how the bridge ties into Edmonton's greater active transportation network, including destinations, pathways and other areas of interest. More information will be provided in the next phase.

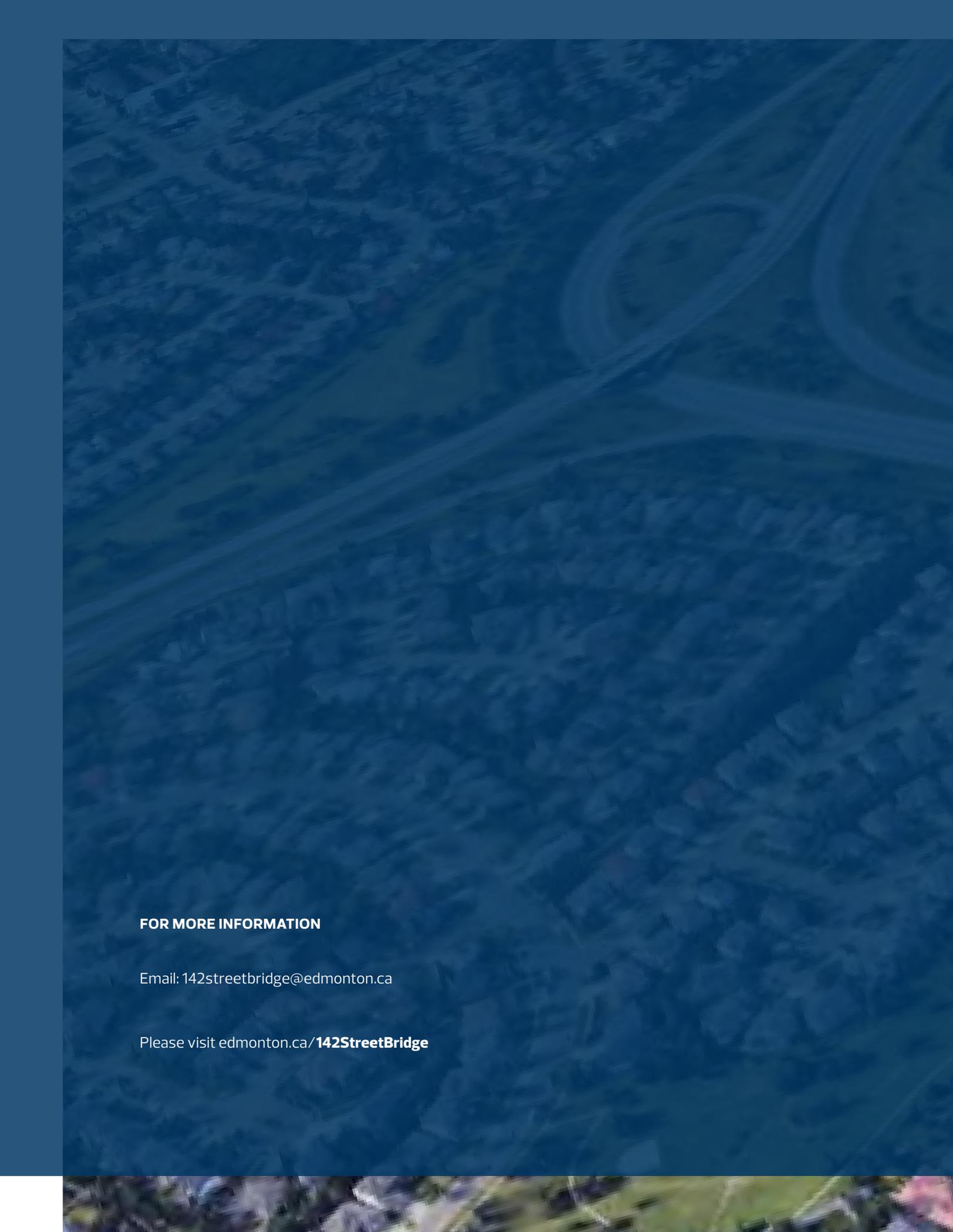
Next Steps

Feedback received through this phase of engagement will be used to finalize the project vision and principles. It will also be used alongside technical analysis and City policies to narrow down ideas and develop concept options. The next round of engagement will present the final project vision and principles, and seek input on the concept options. The next phase of public engagement is planned for May 2021.



 *Vitally important project to increase active transport options. Would like to see the term "year round" added to the last statement since I think ensuring proper maintenance (e.g. snow removal) throughout the year is essential.*

– Engaged Edmonton Response



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: 142streetbridge@edmonton.ca

Please visit edmonton.ca/142StreetBridge