

District Planning GBA+ Findings and Recommended Measures

OVERVIEW OF GBA+ IMPACT

Beginning in August 2022, Edmontonians can contribute to the refinement of these geographic plans. A GBA+ equity lens is being applied so District Planning engagement intentionally includes marginalized individuals or groups and adopts best practices for diversity and inclusion.

Secondary research informed that groups who are generally excluded or feel excluded in municipal planning project engagements include:

- Indigenous peoples
- BIPOC community
- LGBTQ2S+ community
- Unhoused individuals
- Renters
- Religious Groups
- Youth, adolescents and seniors
- Women
- Persons with disability
- Newcomers to Edmonton
- Loneparents
- Low-income individuals or households
- Small businesses

Experienced barriers to project engagement included barriers to accessing or understanding online software, accessing engagement information online, a lack of income to participate in leisure activities, limited time available to participate in civic events and experiencing feelings of exclusion or lack of safety.

Recommendations below attempt to address some of these barriers by providing tools and supports to facilitate the participation of and providing tailored engagement options for these populations.

FINDING STATEMENTS AND EQUITY MEASURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding Statement 1: Research shows that low income individuals may include single parents, newcomers, seniors, women, caregivers, Indigenous persons or persons with disabilities. Low income individuals have limited access to technology and the internet, therefore, hosting only online engagement events may exclude these groups.

- **Equity Measure A:** To provide continuity and build on the strength of existing relationships, the project will work with the Indigenous Relations Office to better understand how to engage with Indigenous community representatives on the District Planning project in a way that is meaningful for these representatives.
- **Equity Measure B:** In addition to hosting location based engagement events, ensure additional engagement efforts to go where people are such as grocery stores, local events, libraries and recreation centres.
- **Equity Measure C:** Select in-person event spaces located along public transit routes that are universally accessible.
- **Equity Measure D:** Work with community organizations to assist with awareness building and explore partnerships to host events with these organizations.

Finding Statement 2: Research shows that low income individuals may experience social withdrawal because they lack the income to carry out or participate in leisure activities. Therefore, only hosting in-person events may exclude these groups.

- **Equity Measure B:** In addition to hosting location based engagement events, ensure additional engagement efforts to go where people are such as grocery stores, local events, libraries and recreation centres.
- **Equity Measure D:** Work with community organizations to assist with awareness building and explore partnerships to host events with these organizations.

Finding Statement 3: Research shows that individuals with limited time availability may include small business owners, single parents, newcomers, women or caregivers. This population may be excluded from lengthy engagement events or activities.

- **Equity Measure B:** In addition to hosting location based engagement events, ensure additional engagement efforts to go where people are such as grocery stores, local events, libraries and recreation centres.
- **Equity Measure E:** Seek approval from leadership for arranging child care services at in-person events.
- **Equity Measure F:** Design short and medium time-length engagement activities that will be available at all events.

Finding Statement 4: Research shows that equity seeking groups with intersectional identities (LGBTQ2S+, BIPOC, persons with disabilities, seniors, women and youth) feel unsafe, uncomfortable and or ignored at community events where representation from municipal staff that is leading the event is lacking and or not present. Their voices may be excluded because of underrepresentation.

- **Equity Measure D:** Work with community organizations to assist with awareness building and explore partnerships to host events with these organizations.
- **Equity Measure G:** Adopt inclusive language best practices and multimodal communications at engagement events.

Finding Statement 5: Research shows that newcomers, seniors and persons with disabilities who identify within the BIPOC community experience technological barriers greater than their caucasian counterparts, therefore communicating engagement opportunities exclusively online may exclude this group.

- **Equity Measure H:** Develop a User's Guide outlining how to access, navigate or troubleshoot online platforms step by step. Team member(s) will also be available by telephone for individuals with neurodiversity so they can benefit from support around online websites, interfaces and engagement platforms.
- **Equity Measure I:** Add a direct link to project engagement opportunities at the top of the project's external webpage.
- **Equity Measure J:** Advocate for the City to have a direct link to engagement activities at the top of the City of Edmonton website homepage to catch interest and maximize awareness of engagements.
- **Equity Measure K:** Advocate for the City to consider regularly engaging Edmonton's diverse communities in facilitated community conversations to obtain feedback on diversity and inclusion engagement efforts to understand shared challenges with communities.