



21 Ave SW Adaptive Sidewalk

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

June 19, 2019

Project overview

In 2017/2018 the City of Calgary held workshops with the Bankview Community Association (CA) to identify and prioritize missing sidewalks in Bankview. 21 Avenue SW between 17A and 18A Streets SW currently has no sidewalk and was identified as the highest priority to correct for pedestrian access based on the proximity to transit and community amenities such as the community hall and Bankview playing field.

An adaptive sidewalk improves safety and connectivity by creating a separated walking facility for pedestrians on the street. They are used where there is no existing sidewalk and when we cannot build a traditional sidewalk next to an existing curb.

The 21 Avenue S.W. Adaptive Sidewalk project directly aligns with the City of Calgary Pedestrian Strategy: Action 21 – Missing Links.

Engagement overview

On May 4, 2019, The City of Calgary hosted a one-day street lab event from 12 – 2 p.m. along 21 Avenue S.W. between 18A Street and 17A Street S.W. The event involved building an adaptive sidewalk using temporary materials to demonstrate how the plan would improve safety and close a community-identified missing link in the sidewalk system. During the event, the public was invited to provide input on the design, location and desirability of an adaptive sidewalk along 21 Avenue S.W. between 17A Street and 18A Street. Additionally, we talked to residents of Bankview about which improvements they are most interested in making long term. The public input was being gathered to evaluate whether to proceed with the installment of an adaptive sidewalk.

What we asked

These are the specific questions that participants were asked to provide input on as part of the engagement. We asked:

- What are the benefits of having an adaptive sidewalk on this street? Why?
- What are the drawbacks of having an adaptive sidewalk on this street? Why?
- How do you travel through this street and your neighborhood (walk, bike, drive, other)?
- Should the adaptive sidewalk be piloted on this street? Why yes, or why not?



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What we heard

- For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section.

For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

What we heard, what we did

Improved Pedestrian Safety	The project team heard from participants that the street sees many pedestrians including dog walkers, parents with strollers and those with mobility challenges. The team also heard that parked cars make it difficult to see passing cars when exiting from lanes and that a sidewalk would improve overall safety. Because of these responses the project team feels its important to proceed with installation of the adaptive sidewalk.
Protected Space	Respondents felt it was important pedestrians would be protected from vehicles on the road and that the example pictures of other adaptive sidewalks would help give this protection. The team will proceed with the planned design which includes pinned curbs to separate moving cars and pedestrians.
Parking Loss	Residents expressed their concern with the loss of parking given the parking pressures in the neighbourhood. Overall, respondents felt it was important to provide a safe walking space despite the parking challenges. Given respondents' expressed priority, the project team will proceed with the adaptive sidewalk. The team will also work with redevelopment process to re-establish parking and build more traditional sidewalks outside of the curb space.
Restricting Road Width	Residents remarked on how narrow this stretch of street is. The project team confirmed that 21 st Avenue is narrower than most residential streets. The project team also confirmed that replacing parking with adaptive sidewalk will open up slightly more driving space than is available currently.



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Next Steps/FAQ:

- Will more input be solicited? No further engagement is planned.
- Was a decision made?
The decision to proceed with the adaptive sidewalk has been made. Residents showed strong preference for an adaptive sidewalk.
- When will you communicate with stakeholders next? Prior to construction starting we will inform residents via tactics such as letters to neighbours, CA Social Media channels and Ward office emails.
- When will the construction start? The construction of the adaptive sidewalk is planned for the second half of summer or early fall 2019.



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Summary of Input

This section provides examples of input received. The input was summarized and placed into themes. These four themes were the most representative in all the feedback received.

Theme	Detailed explanation or example
Improved Pedestrian Safety	<p>“The indicated section of 21 Ave S.W. needs a sidewalk because there is a no safe way to walk. Cars and trucks tend to speed when doing up the hill and the road is well used (busy at times).”</p> <p>“Safety-busy walking street where many blocks are missing sidewalks, hilly, dog walks-many.”</p> <p>“A. more visibility when exiting from alleyways in motor vehicles. B. pedestrians who are already choosing to walk there, will be provided with safety.”</p>
Protected Space	<p>“Much easier to walk through the community-walk my dog a lot- a be safer if it protected from traffic.”</p> <p>“Obviously, a benefit for strollers, wheelchairs, pedestrians, dogwalkers.”</p> <p>“Gives a designated safe area for walkers and dogs.”</p>
Parking loss	<p>“The drawbacks are that I won’t be able to park my car along the side of the road. Some of us have no front garages.”</p> <p>“If the biggest drawback is the loss of a handful of street parking spots, that pales in comparison to the advantages.”</p> <p>“Parking on one side of 21st Ave is a necessity. With increased density, we cannot afford to lose 10 more spots. We used to be able to park on both sides. Try to leave parking from alley west.”</p>
Restrict width of road	<p>“Narrows street too much.2way traffic!!!2135 property-sidewalk could be continued from sidewalk immediately west of this address- no Need to cut into road.”</p> <p>“Already a narrow street so may inhibit 2-way traffic”</p> <p>“No parking, no two-way traffic. Too narrow a street. People will not take turns, winter on a steep hill little room for one car much less 2 cars in a narrow space. City does not plough road now, what happens in winter in fact is the bulk of our year? Who clears now form sidewalk if its built?”</p>



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Themed Verbatim Comments

Question 1:

What are the drawbacks of having an adaptive sidewalk on this street?								
None	Weather Conditions	Parking Loss	Keeping it, 2-way traffic will be hard	Restrict width of road	Safety	Aesthetics	Maintenance	Not Permanent
4	2	11	2	8	1	1	1	1

Question 2:

What are the benefits of having an adaptive sidewalk on this street?					
Improved Pedestrian Safety	No Benefit	Protected space	Discourages Street Walking	Improves Visibility	Decreased Traffic
12	2	10	1	1	1

Question 3:

How do you travel through this street and your neighborhood (walk, bike, drive, other)?			
Walk	Bike	Drive	Walk dog
23	18	25	2

Question 4:

Should the adaptive sidewalk be piloted on this street?		
Yes	No	Undecided
20	7	1



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Verbatim Comments

45 participants, 26 completed questionnaires.

1. What are the benefits of having an adaptive sidewalk on this street? Why?

- Protecting people from hitting pedestrians
- No street walking
- Safety reasons for dog walkers, children walking to school.
- Obviously, a benefit for strollers, wheelchairs, pedestrians, dogwalkers.
- Safer for people to walk on the street
- Pedestrian safety
- Safety-busy walking street where many blocks are missing sidewalks, hilly, dog walks-many.
- Safety by having traffic away from people. Also, may slow traffic.
- None
- Safer for pedestrians to walk
- I see little to none to carve out extra lane on an already narrow street, treacherous in winter.
- Excellent proposal. Must be one way on 21st street preferably east bound.
- Much easier to walk through the community-walk my dog a lot- a be safer if it protected from traffic.
- Gives a designated safe area for walkers and dogs.
- No place to walk or bike at this time.
- Safe path for people to walk on.
- Better than nothing.
- Safety.
- A. more visibility when exiting from alleyways in motor vehicles. B. pedestrians who are already choosing to walk there, will be provided with safety.
- We need a sidewalk, but should be better more attractive sidewalk.
- Only benefit would be if it decreased traffic up and down the avenue. Too steep a hill, too narrow. Too many people. Builders will not add a sidewalk where should be their responsibility, they will not build adequate parking! The temporary sidewalk will remain temporary.
- The indicated section of 21 Ave S.W. needs a sidewalk because there is a no safe way to walk. Cars and trucks tend to speed when doing up the hill and the road is well used (busy at times).
- We feel there are almost no benefits-given the steep hill, narrow road, frequent excels speed of traffic---it spells many risks (snow, ice)? A proper sidewalk should be created...safe + preventing accidents.
- Safety, active lifestyle.
- Safety



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2. What are the drawbacks of having an adaptive sidewalk on this street? Why?

- Winter/snow
- Parking loss
- The drawbacks are that I won't be able to park my car along the side of the road. Some of us have no front garages.
- If the biggest drawback is the loss of a handful of street parking spots, that pales in comparison to the advantages.
- This will negatively impact parking on the street, especially for the people that live on that particular street.
- None- if parking is a problem lift the two-hour zones up the hill and around the old hospital.
- Narrow-so if allowing parking still would be hard to get 2-way traffic. If making one way would prefer road runs east-house at top of hill +car lights.
- Will restrict width of the road.
- Parking – already restricted. Street too narrow. Safety near corners may be an issue. Not aesthetically pleasing too modern concept for older neighborhood. People might not use it anyways.
- Narrows already narrow/windy road.
- Parking on one side of 21st Ave is a necessity. With increased density, we cannot afford to lose 10 more spots. We used to be able to park on both sides. Try to leave parking from alley west.
- Narrows street too much.2way traffic!!!2135 property-sidewalk could be continued from sidewalk immediately west of this address- no Need to cut into road.
- None.
- None for me.
- Already a narrow street so may inhibit 2-way traffic
- Very tight for traffic.
- Less parking.
- Chokes traffic + creating more congestion. Also eliminates existing parking.
- No room for cars.
- Lots of parking.
- Street will be narrower.
- Loss of key parking. There are no lanes on many blocks! Ugly, not attractive.
- No parking, no two-way traffic. Too narrow a street. People will not take turns, winter on a steep hill little room for one car much less 2 cars in a narrow space. City does not plough road now, what happens in winter in fact is the bulk of our year? Who clears now form sidewalk if its built?
- Any sidewalk is better than no sidewalk at all. There should be a proper permanent sidewalk for safe pedestrian travel.
- Please see above. Also, would this become a "bicycle" lane? Of convenience for those taking a short cut?



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- none

3. How do you travel through this street and your neighborhood (walk, bike, drive, other)?

- Walk, bike and drive
- Walk, bike and drive
- Drive
- Drive and bike (occasional walk)
- Walk, bike and drive
- Walk, drive, bike, walk my dog etc.
- Walk, bike, drive
- Walk and drive
- All
- Walk, drive.
- Drive daily, walk frequently in summer. Park in Summer.
- Walk, bike, drive often.
- Yes. Car/bike.
- Walk/bike.
- Walking my dog.
- All the above.
- All the above.
- Drive and walk
- All three.
- Walk or drive.
- All of the above.
- Walk and drive. Bike sometimes.
- Walk, drive, cycle.
- Usually walking and occasional entry or exiting the 18th street and 21st Ave by car. Exiting 18th street on 21st Ave can be dangerous due to poor visibility. Cars and trucks parked on the northside of 21st Ave between 17 A street and 18th street.
- Walk and drive.
- Walk, bike, drive.
- All 3 (walk, bike, drive)

4. Should the adaptive sidewalk be piloted on this street? Why yes, or why not?

- Yes
- Yes, safety.



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- I am not sure, undecided.
- Yes
- It shouldn't be I am concerned about parking as I currently
- Absolutely, and build out a real sidewalk as a development happens.
- Yes
- Yes, but during winter would give a better result.
- No because using a regular sidewalk would save money and is better idea.
- Yes-try something that will improve walkability + pedestrian safety.
- No, we need the parking. The north side of 21st Ave is now zoned for new housing and the new duplex eliminates several spots. Parking on the north side of 21st Ave is already prohibited.
- No! unpleasant looking. Too invasive on driving lanes.
- Yes. Should couple with boulevard treatment at corner of 17A St and 21 Ave S.W.
- Fine with piloting the adaptive sidewalk, it needs to be a low curb sidewalk.
- Yes. Great idea!
- I think so. Can't hurt to try. :) thanks!
- Yes. But please address intersection at 21 Ave and 17th A S.W.
- Yes, streets need sidewalks.
- No. see #2.
- Yes, let's try – not too busy that too long of a deal.
- Because we need it.
- I just moved here to this spot, and the first thing I thought was: "why is there no sidewalk here?" it feels unsafe.
- No. Should be permanent walk on sides like east and west of here!
- No. Promoting high density housing in row houses passed in an R2 zoned area. Make people, more cars, no parking. No room for 2 car traffic. On a steep hill, winter conditions no room once a slide occurs. Building a curb, cars will drive over it. Wheelchairs on a steep hill recipe for a fatal accident. Can't have high density housing on a narrow Ave and expect to have room for sidewalk taking up the room on the road. Not enough space!
- I don't see any drawbacks to the pilot project ideally there should be a permanent sidewalk and traffic calming devices in place to allow for safe pedestrian travel. While most drivers are careful and respectful, there is little room for evasion for those who aren't. thank you very much for doing this project. Residents of [REDACTED]
- The pilot period should involve the challenges of winter weather, not only warmer months. What plan is in place to keep this "road walk" safe? Cleaner of snow? Would you want to push a pram here? Have your children/elderly parents use it? Cars sliding as they break on icy roads? Thank you for reaching out to the residents. We had submitted a petition raising concern about parking (2 houses on corner, soon to be 3) and road safety.
- Do it today.
- Yes.
- This looks too ugly. Just extend existing walks behind cars.