

Taking Steps . . .

towards a more



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What's New with Walkable Edmonton?

Sadly, our most recent news is that Rod Keith, who has been the voice of Walkable Edmonton and has written every issue of "Taking Steps", has decided to retire as our Newsletter Editor. Rod's enthusiasm and commitment have been noteworthy and he will be sorely missed!

For now this leaves Ian Hosler, our newly minted Walkable Edmonton Coordinator to step into the gap feet first to continue the "Taking Steps" tradition. Please bear with us during this time of change...any suggestions for improvements or articles are welcome!

Ian has been busy over the summer getting organized and wrapping his head around walkability. We have just completed a strategic planning session with our Community Services Project Team and the next step is to pull together a larger working group of civic and other partners in walkability to try

to move things forward. Stay tuned on that front!

We are looking forward this fall to working with Planning & Development to develop a Walkability strategy as part of the Smart Choices Program.



Also beginning this fall is the Sidewalk Strategy being developed by the Transportation Department to identify the "missing links" in the sidewalk infrastructure and a process for prioritizing their construction. This will involve a number of public meetings and other opportunities to provide input, so stay tuned for that information coming soon!

Transportation will also be reviewing the Bicycle Transportation Plan, initially developed in 1992 during 2007.

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Walkable Highlands 112 Ave. Road Diet



The Communities of Highlands and Bellevue have been working diligently with the Transportation Department to follow up on the outcomes of their community design charrette in April of 2005.

Their highest priority was a “road diet” for 112 Avenue between 50th Street and Wayne Gretzky Drive. The Transportation Department has done considerable work in studying the traffic flows and average speeds and has come up with a number of options for the road diet with input from the community. There have already been two open houses for residents to provide input on the options and there will be additional opportunities this fall for citizens to review the options and voice an opinion.

Information on the road diet, the proposed options and public open houses coming soon (Oct. 4 – 14 at a number of times and locations) can be found on the Transportation Department Website.



Walkable Edmonton is also working with the Highlands Community to develop a proposal for the development of a new trail in the River Valley and a pocket park at the north end of the 50th Street pedestrian bridge.

Neighbourhood Revitalization

There is a lot going on right now on the Neighbourhood revitalization front here in the City of Edmonton as the City works to re-energize and revitalize different areas of town:

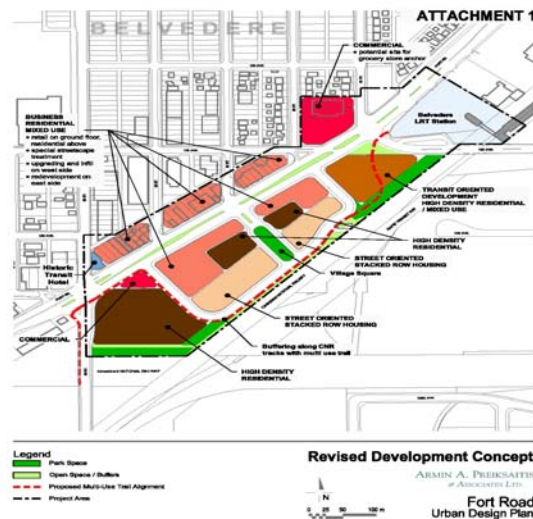
- Recently released is the concept plans developed for the Downtown East area:



- The Alberta Avenue Initiative has seen a great deal of community involvement including a community planning charrette hosting Dan Burden. The community will be going to council this fall with the final plans.



- The Fort Road Old Town Development is proceeding and is in the stage of property acquisition and design.



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Jim Diers Public Lecture

Safedmonton & Neighbourhood Revitalization invite you to join Jim Diers - a Community Development Specialist – to hear the best ways to develop safe and healthy Communities!

You are invited to join Jim Diers, Community Development Specialist *extraordinaire*, in a practical presentation to learn more about making communities safer and healthier. This opportunity for learning includes:

- changing roles of governments and communities
- empowering neighbourhoods and communities
- planning and creating strong neighbourhoods and connecting communities
- practical planning for safety

"I am convinced that people still yearn for a sense of community and want to contribute to the greater good. They also want a voice in their government." Jim Diers

Jim Diers has a passion for participatory democracy. Appointed Seattle's first director of the Department of Neighbourhoods in 1988, Jim worked to promote a new kind of community engagement and development for 14 years. Currently, Jim directs the South Downtown Foundation and works for the University of Washington where he teaches community development. Jim's new book, Neighbor Power: Building Community the Seattle Way is available through the University of Washington Press.

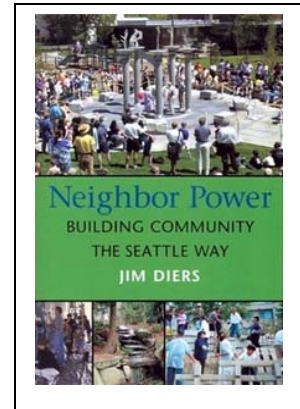
Lecture Details:

Date: Thursday, Oct. 12, 2006
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Westin Hotel, 10135 – 100 St. Yukon, Alberta & B.C. Rooms

To register or for further information:

Call Linda @ 944-5487 or
 e-mail Linda.murray@edmonton.ca

The presentation is free, but space is limited, please register by Oct. 6, 2006. Refreshments will be available



"The Community is at its best when many networks support one another and come together as equals for their common good...The best way to develop a safe and healthy community is to open the door to neighbours, build strong community organizations and forge alliances that link them" – Jim Diers

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More Connections

Fort Edmonton Footbridge

City Council has approved a 12.6 million dollar project to build a footbridge across the North Saskatchewan River that will connect the River Valley Trail system south of Fort Edmonton to the and the Oleskiw

neighbourhood on the west side of the river. The City will contribute 4.2 million with additional funding coming from Provincial and Federal grant funding. Planning and securing grant funding will occur in the fall of 2006.



Kennedale Ravine Trail

On June 10, 2006 a new trail was opened spanning the length of Kennedale Ravine from 40th St. to Hermitage Park and the River Valley Trail system. It also links up with an existing paved multi use trail in the ravine that extends the connection to 50th St.

“West End Residents embrace \$12.6 million footbridge. New route across river pleases regular users of valley paths.” - Edmonton Journal

My Favourite Walk – Ian Hosler

In the five years I spent as a Park Ranger working in the River Valley Parks system, one of my favorite areas to walk in the valley was Kinnaird Ravine. The beauty of Kinnaird is it is a deep ravine with old growth trees, so once you are down into it you are totally unaware that you

are still walking in the City. The trail descends from Sheriff Robertson Park on the corner of 111 Ave. & 82 St. and connects to the River Valley Trail system between Dawson Park and Concordia College. The trail is an off-leash area so be prepared to meet some friendly dogs

coming back from a swim in the river. The distance is just over 1200 meters one way from the trailhead down to the river.

Like to share your favourite Walk ... drop us a line!

Traffic Accidents Hit New High

The most recent report on collision statistics from the Transportation Dept. sheds some light on one of the impacts of the current economic boom – “there are an estimated 33,000 more private vehicles on the streets in 2005 than there were five years

earlier. The number of vehicle collisions on Edmonton’s ever-busier streets jumped 10 per cent last year, a new report shows.” The 22,700 crashes in Edmonton alone resulted in an estimated \$84 million in property damage.

“Collisions resulting in injuries rose only 4 percent, and fatalities dropped to 27, down from 37 the year before. The report also shows a 13 percent rise in injuries from collisions involving bicycles.”



“The worst intersection in Edmonton for traffic collisions for two years running – the traffic circle at 142 St. & 107th Ave...”

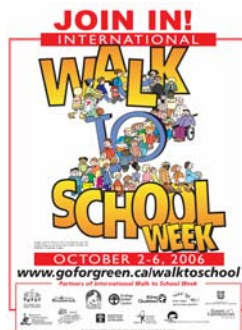
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International Walk to School Week Oct. 2 – 6, 2006

Every year, students from across the world participate in *International Walk to School Week* during the month of October by walking or biking to school with parents, school staff or community leaders. Here in Canada, we celebrate the event during the first week of October. Schools can register online, and they receive a toolkit to help them organize the event. Schools are also eligible for prizes by filling out the Awards and Feedback Form. Get your school to

participate! Go to the Go For Green website for more information on how your school can be involved.



100 Ave. MU Trail

More trail connections! The Transportation Department has been directed by City Council to construct a multi use trail along 100 Ave, from 149 St to 163 St. The trail will provide a great connection to McKinnon Ravine and the rest of the River Valley Parks System.

Open houses have been set up to showcase the plans for the trail, so if you're interested drop by:

Sept. 16, 2006 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Glenwood Community League Hall
16430-97 Ave.

Sept. 21, 2006 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
West Jasper Place & Sherwood
Community League Hall
9620-152 St.

Can't attend? E-mail comments to:
transplanning@edmonton.ca

Planning Academy

Curious about land use planning?

The City of Edmonton invites you to join us in exploring Edmonton's land use planning system—what it is, what it means, and how it works. The Planning Academy—Planning, Building and Living in Edmonton is a public education program made up of three core courses:

1. *Land Use Planning the Big Picture*
2. *Getting a Grip on Land Use Planning*
3. *Come Plan with Us: Using your Voice*

In the fall of 2006 we'll be offering our first elective course on Transportation Planning...

For information on these courses go to the Planning & Development website or call: 496-6242



EXISTING CONDITION

PROPOSED TRAIL

100th AVENUE - 158 ST. LOOKING EAST

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University of Alberta doing Walkability Research

Walkable Edmonton

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.edmonton.ca/walkableedmonton

Dr. John Spence, with the Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation at the University of Alberta is working on Edmonton based research to compare the influences of built form vs. socioeconomic status on physical activity indicators in a number of Edmonton Communities. The study

will be using a walkability index to evaluate the walkability of a range of Edmonton neighbourhoods. We look forward to hearing the results and that we will have some direct Edmonton based research on walkability.



2005 Household Travel Survey

The City Transportation Department has just released the results of their 2005 Household Travel Survey. The survey overview indicates, "like other major Canadian Cities, Edmonton is experiencing a strong growth combined with a trend to suburbanization, affecting travel patterns across the city, increasing car usage and trip distance. However, central areas of the city have seen healthy growth in the business and educational opportunities. The maturing age profile of Edmontonians has also contributed to changes in travel." The study shows that the total weekday trips made by City residents in 2005 were 2.56 million with an average of 3.6 trips/day. The good news is that Edmontonians are being more active...the number of trips we make either by walking or cycling is up 16% with the greatest increase in the 25-64 age category since 1994.



If you would like to have your name added to our electronic mailing list, please click on the following icon:



If you do not have an e-mail connection we can send you copies by mail. Drop us a line at:
Walkable Edmonton, c/o Ian Hosler
Edmonton Community Services
P.O. Box 2359
Edmonton, AB

Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or colleague

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