

# ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goal of Healthy City

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## Recommendation

That the November 30, 2020, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development report CR\_8450, be received for information.

## Previous Council/Committee Action

At the July 6/8, 2020, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration review the ConnectEdmonton Strategic goal of Healthy City and provide recommendations on revisions or clarity to make Edmonton the Safest City in Canada by 2030.

## Executive Summary

Cities should be safe and welcoming for everyone. Being the safest city in Canada means safe for everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, gender, age, income, or sexual orientation. Safety in the context of a city is a broad subject spanning planning and design, enforcement, intersectional perception, and many other topics.

ConnectEdmonton (Attachment 1) is Edmonton's Strategic Plan for 2019 - 2028. It sets the direction for our future and outlines where we need to change today to realize our vision for Edmonton in 2050. The four strategic goals are the focus areas that require transformational change in the next ten years to achieve our vision. The goals will be achieved through strategic actions, partnerships and collaboration. The Strategic Goals are Healthy City, Urban Places, Regional Prosperity and Climate Resilience. The Healthy City Goal within ConnectEdmonton addresses key aspects of safety, including how it is measured and achieved, for current and future residents.

This report outlines how safety is defined and achieved through ConnectEdmonton, and highlights the transformational change through the City Plan. A more complete review of all aspects of safety is required to identify the additional actions needed to become the safest city in Canada by 2030.

### Report

Cities should be safe and welcoming for everyone. Being the safest city in Canada means safe for everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, gender, age, income, or sexual orientation. ConnectEdmonton was created in collaboration with the community, for the community through robust public engagement. Updates must be made thoughtfully to respect the voices heard in that process. An initial review of the ConnectEdmonton Healthy City goal was conducted in the context of recent events locally (community safety) and globally (COVID-19 pandemic), and other work that occurred since its approval in 2019. Given this new context and information, there is an opportunity to enhance the strategic actions the City is taking to ensure Edmonton is a safe and welcoming city for current and future residents.

### Understanding what it means to be the Safest City in Canada

Being the safest city in Canada requires first a common definition of safety for Edmonton's residents, organizations and institutions. Dimensions of safety include a broad list of factors and best practices which are detailed in Attachment 2 such as:

- *Infrastructure Security* - urban planning, infrastructure design, service design, and service delivery
- *Personal Security* - intersectionality and perceptions of safety, social conditions, crime prevention, regulations and enforcement, public engagement, and community-based policing
- *Health Access* - health outcomes reflect the quality of health care systems and minimizing impact of acute public health events such as pandemics
- *Digital Security* - privacy policy, digital threats, public-private partnerships and cyber security

Given the breadth of the topic, a more in-depth review of critical functions contributing to all aspects of safety is required in order to make recommendations on the transformational changes required to be Canada's safest city.

ConnectEdmonton provides direction, City Plan outlines choices, and the Corporate Business Plan includes the actions required to deliver on that direction and those choices. Key initiatives are already underway, but additional effort and resources would need to be invested to make Edmonton the safest City in Canada by 2030.

### ConnectEdmonton's Healthy City Goal

ConnectEdmonton sets the aspirational direction for Edmonton's future. It defines Healthy City as a "city [that] encompasses both Edmontonians' well-being and the wellness of our communities. It requires that all people have the means to access and maintain a good standard of living. When they feel safe, empowered and supported as individuals, they are better able to connect with and enrich the community..." The

Healthy City indicators monitor impact and represent a way of holistically understanding the current state of the goal by understanding the status of the priority areas. There are three indicator categories and eight indicators that directly impact safety. These include:

### **Community Wellness**

- *Discrimination and Racism*
- *Personal Safety*
- *Crime*

### **Equity**

- *Housing Conditions*
- *Homelessness*
- *Income Inequality*
- *Poverty*

### **Personal Wellness**

- *Personal Wellness*

An overview of the indicators and results is provided in Attachment 3.

### **Building a Safer City**

The City Plan is about planning for people and has an equity lens throughout. The City Plan is a long-term vision that articulates the choices the City will make to become a healthy, urban, climate resilient city of two million that supports a prosperous region. The City Plan takes direction from the four strategic goals in ConnectEdmonton. As Administration reimagines City Building, the Big City Moves of Inclusive and Compassionate, and Community of Communities describe the outcomes and targets intended for safety through City Building. The City Building outcomes that have a direct relationship to safety are outlined in Attachment 4.

### **Current Initiatives and Strategic Actions**

Safety is an intersectional issue and the City works with a wide range of community organizations, businesses and other orders of government to create a safe city. A number of strategic actions the City is currently undertaking to contribute to safety in Edmonton are outlined in the Corporate Business Plan and City Plan. These include:

- Affordable Housing
  - Scope: Increase the supply and the spectrum of affordable housing by delivering grant funding programs, establishing innovative partnerships, facilitating development of City-owned land for affordable housing and policy development.
- Poverty Elimination
  - Scope: Partner with the community-based EndPoverty Edmonton to eliminate poverty in Edmonton within a generation and implement 35 EndPovertyEdmonton Road Map actions between 2017 to 2021.

- Recover
  - Scope: Use social innovation to work with citizens on codesigning solutions and addressing complex challenges of urban wellness. This will generate a culture shift and ensure that citizens' input and ideas are incorporated in creating and maintaining the well-being of Edmontonians.
- Vision Zero
  - Scope: Support safe and livable streets in Edmonton through engineering, enforcement, education, evaluation and engagement to achieve the internationally-recognized goal of Vision Zero - zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries.

There are also various partnerships that Administration is involved in such as the Neighborhood Empowerment Team, United Nations Safe Cities and Peace in the City. In addition, recent events have given rise to other frameworks and initiatives such as the Community Safety and Well-being Taskforce, the Anti Racism Advisory Committee, and many others.

### **Next Steps**

Actionable recommendations on becoming the safest City in Canada must be informed by other critical work such as the Community Safety and Well-being Task Force, which will present its recommendations to Council in March 2021. More time is required for that further work and completion of analysis. Prioritized recommendations for becoming the safest city in Canada by 2030 will be developed, and presented to City Council in Q3 2021.

Analysis will include:

- Review of findings and recommendations from previous and current projects impacting dimensions of safety
- Analysis of ConnectEdmonton, City Plan outcomes and indicators, to measure progress from a safety lens
- Literature review and research on best practices on dimensions of safety
- Benchmarking and collaboration with other municipalities to identify common approaches and challenges
- Targeted community engagement
- Prioritization of recommendations for action based on estimated cost, effort and impact
- Incorporation of findings from the Community Safety and Well-being Taskforce
- Continued coordination with Edmonton Police Service (EPS) to work smarter and safer while deliberately taking better care of Edmontonians

### Public Engagement

Throughout the Vision 2050 engagement, ConnectEdmonton was adjusted to reflect the diverse feedback from participants. This iterative process resulted in a plan that is a bold reflection of the character, attitude and strengths of Edmonton and Edmontonians. Through this process, it was recognized that this was more than Council’s Strategic Plan, as initially envisaged, it is a strategic plan for Edmonton as a collaborative community. It is an example of city building, where inclusive, diverse collaborations have shaped a way to achieve the best of what Edmonton is and can be.

The engagement previously conducted will be honored with learnings and gaps identified and addressed in the current circumstances.

### Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): All Corporate Outcomes			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
HEALTHY CITY: Edmonton is a neighbourly city with community and personal wellness that embodies and promotes equity for all Edmontonians	Discrimination & Racism	60 percent experienced discrimination or racism (2019)	N/A
	Crime	126.3 Crime Rate; represented as Crime Severity Index (2019)	N/A
	Sense Of Safety	62 percent Feel Safe (2019)	N/A
	Property Crime	5740 Crimes against property per 100,000 population (2019 WCCD)	N/A
	Personal Wellness	79.6 percent Edmonontians perception of their personal wellness (2019)	N/A
	Housing Conditions	3.3 percent live in inadequate or unsuitable housing (2019)	N/A
	Homelessness	193 per 100,000 population experience homelessness (2019)	N/A
	Income Inequality	0.429 difference between highest and lowest earners (2019)	N/A
	Poverty	14.9 percent live in poverty (2019)	N/A

### Attachments

1. ConnectEdmonton: Edmonton’s Strategic Plan 2019 - 2028
2. Scan of Dimensions of Safety
3. ConnectEdmonton Safety Indicators

4. City Plan Safety Outcomes

**Others Reviewing this Report**

- M. Persson, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- R. Smyth, Deputy City Manager, Citizen Services
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor