

Bylaw 17951 - Closure of Vehicular Access (9906-83 Avenue)

Recommendation:

That Urban Planning Committee recommend to City Council:
That Bylaw 17951 be given the appropriate readings.

Purpose

To close vehicular access to 83 Avenue from a titled parcel located at 9906 - 83 Avenue NW. One alternate access to the parcel is available.

Readings

Bylaw 17951 is ready for three readings.

Bylaw 17951 is authorized under Section 28 of the *Highways Development and Protection Act*. A majority vote of City Council on all three readings is required for passage.

If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving third reading, Council must unanimously agree "That Bylaw 17951 be considered for third reading".

Advertising and Signing

Advertising is not required for this Bylaw.

Position of Administration

Administration supports this Bylaw.

Report Summary

This report requests City Council's approval of Bylaw 17951.

Report

Bylaw 17951 proposes to remove an existing access that is currently used for vehicular access, from a titled parcel (legally described as Lots 16-18, Block 76, Plan I1) to 83 Avenue in support of the 83 Avenue Bike Route project. The 83 Avenue Bike Route project combines the neighbourhood renewal reconstruction of 83 Avenue with the installation of bicycle infrastructure.

The Neighbourhood Renewal portion includes: reconstruction and resurfacing of roadway; reconstruction of sidewalks, curbs, and gutters; and streetlight renewal. The 83 Avenue Bike Route Project includes installation of high-quality bike infrastructure that will make cycling more comfortable for cyclists of all abilities. The bike facility is being developed in the vicinity of this property as a two-way protected bike lane adjacent to the north curb of 83 Avenue. The facility provides dedicated space for cyclists on 83 Avenue with physical separation of cyclists from motor vehicle traffic, parked cars, and sidewalks.

The access in question is located directly west of the intersection of 83 Avenue and 99 Street and is illustrated in Attachment 2. The access is one of two accesses that service a small surface parking lot in front of the building. Consultation with the property owner revealed that the dual access configuration is critical to its organization's operations, but the owner also indicated they would be satisfied with removal of the easternmost access on 83 Avenue if additional access was provided directly to 99 Street. The design of the 83 Avenue bike route in vicinity of this property was adjusted to reflect this feedback.

Closure of the subject access provides a high-quality bike facility in close proximity to the 83 Avenue and 99 Street intersection and will reduce conflicts between vehicles and cyclists on 83 Avenue. The Neighbourhood Renewal construction process will incorporate removing the access, restoring the curb line and boulevard, and installing the cycling infrastructure. The existing western access to the site will be reconstructed as per standard neighbourhood renewal processes, and a new access will be developed to 99 Street to provide the secondary access required to support the continued operation of the parking lot.

Policy

This Bylaw is in accordance with several policies and objectives outlined in the Transportation Master Plan, the Municipal Development Plan, and the Active Transportation Policy including:

The Way We Grow, Municipal Development Plan:

- Policy 3.5.2.1: Support neighbourhood revitalization that contributes to the livability and adaptability of mature neighbourhoods.
- Policy 5.7.1: Ensure that streets, sidewalks and boulevards are designed to perform their diverse roles and to enable safe access for all users.

The Way We Move, Transportation Master Plan:

- Strategic Objective 4.1: The City will integrate land use planning and transportation decisions to create an accessible, efficient and compact urban form.
- Strategic Action 4.1(b): Encouraging land uses that are compatible and

complementary to the surrounding transportation network.

- Strategic Objective 6.1: The City will create a walkable environment.
- Strategic Objective 6.2: The City will create a cycle-friendly city.
- Strategic Action 6.2(c): Developing and Reviewing best practices, adapted to the Edmonton context, to increase the attractiveness and safety of cycling.

Active Transportation Policy C544:

Policy Statement 1: Enhance accessibility, safety, security, and convenience through strategic improvement, expansion, and maintenance of the infrastructure and facilities that support Active Transportation, including sidewalks, curb ramps, shared pathways, marked bicycle and shared-use lanes, and end-of-trip facilities.

Corporate Outcomes

This report supports the following corporate outcomes:

- The City of Edmonton has sustainable and accessible infrastructure: providing well-designed and constructed roadway and sidewalk infrastructure ensures that the streets are accessible to all Edmontonians, whether they choose walking, cycling, transit, or driving as their mode of transportation.
- Edmontonians use public transit and active modes of transportation: the closure of this access and reconstruction of the curb, gutter, and sidewalk on 83 Avenue will
 - improve pedestrian and cyclist accessibility
 - support Edmontonians in choosing active modes of transportation
 - enable Edmontonians to incorporate active transportation into everyday activities
 - have a direct impact on health and well-being
 - provide opportunities for Edmontonians to connect with their community

Risk Assessment

Risk Element	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Score	Current Mitigations	Potential Future Mitigations
Public Liability (public access, egress, safety)	Increased cyclist pedestrian and vehicle conflicts within road right-of-way if the accesses remain in place.	2	3	6	Current design identifies removal of access in order to remove conflicts.	Operational adjustments to identify conflicts at this location. Return to location and remove access in the future.
Public Perception	Facility is being designed and marketed as part of the high-quality bike network. Leaving the accesses in place may result in a perception of cyclists safety not being a priority.	3	2	6	Current design prioritizes cyclists through removal of access.	Address complaints on an individual basis as they arise.

Public Engagement

An intensive, six-stage, public consultation process occurred over a three-year period, from June 2014 to May 2017.

- Administration held a Bike Route “Location” Workshop for the Strathcona-Garneau-University Route on June 17, 2014. The purpose of this meeting was to get input on evaluation criteria and feedback on potential bike route locations, of which 83 Avenue was presented as an option.

- Administration held 83 Avenue “Route Type” Workshops on November 27, 2014, and January 8, 2015, (repeat meeting due to weather). At this meeting, two design options were presented and a project update was provided to explain how input from the consultation process was incorporated into the project.
- Administration held a “Single Concept Plan” Open House on April 23, 2015, and a Bike Route Workshop on June 3, 2015, to share the recommended concept plan for the 83 Avenue bike route and to obtain feedback on landscaping options.
- Project team consulted with the property owner throughout 2016 while determining options for access reconfiguration at this property.
- A Pre-construction Open House for Neighbourhood Renewal and 83 Avenue Bike Route was held at the Moravian Church on May 4, 2016.
- A letter was sent to the owner on February 23, 2017, which included project background information, justification for the construction of a new curb and gutter, and City contact information for any questions and/or concerns. No follow-up inquiries were received as a result of this letter.

Legal Implications

1. The proposed access closure must be carried out in accordance with the *Alberta Highways Development and Protection Act*.
2. Section 28(1) of the Highways Development and Protection Act provides that City Council may close a physical means of access to or from a controlled street by passing a bylaw.
3. The City must ensure that each titled parcel of land has at least one means of access to a controlled street, however indirect or circuitous that access may be, in accordance with the City Streets Access Bylaw, Bylaw 13521.
4. Provided that alternate access to the titled parcel exists or is provided, no compensation is payable pursuant to section 29(1) of the *Highways Development and Protection Act*.

Metrics, Targets and Outcomes

Metrics	Targets	Outcomes
Typical September cycling volumes on 83 Avenue were approximately 280 cyclists/day, prior to construction.	Increased ridership on the 83 Avenue bike route as a result of high-quality infrastructure that supports cycling for all abilities.	Increased opportunities for Edmontonians to use active modes of transportation.
0.6 km of the 83	2.7 km of the high-	Completion of the

<p>Avenue bike route was completed in 2016, 2.1 km will be constructed in 2017 and 2018.</p>	<p>quality bike network will be complete.</p>	<p>entire 83 Avenue bike route.</p>
<p>Premier Cycle Track that provides a direct connection to the Old Strathcona and University areas.</p>	<p>Create a network of high-quality cycling infrastructure in the core area of the city.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a facility that provides Edmontonians opportunities to connect with their communities. • Edmontonians have opportunity to use a facility that enables incorporating healthy living into their daily activities. • Creation of a cycle-friendly city.

Justification of Recommendation:

Bylaw 17951 will advance the outcomes of the 83 Avenue (Strathcona) Bike Route project.

Attachments

1. Bylaw 17951
2. Location Plan and Street View Image

Others Reviewing this Report

- T. Burge, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- Laughlin, Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- Campbell, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- Jones, Deputy City Manager, City Operations