

Complete Streets Policy Amendments

Implementation

Recommendation:

That Transportation Committee recommend to City Council:

That the revised policy C573A - Complete Streets, as set out in Transportation Services report CR_1972, be approved.

Report Summary

This report highlights the proposed Main Street amendment to the Complete Streets Policy.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the September 21, 2015, Agenda Review Committee meeting, the Transportation Services report CR_1972, was re-rerouted to the October 7, 2015, Transportation Committee meeting.

At the November 26, 2014, City Council Budget meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration prepare amendments to the Complete Streets Policy that would clarify the implementation program, and provide for designation of certain streets as “Main” streets, and would provide:

- a) enhanced standards for streetscaping, pedestrian accommodation and active transportation
- b) requirements that any designated “Main” streets would be reconstructed and rehabilitated to the enhanced standards

Report

Historically, Main Streets were destinations where people would meet to interact, shop, and do business. However, many Main Streets have also been major transportation links that connect people across the city. Administration is working to develop Main Streets to integrate transportation and land use, increase vibrancy and density, provide meaningful placemaking opportunities and maximize the benefit of public infrastructure investments. This is being done by defining Main Streets, updating the Complete Streets Policy, developing a map of Main Streets, and then developing a program of streetscaping tied to the capital and operating budgets to construct and operate Main Streets to an enhanced standard.

Main Streets will also be one of the building blocks of the Nodes and Corridors Program

that is focusing redevelopment planning efforts on key areas throughout the city to capitalize on strategic investments and opportunities to achieve the City vision. The objective will be to harness growth, change and investment and create great Main Streets and hubs that prioritize walkability, livability, safety, density, and vibrancy.

The proposed amendment to the Complete Streets Policy (Attachment 1) provides for the identification of “Main Streets.” By amending the policy it will ensure that Main Streets will be designed to an enhanced urban standard, with appropriate pedestrian and active mode accommodation and integrated with the surrounding land use.

The working definition for Main Streets are streets that:

- are more than transportation links
- are, or *have potential* to be, places that support strong communities
- tie to business and/or community revitalization
- support a strong mix of street-oriented land uses

Next Steps

The next steps in the development of Main Streets include:

- inventorying and mapping Main Streets
- reviewing state of the practice for Main Streets
- developing a Main Streets toolkit that outlines appropriate roadway elements
- updating the Complete Streets Guidelines to reflect main streets
- developing a renewal program for Main Streets that provides for implementation and maintenance of enhanced urban design elements
- undertaking cost efficiency analysis and project evaluation for Complete Streets and Main Streets Renewal Projects
- reviewing and amending “Determination of Assessable Roadway-Related Local Improvements” policy to waive Main Street improvement fees

The identification of Main Streets and establishment of Main Streets criteria will be completed by the end of 2015, in collaboration with external and internal City stakeholders. The revised Complete Streets Guideline will be completed by end of 2016.

Throughout this process, Transportation Planning will be working closely with all internal City partners to coordinate efforts. Specifically, we will be working closely with Sustainable Development to coordinate on planning the best streetscape treatments in conjunction with the Downtown Street Typology Project, the Nodes and Corridors Program and the Urban Design Program.

Policy

Complete Streets Policy C573

Corporate Outcomes

This report meets the Corporate Outcome, “Edmonton is attractive and compact”, by defining Main Streets that will be constructed to an enhanced standard. In addition, it will advance Edmontonians' use of public transit and active modes of transportation. Main Streets will be destinations that are supportive to transit as there is a variety of land uses.

Public Consultation

The identification of Main Streets and update of the Complete Streets Guidelines will require engagement with key community stakeholders. Over time, specific Main Street planning and design projects will have community engagement as identified in the Public Involvement Plan and Complete Streets Guidelines.

Budget/Financial Implications

Approval of this policy amendment will initiate an update of the Complete Streets Guidelines which will be completed in 2016 within existing budget.

Main Street enhancements will be determined on a project-by-project basis and Administration is considering the appropriate way to fund main streets in the next capital budget.

Justification of Recommendation

City is amending the Complete Streets policy to clarify the implementation program for “Main Streets”.

Attachment

1. Complete Streets Policy C573A

Others Reviewing this Report

- R. G. Klassen, General Manager, Sustainable Development