

What We Heard & How We Used Your Input

Strathearn Alley Renewal

Exploring Options and Tradeoffs

Fall 2023

SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

ADVISE & DECIDE



Each alley that will be renewed in Strathearn is numbered on the map to assist in identifying where issues exist and where there are opportunities for improvement.

Property owners can request that the City initiate a Local Improvement to add alley lighting where none currently exists. 100 per cent of the cost would be paid for by benefiting property owners along that alley. Information to initiate the Expression of Interest process to have lighting installed in an alley is provided online at edmonton.ca/LocalImprovements.

Alley Renewal Public Engagement



Building Great Neighbourhoods (BGN) Public Engagement Charter



Public Engagement Spectrum

The City of Edmonton seeks input from residents to help guide the project. The City's Public Engagement Spectrum below, shows the four levels of influence that the public can have on decisions made by the City throughout the project.

The public was invited to provide input that would help:

- + **ADVISE** the Project Team about how their alley is used by residents, how it functions, the issues and what could improve its liveability
- + **DECIDE** whether to add lights to their alley, through the Local Improvement process

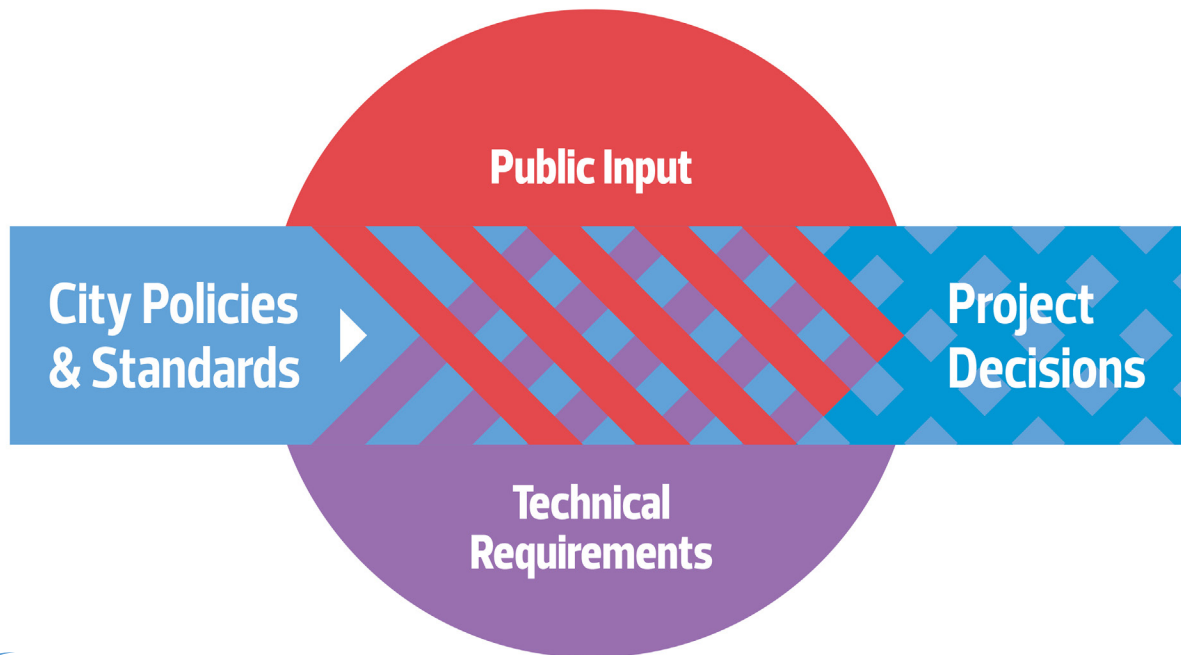
We commit to telling you how public input influences decisions according to the Public Engagement Spectrum.



Decision making process

The City makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information, public engagement comments, technical requirements and available funding. This process helps to ensure that the decisions we make are fiscally responsible, align with best design practices, consider the existing public and private infrastructure, land uses and activities in the neighbourhood and result in the best outcomes for our city.

City policies and programs such as the City Plan, Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards, Safe Mobility Strategy and Winter City Strategy provide the overall direction for Alley Renewal designs. As each neighbourhood is unique, the Project Team asks for input from residents who live, work, and play in the neighbourhood and considers technical aspects such as alley widths and conflicts with utilities and trees to determine what will fit.



What We Heard & How We Used Your Input: Strathearn Alley Renewal Fall 2023

City policies and programs

The following policies have application in all designs:

Edmonton City Plan

- + Supports implementing a multi-modal transportation system that creates a connected and accessible city for people of all ages and abilities

ConnectEdmonton

- + Provides direction to create a healthy city, vibrant urban places, regional prosperity and climate resilience
- + Supports safe bike routes, vibrant gathering spaces, adding missing sidewalks, partnering with local businesses, planting trees, creating green space from existing paved surfaces and measures to calm traffic

Other policies considered:

Active Transportation Policy

- + Includes opportunities for people to walk, roll and bike and promotes the inclusion of shared pathways
- + Encourages active transportation in neighbourhoods

Accessibility for People with Disabilities Policy

- + Supports accessibility as fundamental to good public engagement and design for all ages and abilities to use neighbourhood infrastructure for the next 50 years

Edmonton Bike Plan

- + Supports the vision of a connected and accessible city by guiding design choices which help people feel safe and comfortable riding their bikes in all seasons

Local Improvement Policy

- + Follows the Municipal Government Act of Alberta to outline the process to pay for improvements that are of a larger benefit to those near them than to the city as a whole

Alley Renewal Program

- + Funds the renewal of existing alleys

Public Engagement Policy

- + Directs the creation of specific public engagement and best practices to hear from the diverse groups impacted by the project

Safe Mobility Strategy

- + Supports initiatives to manage driver speeds and shortcutting to increase safety for all users
- + Supports bike routes and facilities that prevent injuries and encourage more people to bike and use active modes of transportation

Winter City Design Guidelines

- + Includes design standards to create an inviting and vibrant community during the winter months that are accessible, safe and enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities

And more

Technical requirements

Infrastructure assessments including utilities

- + Prioritizes when city infrastructure will be renewed based on current conditions

Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards

- + Provides direction for the design and construction of alleys

And more

What we asked & how we asked

The Strathearn Alley Renewal Project Team organized the following opportunities for the public to provide input to help **ADVISE** the Project Team about potential improvements and opportunities for alleys throughout the neighbourhood and **DECIDE** whether to add lights to alleys through the Local Improvement process.

Spring 2022

There were a number of engagement opportunities open to the public from April 5–30, 2022.



Surveys

- + An online survey was available to the public from April 5–30, 2022, asking respondents to **ADVISE** about potential opportunities to improve or enhance Strathearn alleys

Over 164 completed surveys



'Alley Talks' event

- + An online community workshop took place on April 21, 2022 to introduce the project to the community and gather initial feedback from those who live, work and play in Strathearn
- + Participation from residents in a series of small group brainstorming exercises to explore issues and opportunities for alleys in Strathearn

7 Participants



Community conversations

- + Emails and phone calls from community members received by the Project Manager were included in the overall feedback

9 Conversations



Project webpage (edmonton.ca/StrathearnAlleyRenewal)

- + Over 57 people signed up for project update emails at edmonton.ca/StrathearnAlleyRenewal
- + Overall there were 407 participants who visited the project webpage to view photos, review documents and learn more

————— **407 visitors** —————



Communication tactics

- + 2,003 postcards were delivered to all addresses in Strathearn, advertising upcoming engagement opportunities
- + Emails were sent to 48 subscribers and local stakeholders
- + Signage was located throughout the community, including a-frame, yard and road signs
- + Targeted social media ads were shared on Facebook to advertise upcoming engagement opportunities



When creating designs for what Alley Renewal in Strathearn might look like, what should we know about how your alley currently functions?

The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

- + Traffic concerns exist in the area
- + Drainage/water pooling issues exist throughout the area
- + Existing issues worsen in the winter with snow and ice build-up
- + Concerns around safety were noted specific to some alleys, including poor or absent lighting and sightlines
- + Poor surface conditions and alley width cause accessibility issues for those who walk, roll and bike
- + Issues with maintenance were noted, including overgrown trees and waste

During construction, you can expect that your alley will be inaccessible for approximately four weeks. Are there considerations we should know about your backyard or property prior to construction?

The most commonly identified responses about activities for consideration can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

- + Parking concerns during construction
- + Site-specific activities in individual participant yards
- + Animals or pets
- + Planned events
- + Planned construction projects
- + Accessibility concerns
- + No concerns
- + Other considerations voiced included concerns around parking, impact on those who walk, accessibility, charging electric vehicles, waste collection, safety concerns, impact to alley gardens and coordination with other utility work

What else, if anything, would you like to tell us as we begin the Strathearn Alley Renewal design?

The most commonly identified responses can be broadly categorized into the following themes:

- + Some participants noted that the renewal is exciting and needed, while others shared that the renewal is not necessary
- + Concerns around the timing of construction were voiced and the need to coordinate with other construction and events in the area
- + Lighting was noted a number of times in relation to crime reduction
- + Light pollution was also noted as something important to consider
- + Concerns around parking (safety, garage access) were voiced, specifically relating to safety of vehicles and accessibility for those who walk or roll
- + Bringing alley surfaces up to driveway levels was voiced as important, including paving gravel alleys
- + A number of additional ideas were suggested for consideration, including fixing drainage issues, adding convex mirrors at intersections, improving alley maintenance, shortening traffic lights at intersections (not in the scope of this project), increasing frequency of snow removal, minimizing removal of trees, encouraging alley gardening/landscaping, reducing shortcutting and encouraging alley use by people who bike



How we used your input

This section presents the final project decisions for Alley Renewal in Strathearn, including the key City policies and programs, public engagement input and technical requirements that informed the City's decisions related to each alley.

All alleys specified for renewal in the scope map will be reconstructed, widened to current standards as feasible, undergo drainage improvements and upgrade existing lighting to LED.

Legend for “What we accounted for to make our decisions”

The City uses policies and programs, public engagement input and technical requirements to make Alley Renewal decisions.

This report uses three coloured icons to illustrate which decision making criteria is a policy or program, public engagement input or a technical requirement. You will see these icons in the “What we considered to make our decisions” column in each table on the following page:

The decision making criteria are:



+ Public engagement input / What we heard






+ Technical requirements



+ City policies and programs

Shared Streets

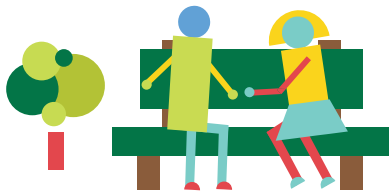
Shared streets have additional visual cues (signage, pavement markings, or enhanced surfacing) to draw attention that people walking, rolling, biking, and driving all use the same space.

What We Decided	What We Considered as We Developed the Design
<p>Create a shared street in Alley 14 (by Silver Heights Park and the Strathearn LRT Station) and in Alley 25 (east and west portion near the Holyrood LRT Station and 93 Avenue crossing of 85 Street) with different surfacing material, additional signage and new lighting.</p>	 <p>Public engagement feedback This design is informed by the following feedback heard during public engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleys are not wide enough to accommodate two vehicles along with people who walk, roll and bike • Encourage alley use for people who bike
	 <p>Technical considerations This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards • City of Edmonton Design and Construction Standards • Access Design Guide • Adding a different pavement material and signage will show the space is shared by people walking, biking, rolling and driving • Designing to accommodate snow removal equipment
	 <p>City Policies and Programs This design is informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City Plan • Safe Mobility Strategy • ConnectEdmonton • Snow and Ice Control Policy • Active Transportation Policy

Local Improvement update – new alley lighting

Property owners along alleys without existing lighting have the opportunity to request that the City initiate a Local Improvement to add lighting to their alley at any time. With the support of the majority of properties along the particular alley a Local Improvement can move forward with the adjacent property owners paying 100 per cent of the cost.

No alley lighting Local Improvements have been brought forward by property owners in Strathearn.



Next steps

Thank you for sharing your feedback. We look forward to construction starting in 2024.

In the spring of 2024, the public will be invited before the first year of construction, the public will be invited to an information event. At the event, the Project Team will share the Alley Renewal design, provide information on construction timelines, what to expect during construction and answer any questions that residents may have. After the event and in each spring that follows, specific construction timelines and details will be mailed to residents prior to construction starting. Please sign up on the project webpage for email updates and watch your mailboxes for more information.

Residents can expect their alley to be inaccessible for approximately four weeks during construction. Once the work is complete, residents will enjoy improved access and use of the alley.

For further information visit the website:

edmonton.ca/StrathearnAlleyRenewal

