

Designing New Neighbourhoods and Complete Streets Policies

Recommendation:

That Executive Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That City Policy C572– Designing New Neighbourhoods, as outlined in Attachment 2 of the May 13, 2013, Sustainable Development report CR_46, be approved.
2. That City Policy C573 – Complete Streets, as outlined in Attachment 3 of the May 13, 2013, Sustainable Development report CR_46, be approved.
3. That the Guidelines for Edmonton's Future Residential Communities, as outlined in Attachment 6, of the May 13, 2013, Sustainable Development report CR_46, be received for information.
4. That the Complete Streets Guidelines, as outlined in Attachment 7, of the May 13, 2013, Sustainable Development report CR_46, be received for information.

Report Summary

This report introduces and provides background to the new Designing New Neighbourhoods and Complete Streets Policies.

Report

Designing New Neighbourhoods and Complete Streets support the development of communities and streets that improve quality of life for Edmontonians. Both projects support

the implementation of the *Ways Plans* by using a flexible design approach rather than a one-size-fits-all standard for the design of future new neighbourhoods in Urban Growth Areas and streets across the city. This will result in new neighbourhoods and streets that are more innovative, adaptive to future changes and challenges, and better integrate transportation and land use.

Designing New Neighbourhoods

The *Designing New Neighbourhoods Policy* and the *Guidelines for Edmonton's Future Residential Communities* document have been prepared to support the development of innovative and sustainable communities in Edmonton's Urban Growth Areas. The Policy and Guidelines implement policy 4.1.1.1 of the Municipal Development Plan, *The Way We Grow*. They establish a shared vision for future new neighbourhoods and will inform the physical structure and lay-out of new neighbourhoods.

The Policy (Attachment 2) establishes 12 outcomes that will guide planning and design of future neighbourhoods. The Guidelines (Attachment 6) will be used by Administration and other public and private sector city-builders as they work collaboratively to prepare new Neighbourhood Structure Plans. Each outcome is supported by design principles that will be addressed in ways unique to the context of a particular new neighbourhood.

The Policy and Guidelines represent a change in design approach. As such, existing standards, regulations, practices, processes and policies will need to be reviewed and updated over time to realize the creative, innovative, flexible and sustainable design that the

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Policy outlines. Change will occur incrementally as new ideas are explored, and as creative and flexible design solutions are implemented.

Implementation of the *Guidelines for Future Residential Communities* (Attachment 6) will require ongoing collaboration between the City, private and public sector partners.

Complete Streets

Complete Streets represents a shift in philosophy to encourage a more holistic approach to roadway design. The intent is to develop a network of roadways that are designed to reflect the characteristics of an area and be safe, attractive, comfortable and welcoming for all users.

The Principles of Complete Streets, established in the Policy (Attachment 3) are the foundation for this shift in design philosophy and provide the direction for developing complete streets in Edmonton. The Principles are not prescriptive and do not dictate any single way of developing a complete street; rather, they will guide the development of creative and innovative streets that reflect the surrounding characteristics and users. Complete Streets Principles seek to find opportunities to most efficiently use the roadway space and they also provide support for innovative development and community revitalization.

Administration has developed *Complete Streets Guidelines* (Attachment 7), which provide guidance on how to implement the Complete Streets Principles. A number of pilot projects will occur over the next year to understand cost implications. Implementation details will be worked out in conjunction with the Urban

Development Institute and other stakeholders prior to commencing use of the Guidelines.

Policy

The Way We Grow, Edmonton's Municipal Development Plan:

- Section 3.6, Developing and Planned Neighbourhoods
- Section 4.1, Developing and Planned Neighbourhoods

The Way We Move, Edmonton's Transportation Master Plan:

- Section 4.1, Integrating Transportation with Land Use
- Section 4.2, Integrating Roadways with Land Use
- Section 4.3, Community Building

The Way We Green, Edmonton's Environmental Plan:

- Section 3.0, Healthy Ecosystems – Land

The Way We Live, Edmonton's People Plan:

- Objective 1.1, The City of Edmonton provides opportunities in neighbourhood, community and public spaces to connect people and build vibrant communities.
- Objective 5.1, The City of Edmonton promotes civic pride through attractive design.

The Way We Prosper, Edmonton's Economic Development Plan:

- Goal 5, A vibrant, livable city

Corporate Outcomes

The Way Ahead, City of Edmonton Strategic Plan, 2009-2018:

- Transform Edmonton's Urban Form
- Shift Edmonton's Transportation Modes
- Preserve and Sustain Edmonton's Environment
- Improve Edmonton's Livability

Public Consultation

The Policies and Guidelines were developed in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders and input from the public (Attachment 1).

Going forward, implementation of both Guidelines will require ongoing consultation, information sharing, collaboration, partnership, and shared decision making amongst city-builders, including: the development industry, community groups, utility companies, school boards, and all areas of the City's Administration.

Justification of Recommendation

1. Approval of the Designing New Neighbourhoods Policy (C572) will establish a vision for future neighbourhoods in Edmonton's Urban Growth Areas and guide the development of innovative and sustainable communities.
2. Approval of the Complete Streets Policy (C573) will encourage a shift to a more holistic approach to roadway design.
3. Receipt of the Guidelines for Edmonton's Future Residential Communities for information will ensure that Administration and public and private city-builders use the Guidelines to implement the shared vision for new neighbourhoods.
4. Receipt of the Complete Streets Guidelines for information will provide Administration with the support to develop pilot projects and to refine and update the Guidelines over time.

Attachments

1. Public Stakeholder Consultation
2. City Policy C572 - Designing New Neighbourhoods

3. City Policy C573 - Complete Streets
4. Designing New Neighbourhoods Fact Sheet
5. Complete Streets Fact Sheet
6. Designing New Neighbourhoods - Guidelines for Edmonton's Future Residential Communities
7. Complete Streets Guidelines

Others Reviewing this Report

- L. Rosen, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
- L. Cochrane, General Manager, Community Services
- R. Boutilier, General Manager, Transportation Services
- D. H. Edey, General Manager, Corporate Services