



BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

KILKENNY

MEETING THREE

JANUARY 31, 2017 6:30-8:30 PM

The City of Edmonton is building a great neighbourhood in Kilkenny beginning in spring 2017. As the City is committed to involving Edmontonians in the decisions that affect them, residents have been asked to provide input, and to identify missing sidewalk connections and opportunities for other investments to add to Kilkenny's livability.

The City held its first meeting with the community league executive on September 10, 2015. A second neighbourhood-wide meeting was held April 12, 2016. A final pre-construction meeting was held January 31, 2017.

Kilkenny residents had the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the neighbourhood preliminary design, and learn about the local improvement process. Staff members from Transportation Infrastructure, Facility and Landscape Infrastructure, Citizen Services, Drainage, Street Lighting, LRT, and Forestry were on hand to address residents' questions.

The following provides a general overview of comments and questions from the meeting, received from emails and from the online comment form.

BACK ALLEYS

- *Our back alleys and potholes need fixing.*
- *Once again the alleyway should be considered. It is in need of attention much more than my front street. Pothole patch does not hold up.*
- *Alleys - resurfacing. Should be part of reconstruction process as neighbourhood should all be done.*
- *The shape the back alleys are in is ridiculous. That's what needs to be replaced first.*
- *I would like more info about back alley renewals.*

As part of Neighbourhood Renewal, existing alley lighting will be upgraded to the new LED standard.

The City does not have an alley pavement renewal program in place. Alley maintenance, which includes pothole and patch repairs, is available to preserve existing alleys. A complete alley resurfacing or reconstruction may occur in one of two ways:

1. Paved alleys reconstructed/resurfaced as part of utility (ATCO, EPCOR or drainage) restoration. In these situations, the utility pays for the restoration.
2. An alley local improvement is petitioned for by benefiting property owners using the local improvement process. The cost of alley renewal is covered 100% by property owners. For more information please visit edmonton.ca/transportation/on_your_streets/alley-renewal.aspx or contact 311.

DRAINAGE

- *I have a problem with street drainage every spring until the snow and ice windrow either melts or I break the ice down to pavement as the crop. A "lake" 3-4 in deep forms at the bottom of our driveway. Please consider adding a catch basin at the end of our alley or regrading between 75 Street and 75A Street on the north side of 150 Avenue so melt can flow east and west from our alley to the existing catch basins on the corner at 75 Street and 75A Street. The flange of the fire hydrant at the end of our alley on 150 Avenue sticks out of the ground several inches, so there is at least some room to raise the grade. The existing trees on the south side*



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of the lot make the area warmer in the spring so it melts first. Our lot is also much higher than the street so raising the grade would be okay in that respect.

- *The corner of 152C Avenue and 72 Street becomes flooded due to elevations and catch basin locations. Please ensure this issue is rectified. Elevations may need to be increased or 2 catch basin added. The issue has been present since the road and neighbourhood was built.*

Drainage will be improved through catch basin upgrades and reconstruction of the sidewalks, curb and gutters, and roadway. Surface drainage will be designed to drain to the existing and upgraded catch basins. This should help alleviate pooling from precipitation and during the freeze-thaw cycle.

DRIVEWAYS

- *For people with driveways, is the contractor going to offer a deal to do the entire driveway so that it all matches?*

A portion of your driveway may be replaced to ensure adequate drainage. Replacement of full driveways is not part of Neighbourhood Renewal. If you wish to have more of your driveway reconstructed, you may contact the contractor directly. The contractor will send construction notices to residents prior to construction taking place. These notices will include their contact information. However, they typically do not undertake small private work.

- *How do we access our driveways if the road is being paved?*

During paving, the construction team will accommodate residents in order to help them access their property. Please contact the construction project manager, David Scheelar, at david.scheelar@edmonton.ca or call 780-495-0271 to discuss your needs.

- *If I have a no-grade sidewalk hump up my driveway will they keep it, as I paid to lower it 10 years ago?*

A letter will be issued to residents who have a drop (no grade sidewalk hump) and they will have the option to keep the drop.

MEETING FORMAT

- *Very poor presentation, there was opportunity for open questions but no mention of street lights. Overall very disappointed, waste of time.*
- *I couldn't ask all my questions.*
- *Would have been nice to receive booklet prior to meeting.*
- *Already received everything in paperwork and no answers were given. Waste of time.*
- *If the presentation is at 7 pm, please clearly mention it on the invitation. We have tight schedule and planned for 6:30 pm as the invitation said.*
- *I feel too much time trying to explain the scope of the job. More time should have been fielding questions from the people in attendance.*
- *Too bad we couldn't ask questions to the presenters at the end of their presentation.*
- *Too bad we couldn't ask questions to presenters and councillor Loken. Badly setup consulting with property owners.*

Thank you for your comments. The City is taking them into consideration as we plan for future public engagement.



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City staff from various departments are available to answer questions during the meeting. We have previously held Q&A sessions after presentations and have found that this approach only allows for a small number of questions from a few people. By making a number of subject matter experts available to answer questions after the presentation, we can answer more individual questions and also address specific questions that residents and property owners may have.

The City shares all comments and questions heard from neighbourhood residents and property owners in the What We Heard document, which is available at each meeting and on the project page at edmonton.ca/buildingkilkenny. If you have any further questions or concerns, you may call 311 or email buildinggreatneighbourhoods@edmonton.ca.

- *The second speaker was very difficult to understand. It is important when speaking to a demographic (older, somebody learning) that the presenter speak clearly and slowly, and have good projection.*
- *The second presentation was very hard to understand. What was he saying? It was nearly impossible to get to see all the visual displays.*

We apologize for the difficulties in hearing the presentation. Providing effective audio support for presentations is an ongoing challenge given the designs of the presentation spaces. While school gyms provide the space for the number of people attending the meeting, they are not designed to provide good acoustics for presentations. We do make use of speakers and microphones to try to overcome some of these challenges. Unfortunately, this equipment can cause other challenges for hearing the presentation by causing an echo effect. The presentation and display boards used at the meeting are all available at edmonton.ca/buildingkilkenny.

- *I do appreciate all the effort to the city has made to keep the community informed. Thank you.*
- *The street signs announcing the meeting were a great idea. Thanks!*
- *The speakers answering questions after were very helpful.*

Thank you for your feedback.

PAYMENT

- *Can the tax (50%) share be paid in lump sums from time to time?*
- *Why can't we pay differently?*

Local improvements are paid for in whole or in part by property owners in one of two ways:

1. Lump sum payment: One-time full cost payment.
2. Amortized payment: The cost is paid for gradually on your yearly property taxes (includes interest charges). The tax stays with the property; if you sell, the next owner will continue to pay the balance.

The local improvement amortization option ensures that the payment will remain the same with no increase in the interest rate over the 20-year period. Additionally, should the property owner(s) wish to pay out the sidewalk reconstruction any time prior to the term ending, the program provides a penalty-free option to pay off the balance. Contact the City's Taxation office by calling 311 after tax notices are sent out to find out the penalty-free balance for the sidewalk local improvement reconstruction cost.

- *Who gave you the right to force one to pay for it in that my consent be forced by default? This is just wrong.*
- *We were surprised to have to pay 50% of sidewalk replacements. The tax levels that we have been paying for years to upgrade the older neighbourhoods were supposed to cover these costs. If the tax levies are not adequate to cover the sidewalks why were we not told and they should have been adjusted. The paved lanes*



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should also have budgeted and complete under these projects. This concept is not very well thought out. You don't get a passing grade!

Local improvements, which may be made as part of neighbourhood renewal, are construction projects undertaken near or adjacent to your property that City Council considers of greater benefit to your area than to the municipality as a whole. Since you and your neighbours receive the most benefit from these local improvements, the City shares the cost with you.

Property owners receive a local improvement notice in the mail about four to six months before neighbourhood reconstruction begins and a petition form is included. Property owners have 30 days to petition against the local improvement. The petition process is guided by the Provincial *Municipal Government Act*, as well as City policies and procedures. If the petition against sidewalk reconstruction fails, City Council will pass a Local Improvement Bylaw and the local improvement will proceed.

PETITION PROCESS

- *Why is there a difference on how we can petition against parts of the projects, e.g. street light post you have to request while sidewalks reconstruction you have to petition against and it has to be notarized? That seems a setup to make the sidewalk reconstruction go ahead... I don't find that sidewalk reconstruction benefits me more than the City, and if we go with that don't the bicycle lanes benefit cyclists more than City and therefore cost sharing should be shared with cyclists?*

Sidewalk infrastructure is not provided for the sole benefit of the immediately adjacent residents, but rather to improve walkability for the community as a whole, as well as visitors from outside of the community. Because sidewalk renewal is a City-initiated local improvement, you can petition against the local improvement in your specific project area in order to defeat the local improvement (during a specific petition period). For community-initiated local improvements like decorative streetlights, the community must get 50% +1 support in favour of the local improvement. This process is based on the provincial *Municipal Government Act*, as well as City policies and procedures.

SHARE-USE PATH

- *Who cleans the shared pathway? We can still park on both sides of the road (72 Street from 144 Avenue to 149 Avenue). How much are you narrowing the road for pathway, or are you expanding onto grass?*

Trails and pathways are maintained by the City. Citizens may report any maintenance needed, including sign concerns, washouts, debris, etc. by calling 311 or filling out a form at edmonton.ca/programs_services/trails-maintenance.aspx.

The roadway along 72 Street will only be narrowed between 149A Avenue to 152B Avenue by 1.5 m to accommodate the additional width of the shared-use path. This will minimize the impact on the adjacent property owners and existing utilities.

SIDEWALKS

- *I find the bubble out sidewalk at 149A Avenue and 77 Street dangerous to cyclists. It throws them back in the middle of the driving lane where it is more dangerous. You can see a perfect example of this at 144 Avenue and 51 Street. That one I also find dangerous to cars because you are forced to merge left at last minute.*

The bulb-outs at 149A Avenue and 77 Street are proposed to provide enhanced protection for pedestrians while maintaining two-way traffic. They may assist to reduce vehicle speed and pedestrian crossing distance near J. A. Fife School and improve pedestrian sightlines. Furthermore, reduced automobile speed will assist with safety for cyclists



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travelling along 149A Avenue. Also, a designated bike route in Kilkenny is along 72 Street to connect to existing cycling infrastructure. The bike route will be upgraded with a 3 m wide shared-use path between 144 Avenue to 152B Avenue. On street bike facilities will be maintained between 152B Avenue and 153 Avenue.

- *When you walked the neighbourhood did you do it while it was day? Spring is the hardest in the neighbourhood ice on sidewalk the water that pools because of debris on the roadways. We have ice pools (skate parks that form over our back alley).*

Ongoing site checks and walkthroughs take place prior and throughout the Neighbourhood Renewal construction process during daytime hours. Surface drainage will also be addressed through roadway, sidewalk, and curb and gutter reconstruction. Grading will be improved so storm water will flow properly to the existing catch basins.

- *So is this project a for sure thing? And if so, do I now own 50% of the sidewalk, which would be great, as I can then count on the City to remove the snow half the time in the winter? Thanks!!*

Kilkenny Neighbourhood Renewal is scheduled from 2017 to 2019, barring any unforeseen complications. Sidewalk renewal is a component of the Neighbourhood Renewal program. City Council considers the sidewalk renewal as greater benefit to your area than to the municipality as a whole. However, this is a City-initiated local improvement based on infrastructure assessment; therefore, the City shares the cost with you. The cost for sidewalk reconstruction includes: concrete removal and excavation, gravel base, reinforcing steel, concrete placement, tying into private walkway connector, and landscaping. This local improvement does not impact the Community Standards Bylaw (Bylaw 14600), which states that a person shall maintain any sidewalk adjacent to land they own or occupy clear of all snow and ice.

- *The method to petition the sidewalk rebuild is ridiculous and designed to make sure it goes through whether the residents want it or not. Specifically, by making sure the witness of the petition has to sign it in front of a commissioner of oaths, you guarantee that the majority of people will not go through the effort to find one. In fact, I had never even heard of a commissioner of oaths before tonight.*
- *I can't understand why all sidewalks have to be done. I have seen worse neighbourhoods. I am on a fixed income and the cost will wipe out any savings I have. I can see road improvements but not the sidewalk. I was at the last meeting and sidewalks weren't addressed.*

Sidewalks provide the basic infrastructure to support pedestrians of all ages and abilities, which is particularly important in a winter city where conditions may make it impossible for pedestrians with strollers or mobility aids to walk on the road where sidewalks are lacking. Sidewalk infrastructure is provided to improve walkability for the community as a whole, as well as visitors from outside of the community.

Because sidewalk renewal is a City-initiated local improvement, you can petition against the local improvement in your specific project area in order to defeat the local improvement (during a specific petition period). The petition process is guided by the Provincial *Municipal Government Act* as well as City policies and procedures.

The City also provides Commissioners of Oaths at the final neighbourhood meeting (meeting 3) to facilitate the process for residents who wish to petition the sidewalk.

- *I have an underground sprinkler system along the front sidewalk. How will the renewal impact my system? I also have front stamped concrete sidewalk how or will it be affected?*



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Prior to construction, the contractor will distribute bulletins with their contact information and that of the construction project manager. Please provide your address and flag where the sprinkler system is located. They will then be excavated by hand to avoid damage, if they are within construction limits. Prior to replacement of landscaping, the contractor will place the sprinkler system back. Furthermore, properties with specialty concrete such as stamped, exposed aggregate, and coloured, is considered during the design process. These connectors and/or driveways are designed to match into the new back of walk. If design constraints do not allow this, then the contractor will remove the necessary amount to achieve correct drainage and replace the specialty concrete with as best matched colour, stamp, or aggregate as possible.

- *I think that the fact that the City is willing to do the roads only and simply repair the sidewalk at no cost to the taxpayer, should have been brought up sooner in the presentation. I know the sidewalk is fine in front of my house, and I only saw one picture of a bad spot in the entire presentation.*

Every year a quarter of the City's local roads are assessed for condition of pavement, curbs, and sidewalks. The defects the City looks at include:

- Sidewalk trip hazards, cracks and surface damage
- Roadway cracks, potholes, ruts, etc.
- Light stands rusting and tilting

The defects are then rated on a numeric scale. The condition ratings are averaged and graded for the entire neighbourhood. There could be significant differences for individual sections, as one section may be worse than others. For more information, please go to edmonton.ca/transportation/on_your_streets/neighbourhood-renewal-process.aspx

For Kilkenny, the sidewalk grade is fair; however, the overall condition of the infrastructure is graded to be in poor to fair condition. This assessment is why Kilkenny was selected for Neighbourhood Reconstruction, which includes replacement of sidewalks, curb and gutter, roads, streetlights and catch basins. All work ensures correct drainage can be achieved.

When you receive your local improvement notice in the mail, it includes a project map for your area, which is divided into a local improvement projects. If 50% + 1 of property owners within your project area petition against the local improvement, the project will be defeated and the sidewalk will not be reconstructed. If a sidewalk project is petitioned against and defeated, sidewalk maintenance will still be done to improve drainage and safety through asphalt patching, grinding, or mudjacking. This petition process is guided by the Provincial *Municipal Government Act*, as well as City policies and procedures. No Kilkenny project areas were petitioned against and defeated.

STREET LIGHTS

- *Are we receiving the standard or the heritage lights?*

Standard galvanized streetlights will be installed throughout the neighbourhood at no cost to property owners. Kilkenny's petition for decorative streetlights was not successful.

- *When the streetlight vote was taking place, I called the contact info given and left two messages with no response. If email is the only way to contact, please make that clear. If streetlights are not upgraded and only the standard one is put in, does this mean street signs don't get upgraded?*



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The City provides the contact information for the community representative; however, it is up to the community representative to provide responses back to property owners for any questions they are receiving. As a secondary contact for information, we also provide the City's representative for the Local Improvement process. Regarding signage, if standard streetlights are installed, then decorative street blades (signs) will not be installed.

- *I was not happy at the way the light standard was decided. The mailing came to the house but there was no place on the form to send them back. We had to make at least 2 phone calls to find where to send the information, I would suggest that this is the reason the upgraded lights were not accepted (i.e. people were too frustrated to respond).*
- *I was very unhappy to hear that decorative streetlights were not approved. I believe the process in gathering agreement to do decorative streetlights was flawed. The email we received from the community contained no info in where to send our note and we only received this info after repeated attempts to contact the e-mail.*

The City is always looking for ways to improve our processes and we appreciate this feedback.

- *We are opposed to the LED lights being proposed for use in Kilkenny, i.e. 4,000. Research has shown LED lights are not conducive for good sleep, which in turn is a detriment for children and adults, children with learning issues especially.*

Since 2011, the City has used LED luminaires in all Neighbourhood Renewal projects. Benefits include: power consumption savings; long lifespan; dark skies friendly lighting; reduced CO2 emissions; and minimal light trespass, meaning that light is focused on the road rather than onto private property. The City does work to improve the light levels on the sidewalks when converting to LED luminaires.

There are currently four luminaire manufacturers that have submitted 3000K luminaires for review, which is closer to "warm white" on the color spectrum. Should one or more these luminaires be approved for roadway use, they will be implemented as the new standard color temperature for use in the city.

- *Can there be lighting in the park space located in the north part of the neighbourhood between 73 Street and 74 Street?*

The City will look at installing some park lighting in Kilkenny Park 1 located on 74 Street, north of 152A Avenue. In addition to lighting, the City will also consider adding some park furniture on the site. Both the lighting and furniture elements will be pending additional comments from those who live in the neighbourhood. The City will host separate public engagement on this project on June 27, 2017 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the park. An online survey will also be available on the project webpage (edmonton.ca/buildingkilkenny).

66 STREET & 153 AVENUE

- *On the corner, the City fence overlaps the walkway area by about 2 ft., which is just enough space for someone to hide behind waiting for someone to walk by. I would like to see this very small portion of the fence removed, thereby improving personal security in the neighbourhood.*

Thank you for your comment. This area will be reviewed in the summer.

72 STREET & 152 AVENUE

- *What is going to happen to the space on 72 Street where the buildings were torn down?*



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In partnership with the City and others, Capital Region Housing will redevelop and revitalize the Londonderry housing complex. The development will contain 240 homes, representing social and affordable homes. If you would like further information, please visit itstartswithhome.com/londonderry/.

149A AVENUE

- *My first concern is at 76 Street. Southeast corner of J.A.Fife School. The second is at 77 Street and 149A Avenue. 76 Street is the main entrance to streets north of 150 Avenue. At 3 pm with all of the school buses and residential traffic at this corner, how are the elderly citizens who live in this area going to manage in and out? You will be putting a ridiculous traffic hinder in this community. They started to slow down traffic; for 10 months out of a year, it is a street posted as 30 km/h. Who in their right mind is always wanting to put up cement barriers? You had to take the barriers down that you installed in Woodcroft (not sure of area).*

In the City's 2016-20 Road Safety Strategy and Vision Zero Initiative, School Safety has been identified as a high priority. As part of the City's School Traffic Safety Enhancement Program, various safety enhancements, including curb extensions, are implemented at the schools that have been identified as high-risk locations and at the schools located within the neighbourhoods that are scheduled to be renewed. The curb extensions help reduce the crossing distance and improve the sightlines at the crossing points and thereby improve pedestrian safety at these locations. No significant impacts to traffic flows are expected due to these changes.

75 Street & 149A Avenue

- *Requires a 3-way stop, as many people have almost been hit crossing that street as you can not see traffic coming from both ways as there are cars parked on both sides and trees and bushes block our site to oncoming traffic.*

The City will conduct an intersection assessment this year and base a decision to upgrade signage upon findings.

OTHER

- *I would like to see more garbage cans in the area! We need more by schools and bus stops.*

Thank you for your suggestion. Garbage cans are located near transit stops and in park spaces and are emptied on a regular schedule. If you wish to suggest additional garbage cans in park spaces, please connect with your Community Recreation Coordinator - Norma Lorincz (norma.lorincz@edmonton.ca). Additionally, there are litter management programs through Capital City Clean Up that you and/or your neighbourhood can become involved in. For additional information, please see www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/graffiti_litter/litter-management.aspx