

B ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



BUILDING A BRIGHTER 101 AVENUE

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The 101 Ave Project has capitalized on strong engagement from the community. The project team built on the enthusiasm present in the Greater Hardisty Community Sustainability Coalition meetings and the interest from the Forest/Terrace Heights Community in City programs. A range of engagement events, explained in this report, have informed the content and direction of the 101 Avenue project.

The main engagement events for 101 Avenue were a community workshop held in June 2016, pop-up engagement events in July and August 2016 and open houses held in September 2016 and January 2017. The rapport and trust built with the public through these engagement events will be used to further implementation goals for 101 Avenue.

Before hosting larger engagement events, the project team participated in the following initial engagement in the earlier stages of the project.

Meetings with Forest/Terrace Heights Community League members to discuss:

- Brownfield redevelopment opportunities
- The work that has been done by the Community League to involve business owners
- The process for establishing a Business Revitalization Zone or utilizing the Corner Stores and Facade Improvement programs
- The interests of the Community League in improving 101 Avenue

May 7 and 8 - Jane's Walks:

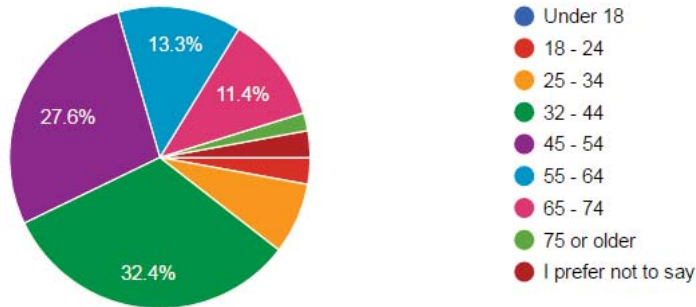
- Lead by the Forest/Terrace Heights Community league
- Attended by about 50 people (plus a few dogs)
- Discussed challenges and opportunities along 101 Avenue by visiting sites in the area and generating ideas for improvement



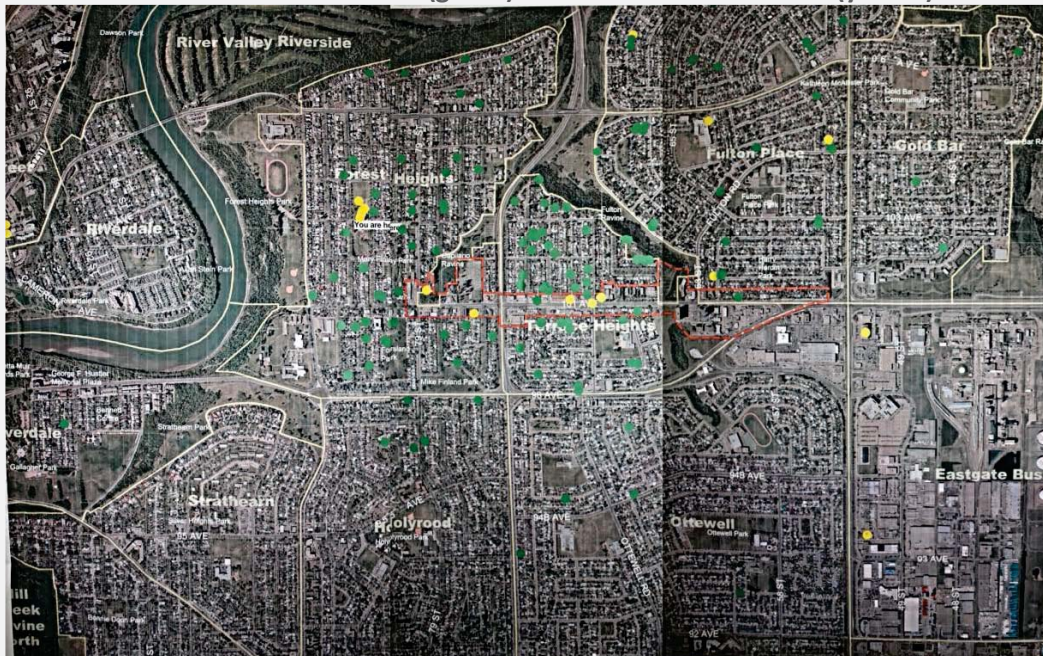
Residents and City staff at the Jane's Walk in May 2016

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COMMUNITY WORKSHOP – JUNE 21, 2016

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	Attended by approximately 212 people
RESULTS FROM EXIT SURVEY (completed by 105 people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 % homeowners, 7.6 % renters 4.8 % own a residence and 7.6 % own a business in the area 7.6 % work in the area and 16.2 % pass through
AGE OF ATTENDEES (who completed the exit survey)	

WHERE ATTENDEES LIVE (green) AND WHERE THEY WORK (yellow)

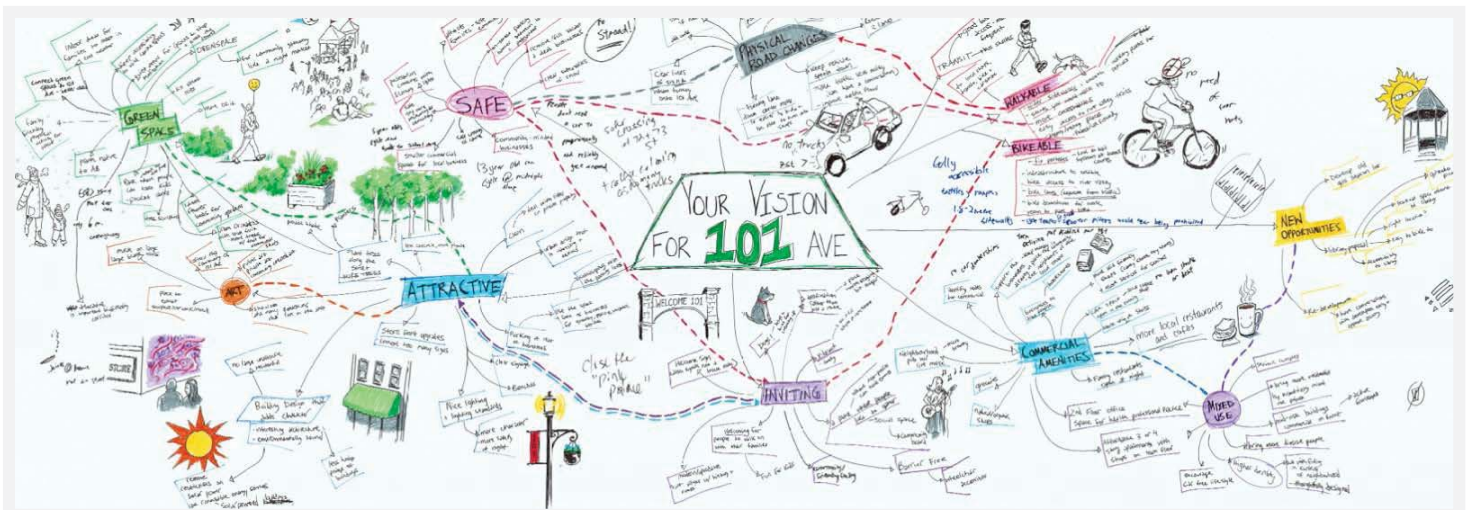


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WHAT WE ASKED

Through display boards, a vision mind mapping exercise, and large scale maps to draw on, attendees were asked to provide their input on:

- Opportunities and constraints - What is the potential for 101 Avenue? What is/isn't working now?
- Vision and Values - What is important to you about how 101 Avenue develops in the future?
- Desired facilities and amenities - What do you wish was available on 101 Avenue?



The 101 Avenue mind map was created using attendees words and was displayed at all future events. The mind map helped the project team develop the vision, goals and strategies for 101 Avenue.

WHAT WE HEARD

Mobility

- Traffic calming strategies should be implemented
- Want improved traffic flow and intersection re-design to improve safety
- Want wide, accessible bike lanes separated from vehicle traffic
- Direct bike routes should connect to key destinations (river valley and downtown)
- Improve neighbourhood walkability, provide sidewalks with good lighting and more separation from cars, and decrease the number of driveways that interrupt sidewalks
- Concern about safe pedestrian access to Capilano Library
- New development should be senior and family friendly (universal accessibility)
- More effective and reliable transit
- Better maintenance of sidewalks and store fronts

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Public Space and Community

- More parks and greenspace along the Avenue to provide shelter from weather, beautify the street and provide places for people to meet and gather
- More trees, benches, wayfinding signs and street furniture to unify the Avenue
- Front surface parking lots ruin the streetscape
- Street that is inviting to walk on and supports a sense of community
- More attractive and unified appearance to the Avenue, with welcome signs to the neighbourhood
- Places for indoor family play during the winter months
- Space for a festive/farmers market by the library
- Increase public art and murals along the Avenue

Development

- Fix up derelict and neglected commercial properties
- More local restaurants and cafes and family friendly businesses
- More family friendly businesses and a smaller amount of commercial that is higher quality
- Do not support high rise developments, but want a transition from medium density to low density
- More density along 101 Avenue to support businesses, school enrollment and public transportation
- Support mixed use development with commercial on the ground floor
- More seniors housing desired

WHAT WE DID WITH THE INPUT

- The project team used public comments to develop a draft Vision and a set of goals and strategies, as well as different concepts for mobility, the public realm and land use to share at the next open house
- The draft vision and concept options were developed with the understanding that the following key elements were important to the community:
 - Pedestrian and bicycle facilities that are accessible, safe, separated from traffic and connected to destinations
 - A public realm that is green, has art, has places to stop and rest and places to gather and connect with neighbours
 - Development that increases the density and commercial opportunities along the Avenue and is more pedestrian oriented

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POP-UP ENGAGEMENT – JULY/AUGUST, 2016

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	Members of the project team had conversations with approximately 125 people
LOCATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmonton public Library - Capilano Branch • Blue Java Bar • Fulton Place Community Garden Coffee Times at St. Augustine's Church • A&W • Hardisty Fitness and Leisure Centre • Mary Finlay Park • Petting Zoo and Kid's Activities at Hope Lutheran Church • Skate Park

WHAT WE ASKED

The project team raised awareness about the 101 Avenue project and collected input on the following questions:

- What changes would you like to see on 101 Avenue?
- What would make it more comfortable for you to walk or bike along 101 Avenue?
- If you were able to use the parking lot space in front of the buildings for something else on 101 Avenue what would you do with it?

WHAT WE HEARD

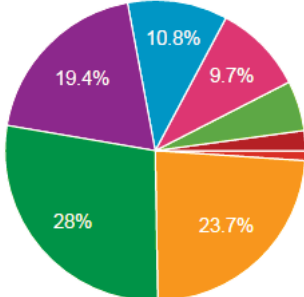
- Improve walkability and bike safety
- Separate pedestrians and bikes from traffic, add more crosswalks and wider sidewalks
- Add boulevard trees and flower planters and make it more visually pleasing
- Improve accessibility for people with limited mobility (ex. maintenance of wheelchair ramps)
- Decrease front parking lots
- More opportunities for recreational activities
- Decrease traffic volumes
- More range of businesses

WHAT WE DID WITH THE INPUT

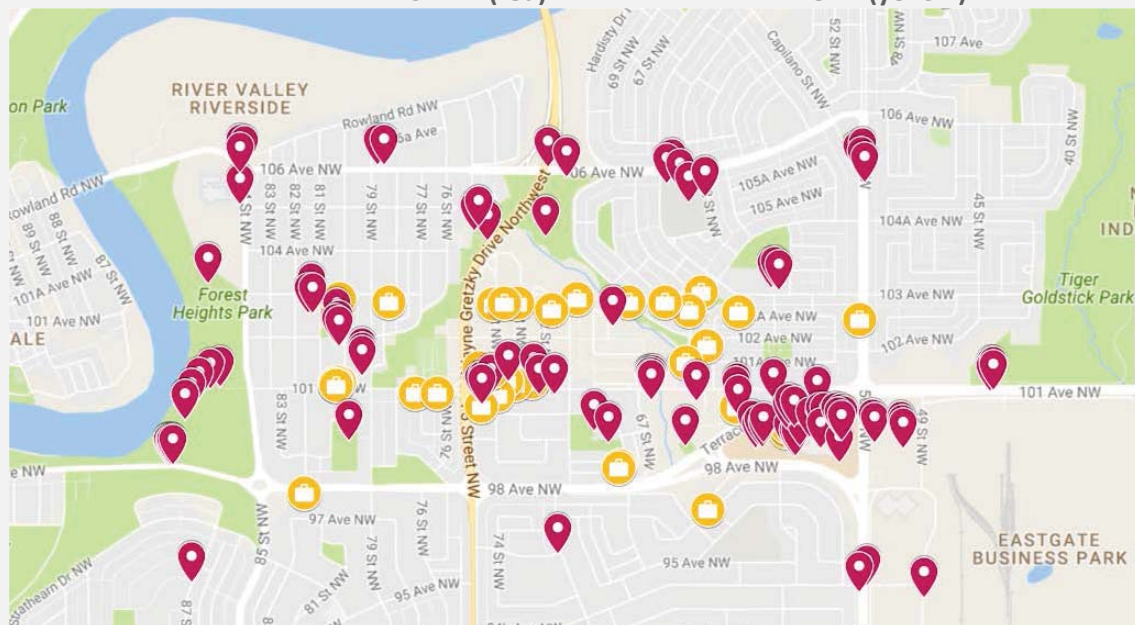
- The project team used these comments, along with feedback from the first workshop to develop a draft Vision and a set of goals and strategies, as well as different concepts for mobility, the public realm and land use to share at the next open house

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OPEN HOUSE – SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	<p>Attended by 218 people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 58% of attendees were at the first 101 Avenue Workshop Approximately 42% of attendees did not attend the first workshop
RESULTS FROM EXIT SURVEY (completed by 93 people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 81.7 % homeowners, 5.4 % renters 3.2 % own a residence and 6.5 % own a business in the area 6.5 % work in the area and 19.4 % pass through
AGE OF ATTENDEES (who completed the exit survey)	 <p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 18 18 - 24 25 - 34 35 - 44 45 - 54 55 - 64 65 - 74 75 or older I prefer not to say

WHERE ATTENDEES LIVE (red) AND WHERE THEY WORK (yellow)



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WHAT WE ASKED

Through display boards with different options for the Avenue, and large scale maps to draw on, attendees were asked to provide their input on:

- How we can design the street and adjacent development to make 101 Avenue more walkable and vibrant (activating the street)?
- What types of building forms and land uses are appropriate along 101 Avenue (options for new development)?
- How we can make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists along 101 Avenue (mobility options)?
- How we can make 101 Avenue more interesting and beautiful, and provide spaces for people to gather (creating a sense of place)?

WHAT WE HEARD

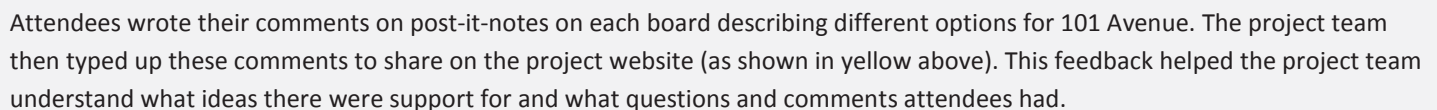
Proposed vision, goals and strategies

- General support for the vision, goals and strategies for 101 Avenue and recognition that they reflected community values
- Support for better cycling infrastructure
- Support for improving walkability by creating better crosswalks, more buffer between cars and sidewalks, wider sidewalks and slower speed limits
- Desire for more accessibility to transit, the ravine and multi-use trails in other areas
- Support for mixed use development to increase population, which will support schools and businesses
- Desire for high quality commercial development, with more diversity of businesses
- Focus on more interesting storefronts and quality space in front of businesses
- Concerned about impacts on residents along 101A Avenue if parking is behind buildings and there is increased traffic in the alley
- Strong support for more trees, shrubs and planters
- Desire for all season activity spaces (skating, indoor track, outdoor adult fitness centre, playgrounds)
- Support for patio spaces, businesses contributing to beautification and making better use of empty lots

Concept options for Forest Heights (79 to 75 Street NW)

- General preference for 3 to 4 storey buildings in this area, with some people noting that 6 to 9 stories could work. Many noted conditions that should be considered when adding density to this part of 101 Avenue, including:
 - a desire for sustainability features in new buildings
 - including housing for seniors
 - improving access to transit
 - ensuring a proper transition from taller buildings to surrounding residential
- Strong support for improved bike infrastructure and connections to key destinations, such as the ravine
- Some support for the greenway bike path option, and some support for on-street bike paths
- A clear consensus that bikes should have some type of separation from traffic and that bike paths must be well maintained in order to be effective

- General preference for 3 to 4 storey buildings, with some support for buildings up to 9 stories in height
- A lot of discussion on the type of commercial (whether it is big box store or local), but general consensus that commercial developments should be easy to walk to, have nice store fronts and provide services to residents
- Support for increased residential development along 101 Avenue (in the form of mixed use buildings) to increase the population that could support commercial
- No clear preference on the type of bike lane facilities suggested, but a general note that snow removal is very important to ensure bike lanes are usable all year
- General concern with speeding along all sections of 101 Avenue and a hope that traffic can be slowed down with improvements to the Avenue



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Concept options for East 101 (71 Street NW to Terrace Road/50 Street NW)

- Desire to ensure good access to Fulton Ravine, the future library and the skate park for people walking and biking and those with limited mobility
- Support for creating a community gathering spot close to the library, which could include recreational activities (skating, workout equipment, playground), a farmers market, a community garden, or a gazebo/picnic area
- Fewer comments on the proposed scale/height of buildings in this area, with some suggestions to limit it to 5 to 8 stories, and other suggestions to allow buildings taller than 9 stories
- Support for changing the access to 101 Avenue from 50 Street and for reducing the number of lanes on 101 Ave

Comment on bike lanes

- Consensus for bike facilities that are separated from traffic on 101 Avenue
- Some suggestions for bike lanes on quieter streets rather than 101 Avenue
- Strong desire for bike connection across Fulton Ravine
- Concern about the multiple driveways on 101 Avenue creating possible conflict points with cyclists

Green Infrastructure Ideas

- Interest in native species and community fruit tree garden
- Support for rain gardens/swales and trees as long as they are maintained over time
- Suggestion to incentivize green roofs and solar roofs on businesses

Transit Survey

We had 83 responses to our transit survey. Here are some of the results:

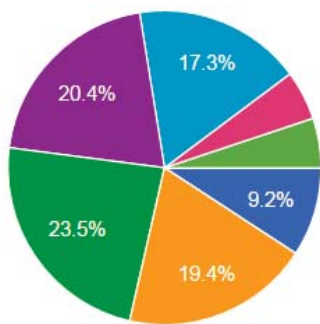
- 53% of people typically travel by car, while 26.5% of people typically travel by transit
- The following destinations were most important to those responding to the survey: Downtown, Bonnie Doon, Capilano, Whyte Avenue, University of Alberta, and Sherwood Park
- The most common use of transit is for trips to work
- Good transit service was most important to people during the weekday peaks (6am to 9am and 3pm to 6 pm)
- The following changes were most important to people to make them use transit more often: shorter transit travel times and more frequent service during weekday peak hours (6am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm)

WHAT WE DID WITH THE INPUT

- The project team used public comments to refine the draft concept for 101 Avenue and develop the Corridor Study report
- The draft concept was developed with the understanding that there was agreement on the following elements:
 - Increased accessibility for people walking, biking and taking transit, including connections to where people want to go, such as the library, ravine, downtown and places of employment
 - Support for more residential development as long as it transitions well from low to medium density development and there is a diversity of housing for seniors, families etc.
 - Bike facilities should be separated from traffic, and be along the whole length of 101 Avenue
 - Commercial development should be easy to walk to, attractive and provide services for residents

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OPEN HOUSE – JANUARY 31, 2017

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	<p>Attended by approximately 216 people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 57% of people attended a previous engagement event Approximately 43% of attendees did not attend a previous event 																				
RESULTS FROM EXIT SURVEY (completed by 98 people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74.5 % homeowners, 4.2 % renters 9.2 % own a residence and 7.1 % own a business in the area 8.2 % work in the area and 21.4 % pass through 																				
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WHAT WE ASKED

The project team displayed the draft concept for 101 Avenue and checked in with attendees to ask:

- Is there anything missing?
- Does the concept address your concerns with 101 Avenue?
- Will the concept achieve the community vision for 101 Avenue?

WHAT WE HEARD

Road re-design and public realm

- Support for the proposed roadway design, including reducing the number of lanes and adding a bike lane on both sides
- Support for the reduction in driveways onto 101 Ave and the addition of different crosswalk treatments to make it easier for people with different mobility needs to get around

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- Concerns that turning onto 101 Avenue from side streets will be more difficult with the new road layout, especially during rush hour
- Concern that the re-design will increase traffic in the lanes, which will add to the wear of the laneway and increase noise and disturbance in the residential areas
- Agreement that adding sidewalk, trees, landscaping and benches will encourage more walking, gathering and visiting
- Would like to see LED street lights along 101 Avenue
- Concern that trees will not survive over several winters without proper care

Intersection at Terrace Road and 101 Avenue

- Support for the revised intersection design at Terrace Road and 101 Avenue, with safer pedestrian access and a gateway feature to showcase the neighbourhoods
- Concern that congestion may increase with the intersection redesign
- Concern that vehicles will use the 101 Avenue residential service road as a shortcut to avoid the proposed traffic controls at the redesigned intersection

Specific Transportation Comments

- Suggestion to install bollards at 74 Street south of 101 Avenue to prevent traffic cutting through, but keep it open for pedestrians
- Note that good pedestrian access should be maintained through the parking lot on the east end of 101 Avenue to provide access to Safeway
- Think about providing a pedestrian refuge mid-crossing at 75 Street
- Ensure accesses to the lane from 72, 73 and 74 Streets are wide enough
- The intersection of 84 Street and 101 Avenue could be made much safer
- Provide a bus connection from 101 Ave to 112 Ave
- Address increased traffic on 101 Ave from 79 Street to 84 Street as a result of the recent construction on Terrace Road

Ravine Trails

- The proposed plan will make better use of the ravine
- Consider the flow of wildlife through Fulton Ravine
- Continue trails through Fulton Ravine all the way through 106 Avenue to the north to make a connection to the river valley
- Connect Capilano library to the ravine trail system and connect the Hardisty Nursing Home to Fulton Ravine with walking and biking trails

Connections outside of the 101 Avenue Study area

- Could have a bike path on 84 Street from 106 Avenue to Terrace Road
- 75 Street would benefit from a bike path on the west side of the street
- The shared use path along Wayne Gretzky Drive should be extended to 106 Street

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Surplus Site

The City owns a piece of land beside the Fulton Ravine that may be surplus to municipal needs. The City is still reviewing the need for the land, but it could be sold to a developer for regular market housing or commercial development, developed with co-op, affordable or assisted living (senior) housing, kept as a park space, or developed with some combination of private and public initiatives.

Attendees had the following ideas for the site:

- Provide a park space:
 - A place for kids to play
 - Include artwork (and artwork kids can play on)
 - Keep as parkland/natural area
 - Develop a dog park
- Ensure ravine access
 - Provide safe, accessible trails through the Ravine that connect Fulton Place and Terrace Heights for pedestrians and cyclists
 - Create connections for wildlife
- Develop the site:
 - Develop high rise with condos to densify the area
 - Create housing for people to age in place
 - Develop a senior's facility
 - Provide low income housing



This open house was about sharing the final draft concept and discussing the next steps and implementation. The project team did not expect as many comments, but the event was very well attended and there were many lively conversations, particularly about how to keep the project momentum going.

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WHAT WE DID WITH THE INPUT

- The project team heard general support for the concept for 101 Avenue and refined it further through discussion with internal City departments
- Some of the comments from this open house were out of scope for the 101 Avenue project, but do provide some ideas of what the community values for implementation of the 101 Avenue vision, including:
 - Ensuring there are good bike connections outside of the plan area
 - Improving intersections and pedestrian crossings
 - Creating multiple connections to and through the ravines in the area
 - Evaluating potential risks and impacts when making road changes, such as where traffic will be re-directed and ensuring existing residential development is not negatively affected