

3 Avenue Walking and Wheeling Upgrades

This FAQs document is intended to be a living document that grows and changes as the 3 Avenue Walking and Wheeling Upgrades project evolves.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why 3 Avenue?

- 3 Avenue South is the only east-west road that connects to the Bow River Pathway on the west side (at 8 ST SW) and the east side (via 1 ST SE) in the communities of Eau Claire and Chinatown.
- 3 Avenue South has been identified in past plans and policies as an active transportation corridor (Relevant Plans & Policies can be found on our [website](#)), and it is an existing on-street bikeway.
- Although 2 Avenue South is also a good connection for people walking and wheeling in the area south of the Bow River, it does not connect across Eau Claire and Chinatown. It would not improve access to Chinatown or the commercial core of the Centre City as effectively as 3 Avenue South does.

Why is the City doing this work now?

- We know that future development in the Eau Claire Area means there will be a need for alternative routes for walking and wheeling when the existing Bow River Pathway is closed due to construction or in the event of high water levels on the Bow River. Doing the work now supports our intent to create resilience in the area and future-proof our pathway and bikeway network.
- We are launching this project in coordination with the Eau Claire Area Improvements so that we can find efficiencies and connectivity with other projects in the area while addressing the impact on the community.

Are the improvements to 3 Avenue permanent?

- The improvements to 3 Avenue will be permanent and will be built with the flexibility to adjust and change as the needs of the community change.
- 2 Avenue South will be used as an interim temporary detour for the Eau Claire Area Improvements construction work while the permanent 3 Avenue South infrastructure is being built in Q2 2021.

When will the upgrades start, and when will they be finished?

- Construction of the 3 Avenue South is anticipated to start in Q2 2021, and we anticipate the improvements will be complete in 2021.

When will the decision be made as to which options are going to be chosen?

- The initial design options for 3 Avenue Walking and Wheeling Improvements are open for input from August 12 to September 2. The input received through our public engagement process will be reviewed by the project team in conjunction with the technical requirements for the final design.
- Safety is a priority for people walking and wheeling throughout the communities along 3 Avenue. The final design will prioritize safety, predictability and comfort for people travelling in the area.
- We anticipate a final design will be shared in the Fall of 2020.

What is the impact of parking along 3 Avenue for this project?

- We know that parking in the area is important for people visiting and travelling to the area. When the design is finalized, we will have a better idea of exactly what the impacts to parking will be along the Avenue South corridor. To mitigate these impacts, the project team is working to explore the option of additional parking on adjacent streets.

How will the 3 Avenue improvements be maintained?

- The City of Calgary is working to develop a design for 3 Avenue South that considers maintenance in all seasons, as well as the longer-term life-cycling needs for the sidewalks and roadway surface. This way, ongoing maintenance costs can be minimized while keeping the corridor clear and accessible year-round.

How will the 3 Avenue Wheeling upgrades integrate with the existing bike lanes and pathways?

- The designs presented have identified and addressed areas that intersect with the existing bike lanes and pathways to remove any awkward intersections for all users. For example, turn boxes and lane painting help to create predictable movements for people driving and people using the bike lanes.

Glossary of terms

To create a common understanding of the words used to reference people moving throughout our City in different ways, we have included a glossary of terms. Language being used today to refer to citizens moving throughout our City are not wrong or incorrect, but we are working to create inclusive and people-first language.

Terminology	Reference or explanation
Walking	A person who travels by foot, including using a mobility device such as a walker or cane.
Wheeling	A person travelling by bike, skateboard, in-line skates, kick-scooter, e-scooter, or mobility device.

Driving	People who use a motor vehicle, including cars, motorcycles, trucks, and buses.
Bike Lane/ Cycletrack	Mobility lanes separate modes of traffic travelling at different speeds with painted lines (bike lane) or with a physical barrier (cycle tracks). They are the most effective way of reducing potential conflicts between people driving, wheeling and walking, and make sharing the road a safer and more predictable experience for everyone.

Commonly used phrases:

Safe Streets	We can all do our part to make our streets Safer. Safer means where real and perceived safety concerns are addressed. Where the risk of tripping and slipping is low, where the design of the street encourages safe and appropriate travel behaviour from all users; and, where the design discourages crime and social isolation
Welcoming to all ages and ability	Providing transportation and recreation options for Calgarians, regardless of their economic status, age or abilities, is important for a healthy and active community. Acknowledging that visitors and residents will have different travel needs and capabilities throughout their lives by accommodating a range of physical and mental capabilities in the designs. Ensuring all Calgarians have the opportunity to be part of their community at any age or ability.
Comfortable for a variety of travel choices	The physical design of the street results in vehicle speeds that are slow enough that all existing and emerging modes can mix safely and comfortably.
5A Network	Implementation of the Always Available for All Ages and Abilities (5A) Network principles will provide Calgarians with a transportation and recreation network that increases comfort, safety, connectivity and accessibility for all users. Calgarians want walkable communities, with convenient and attractive connections to neighbours, shopping, services, cultural experiences, natural spaces, workplaces and educational opportunities. Pathways and bikeways provide them with the ability to connect with these destinations. The Guiding Principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate people by their speed Providing separation between people travelling at different speeds improves safety, predictability and comfort. Where appropriate, people will be separated to improve their experience travelling on the 5A Network. • Improve visibility Lighting, signage and pavement markings encourage people to use public spaces and provides visibility on roadways, pathways and parks. They help make people visible to each other, help identify hazards like water, ice, cracks and other debris along routes. • Make it reliable Well-maintained pathways and bikeways will encourage more people to use them throughout the year, regardless of the weather conditions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be accessible for everyone An accessible city benefits everyone. Accessible pathways and bikeways enable people of all abilities to travel around Calgary. Accessibility is improved by the removal of barriers that currently exist across the network. Barriers can be off-set gates, major roadways, waterways, steep hills and uneven surfaces. Reducing or removing these barriers improves accessibility. • Make it easy to use Signs and pavement markings help people make decisions about their route and confirm they are heading in the right direction. Improved signage and wayfinding will help Calgarians get to community destinations
Active Transportation	<p>Active Transportation describes all human-powered forms of travel, such as walking, cycling, in-line skating, skateboarding, skiing, canoeing, and more. Walking and cycling are among the most popular and can be combined with other modes, such as public transit.</p> <p>Active modes support fun and healthy lifestyles: where individuals are encouraged to live actively.</p>
Complete Streets	<p>Complete Streets is an approach to street design that strives to accommodate all transportation modes, including walking, wheeling, transit, and driving. Complete Streets help create more liveable neighbourhoods that encourage people to travel by foot, bicycle and transit by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving safety and accessibility for all road users. • Providing infrastructure for a range of transportation options. • Providing attractive streetscapes and public spaces. • Promote the economic well-being of both businesses and residents.