

March 2024

Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy
Phase 3 Engagement - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the "public realm"?

The public realm includes City (or provincially) owned public spaces. These are the communally accessible spaces like the sidewalks, streets and alleys that people travel along, and the parks and plazas that people use for rest, relaxation, meeting friends or going to events.

Why is this strategy needed and what will it do?

Old Strathcona is part of a priority growth area in *The City Plan*. As the area welcomes more residents and visitors, the parks, plazas, alleyways and streets will become increasingly important and need to adapt to be inclusive and equitable for everyone.

How were the key actions in the Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy drafted?

The strategy was drafted based on what was heard through public engagement and what was learned through an analysis of the area's open space, mobility and housing. It also reflects the objectives found in *The City Plan*, Breathe and the city's climate resilience and adaptation strategies.

A number of the key actions call for a change to on-street parking or City-owned parking lots. How will the city deal with the reduction in parking?

We recognize that repurposing parking is one of the trade-offs needed to make the proposed improvements to the public realm. The project's parking study highlighted the overall availability of parking as well as strategies to address reductions:

- Phased reduction of parking
- Additional communication and engagement with residents and relevant groups
- Better management of the existing supply of parking
- Developing a parking wayfinding strategy
- Ensuring accessible parking spaces
- Continued promotion of transit and active modes



- Underground public parking in nearby redevelopments

What happens next?

Once Phase 3 engagement is completed, the project team will review all the input received and use the input to adjust the draft strategy.

A What We Heard Report will summarize the input received, how the input was used, changes made and changes that could not be made to the final draft of the strategy. The project team will present the final draft of the strategy to Council's Urban Planning Committee in August 2024.

When and how will the key actions be implemented?

If the strategy is endorsed by Council, work towards implementing the different actions can begin. The various actions in the Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy will take time to realize.

The implementation section (section 4.0, p. 61) highlights the short, medium and long-term phasing, funding, process and steps that will guide the recommended improvements. Additional communication and engagement will be required as part of the implementation.