

City of Edmonton **Yellowhead Trail Freeway Conversion Program**

# St. Albert Trail to 97 Street Project Update

**September 2020**

The City of Edmonton needs your input now as we determine the future configuration of Yellowhead Trail. We are at a key decision-making stage for St. Albert Trail to 97 Street, the single largest project of the Yellowhead Trail Freeway Conversion Program.

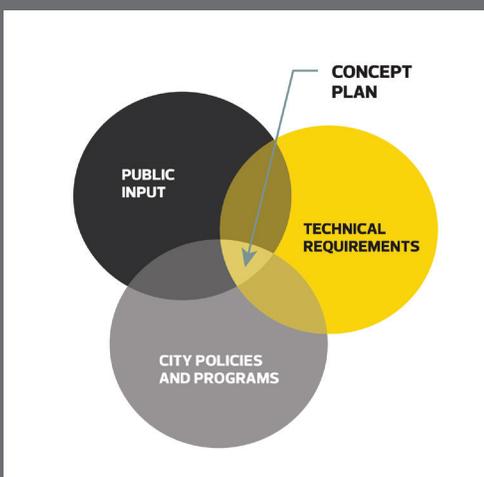
In fall 2019, the City completed Phase 1 of the St. Albert Trail to 97 Street Concept Planning Study. We are now in Phase 2.

Feedback gathered in Phase 1 was used to understand what was most important to stakeholders and the public regarding the freeway conversion. No designs were presented in Phase 1. Public and stakeholder input and technical analysis completed in Phase 1 helped us develop three potential design options.

**Due to the risks associated with COVID-19 and gatherings, we are sharing information and gathering feedback online during Phase 2.**

The concept design options and draft evaluation criteria will be shared online on September 28, 2020. Explore the options, and join us for a live online learning session where we will share details on each option and answer your questions. Online learning sessions will be held the week of October 5, 2020. See page 6 for more details.

We will consider your feedback as we further study and evaluate the options.



## Your Input Matters

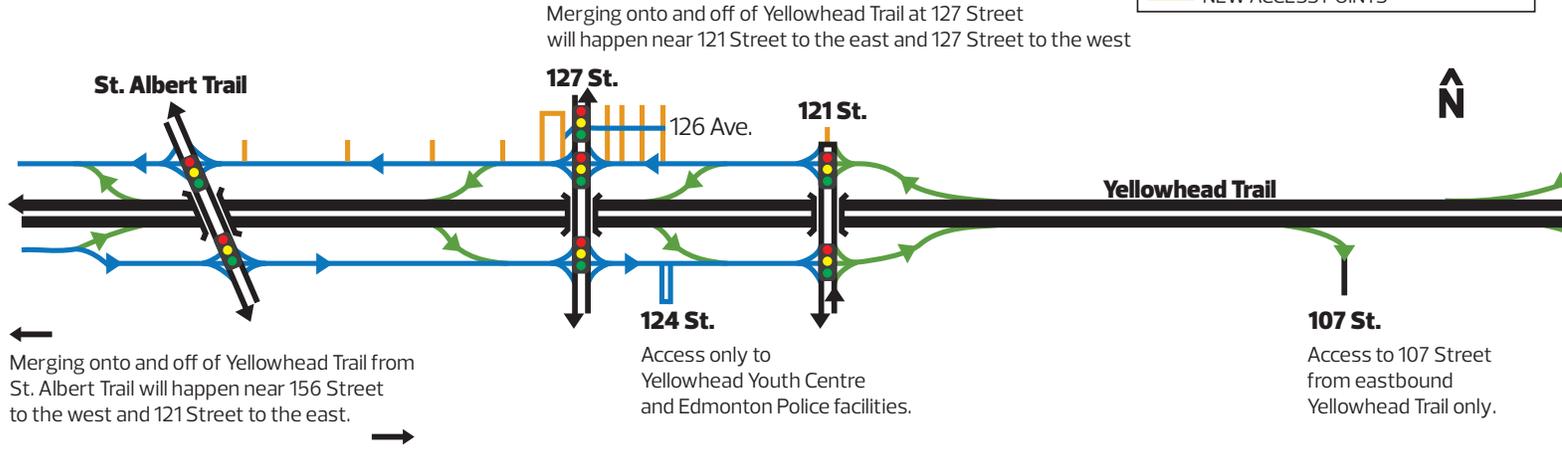
Your input, along with technical requirements and City policies, will help determine the recommended concept plan and finalize the evaluation criteria for the project.

# Concept Design Options Overview

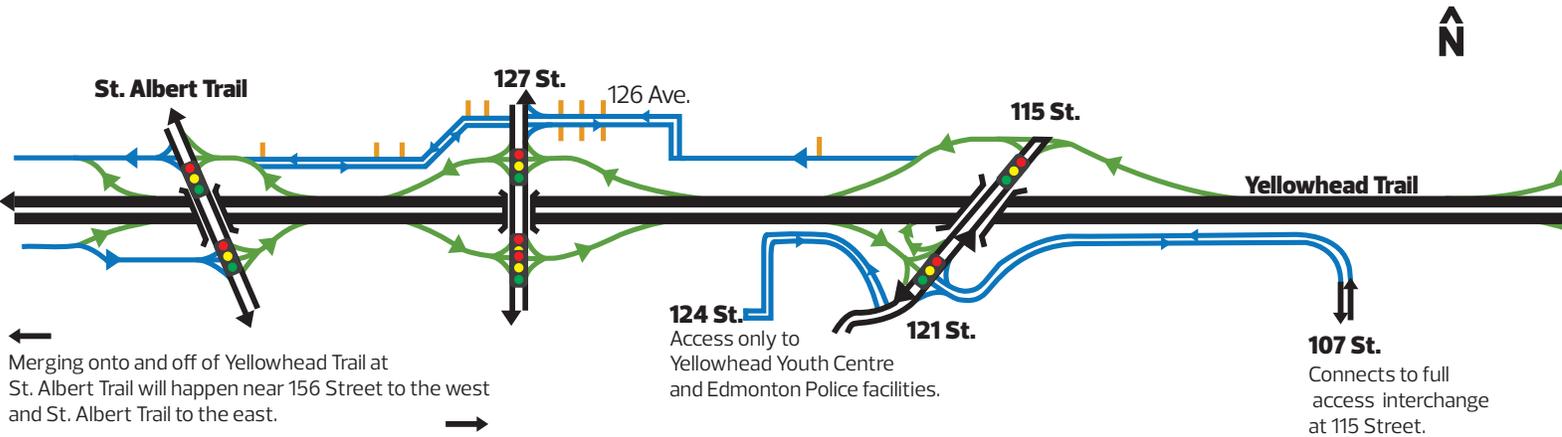
Using public and stakeholder input from Phase 1, technical requirements, and City policies and programs, three design options were developed. The following pages include a high-level overview of each of the design options.

## Option 1: Service Road Option

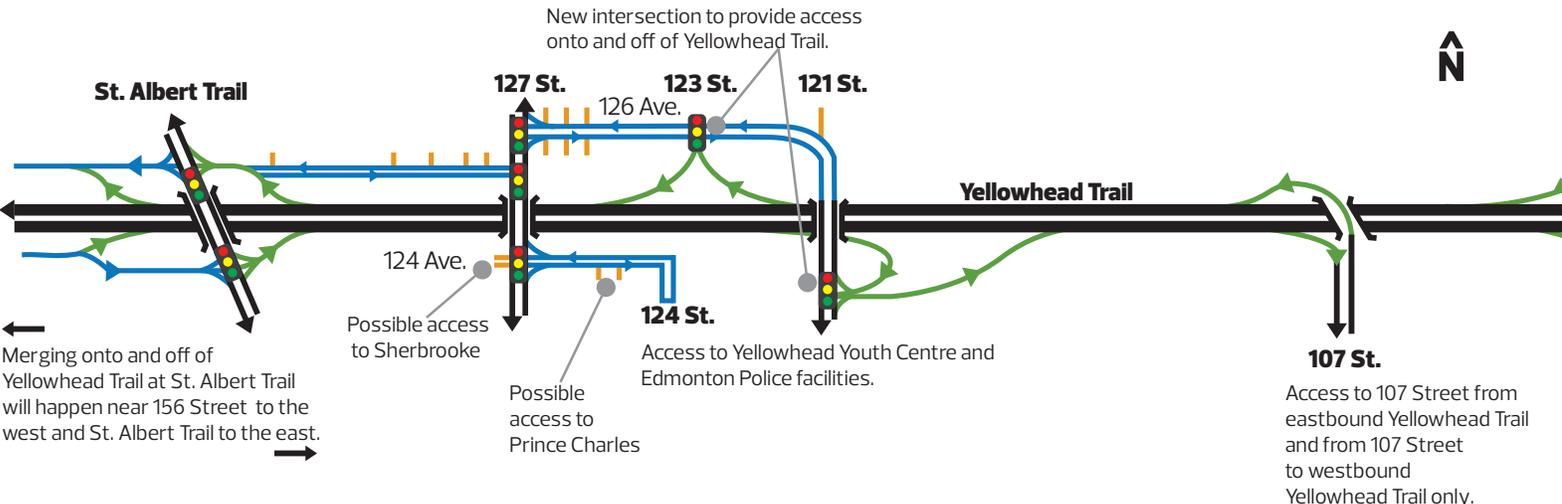
	LOCAL/SERVICE ROAD
	INTERCHANGE RAMP
	FREEWAY AND INTERCHANGE ROADS
	NEW ACCESS POINTS



## Option 2: Conventional Interchange Option



## Option 3: 127 Street Overpass /121 Street Interchange Option



## It is important to note that in all options:

- + Yellowhead Trail will be three free-flowing lanes in each direction.
- + Yellowhead Trail is being realigned and straightened to remove the curve between 121 Street and 107 Street. This will accommodate plans for a future LRT bridge.
- + Service roads between 156 Street and St. Albert Trail will be used to provide access to St. Albert Trail from Yellowhead Trail eastbound. These service roads are being built as part of the 156 Street to St. Albert Trail project, starting in 2021.
- + There are no changes to the 97 Street interchange.



	St. Albert Trail	Hagmann Estate Industrial Area	127 Street	St. Albert Trail to 121 Street, south of Yellowhead Trail	121 to 115 Street	107 Street
OPTION 1: SERVICE ROAD OPTION	<p>All-directional travel at the St. Albert Trail interchange. Access to Yellowhead Trail using service roads.</p> <p>Access to Yellowhead Trail westbound happens near 156 Street.</p> <p>Access to Yellowhead Trail eastbound happens near 121 Street.</p>	<p>A new westbound service road north of Yellowhead Trail provides access into Hagmann. Access to the service road is provided from the 127 and 121 Street interchanges.</p> <p>Access from 127 Street and 126 Avenue is maintained.</p>	<p>All-directional travel to Yellowhead Trail at the 127 Street interchange is provided using a new westbound on-ramp at 127 Street, and one-way eastbound service road with access at 121 Street.</p>	<p>A service road south of Yellowhead Trail provides access for the Yellowhead Youth Centre and Edmonton Police facilities along 124 Street, north of 123 Avenue.</p> <p>Recent traffic calming measures at 124 Street and 123 Avenue will be maintained. No access into and out of Prince Charles is provided at 124 Street.</p>	<p>All-directional travel to Yellowhead Trail at 121 Street using the interchange ramps.</p>	<p>Access is only provided to 107 Street southbound from Yellowhead Trail eastbound.</p> <p>No access from 107 Street to Yellowhead Trail.</p>
OPTION 2: CONVENTIONAL INTERCHANGE OPTION	<p>All-directional travel at the St. Albert Trail interchange. Access to Yellowhead Trail using service roads or ramps.</p> <p>Access to Yellowhead Trail westbound happens near 156 Street.</p> <p>Access to Yellowhead Trail eastbound is provided from St. Albert Trail ramps.</p>	<p>A new two-way service road north of Yellowhead Trail provides access to businesses between St. Albert Trail and 124 Street. Access to the service road is provided from the St. Albert Trail, 127 Street and 115 Street interchanges.</p> <p>Access from 127 Street and 126 Avenue is maintained.</p>	<p>All-directional travel to Yellowhead Trail at 127 Street is provided using the interchange ramps.</p>	<p>A service road south of Yellowhead Trail provides access for the Yellowhead Youth Centre and Edmonton Police facilities on 124 Street, north of 123 Avenue.</p> <p>Recent traffic calming measures at 124 Street and 123 Avenue will be maintained. No access into and out of Prince Charles is provided at 124 Street.</p>	<p>All-directional travel to Yellowhead Trail at 115 Street using the interchange ramps.</p>	<p>A new road connecting 107 Street to the 115 Street interchange provides all-directional travel to and from Yellowhead Trail.</p>
OPTION 3: 127 STREET OVERPASS/ 121 STREET INTERCHANGE OPTION	<p>All-directional travel at the St. Albert Trail interchange. Access to Yellowhead Trail using service roads or ramps.</p> <p>Access to Yellowhead Trail westbound happens near 156 Street.</p> <p>Access to Yellowhead Trail eastbound is provided from St. Albert Trail ramps.</p>	<p>A new two-way service road north of Yellowhead Trail provides access to businesses between St. Albert Trail and 127 Street. Access to this service road is provided at St. Albert Trail and 127 Street.</p> <p>Access to businesses between 127 Street and 121 Street is available using 126 Avenue, which provides two-way (east-west) travel. Access to 126 Avenue is provided from 127 Street and the 121 Street interchange.</p>	<p>127 Street overpass provides north/south movement across Yellowhead Trail only. There is no access onto and off of Yellowhead Trail at 127 Street.</p> <p>To access Yellowhead Trail from 127 Street, drivers must use either 126 Avenue (north of Yellowhead Trail) or 118 Avenue/ 121 Street (south of Yellowhead Trail) which brings them to the 121 Street interchange.</p>	<p>A local road south of Yellowhead Trail provides access to Yellowhead Youth Centre and Edmonton Police facilities on 124 Street, north of 123 Avenue.</p> <p>Recent traffic calming measures at 124 Street and 123 Avenue will be maintained.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to provide additional access to Prince Charles and Sherbrooke in this option.</p>	<p>All-directional travel to Yellowhead Trail at the 121 Street interchange.</p> <p>Access to Yellowhead Trail is provided using intersections at 123 Street/ 126 Avenue on the north side of Yellowhead Trail, and 121 Street on the south side of Yellowhead Trail.</p>	<p>Access is only provided from 107 Street to Yellowhead Trail westbound and from Yellowhead Trail eastbound to 107 Street.</p>

# Key Considerations



## Land requirements

The options address freeway access while minimizing impacts to residential and commercial land. However, the City will need to buy some commercial land for all three options.

In Option 3: 127 Street Overpass /121 Street Interchange, there are additional impacts to commercial properties adjacent to 126 Avenue as this two-way road will be used to connect 127 Street to the 121 Street interchange.

The City has not identified any direct residential property impacts for any of the three options.



## Walking and biking connections

In all three options, pedestrians and cyclists can cross Yellowhead Trail at St. Albert Trail, 127 Street and 97 Street and there may be opportunity to provide similar connections at the 121 or 115 Street interchanges.

A shared-use path on the south side of Yellowhead Trail is being considered.



## Landscaping

Landscaping such as grass, trees and plantings will be added along both sides of Yellowhead Trail where there is space.



## Noise and visual impacts

If noise walls near residential neighbourhoods along the south side of Yellowhead Trail are impacted by the project, they will be replaced.

In all options, Yellowhead Trail will pass under the new interchanges.

Interchange ramps and service roads will be closer to neighbourhoods south of Yellowhead Trail, and the existing berms blocking visibility of Yellowhead Trail today may be modified in some options. These changes will result in visual impacts to the neighbourhoods.

In Option 1: Service Road, the berm between the Sherbrooke neighbourhood and Yellowhead Trail will be modified or even removed. In Option 3: 127 Street Overpass/121 Street Interchange, the berm between the Prince Charles neighbourhood and Yellowhead Trail will be modified. No changes to the berms have been identified in Option 2: Conventional Interchange.



## Construction

All options require several years for construction. Construction is planned to begin in 2023.



## Cost

Based on early estimates:

- + Option 3: 127 Street Overpass/121 Street Interchange is the most expensive
- + Option 2: Conventional Interchange is the least expensive
- + Option 1: Service Road is in the middle

# Evaluation Criteria

The City is committed to developing a plan that balances project requirements with community, business and commuter needs.

The evaluation criteria for the study will be used to quantify the differences between each of the options. Together with feedback from the public during Phase 2, this gives an objective, thorough, and detailed evaluation and will ultimately identify the recommended concept plan that will best meet the project objectives.

Using public and stakeholder input from Phase 1, technical requirements, and City policies and programs, the draft evaluation criteria below has been developed.

	<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Goods movement along and off Yellowhead Trail</li> <li>+ Impacts to nearby railway operations and the Blatchford development</li> </ul>
	<b>User benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Travel along, across, on and off Yellowhead Trail</li> <li>+ Travel times</li> <li>+ Neighbourhood access</li> <li>+ Ease of use</li> </ul>
	<b>Social and community sustainability and sustainable urban integration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ The appearance of the corridor</li> <li>+ Open and green space</li> <li>+ Safety and security</li> <li>+ Walking and cycling connections</li> <li>+ Transit connections</li> <li>+ Neighbourhood traffic impacts</li> </ul>
	<b>Technical feasibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Compatibility with current and future City projects</li> <li>+ Construction</li> <li>+ Utility impacts</li> <li>+ Opportunity for future developments</li> </ul>
	<b>Financial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Construction, maintenance and rehabilitation costs of Yellowhead Trail and the new interchanges and overpasses</li> <li>+ Costs associated with land impacts</li> </ul>
	<b>Environmental</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Impacts to the environment, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Noise</li> <li>+ Visual</li> <li>+ Emissions</li> <li>+ Green space</li> <li>+ Landscaping</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

To learn more about the draft evaluation criteria visit: [edmonton.ca/YellowheadSATto97Street](http://edmonton.ca/YellowheadSATto97Street)

# Phase 2 Engagement

Your perspectives and feedback during Phase 2 will be considered as we further refine and evaluate each of the three design options for the section of Yellowhead Trail between St. Albert Trail and 97 Street.

Go online on September 28, 2020, to learn about proposed changes to Yellowhead Trail and provide your feedback:

- + Watch a series of informative videos
- + Flip through an interactive information booklet
- + Download images of the design options
- + Register for an online learning session
- + Complete the online survey

## BUSINESS ONLINE LEARNING SESSION

October 6, 2020 | 8:30 – 10 a.m.

## PUBLIC ONLINE LEARNING SESSIONS

October 7, 2020 | 3 – 4:30 p.m.

October 8, 2020 | 11:30 a.m. – 1p.m. and 6:30 – 8 p.m.

## ONLINE SURVEY

Share your feedback September 28 to October 16, 2020

To learn more about the project, register for an online learning event and provide your input visit: [edmonton.ca/YellowheadSATto97Street](http://edmonton.ca/YellowheadSATto97Street)

If you require support to access the online survey or would prefer a paper copy, please contact [info@islengineering.com](mailto:info@islengineering.com) or **311** or pick up a copy at one of the Yellowhead Trail drop boxes in the Sherbrooke, Prince Charles or Westwood neighbourhoods.

## What's Next?

Public and stakeholder feedback from Phase 2 will be used alongside the evaluation criteria to develop a recommended concept plan.

The recommended concept will be shared in Phase 3 (early 2021). Construction is planned to begin in 2023.

REFINE

More information: [edmonton.ca/YellowheadSATto97Street](http://edmonton.ca/YellowheadSATto97Street)

Contact: [yellowhead@edmonton.ca](mailto:yellowhead@edmonton.ca)

SHARE YOUR VOICE  
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton