



URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE - CALGARY

INFORMATION BULLETIN # 75

Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy and Design Reports City of Calgary - Transportation Planning

March 7, 2008

The Transportation Department has completed its draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy and Design Reports. As part of the engagement process, UDI's input and feedback into the contents of these documents will be considered and incorporated where possible. Through a dialogue with UDI members, we wish to determine how Calgary can become a city that provides practical, high-quality options for walking and cycling.

The goal of the reports is to design and operate a city in which walking and cycling are primary transportation choices for efficient and healthy, social and economic urban interaction. The goal can be achieved by providing direct, convenient, safe and comfortable pedestrian and bicycle routes.

Both the pedestrian and bicycle policies can be supported by work done throughout the development process, capital projects, pedestrian and bicycle projects, and maintenance and replacement.

Current Status/Next Steps

- The draft policy and design reports have been prepared by City of Calgary Transportation staff and have been circulated to City of Calgary staff in Transportation, Planning, Parks, and other impacted departments.
- We are presently engaging external stakeholders such as bikeway, walkway, and roadway user groups, developers, educational institutions, utility companies, and local organizations to make sure that our draft documents fit with the needs of the community-at-large.
- From the policies set out in these reports, we are working to develop pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly design guidelines.
- External engagement consultation session on March 20, 2008 with UDI and other stakeholders from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Maude Riley Boardroom on the 7th floor of Municipal Building, 800 Macleod Trail SE.
- Informal drop-in session with external stakeholders on March 13 and 18, 2008 between 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Main Floor Atrium of the Municipal Building, 800 Macleod Trail S.E.

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Commitment to Stakeholders

- The City has drafted Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy and Design reports which outline the needs and characteristics of pedestrian and bicycle travel in Calgary and draw together the best practices and guidelines suggested by organizations such as the Transportation Association of Canada, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the Federal Highway Administration in the United States.
- The City is committed to engaging internal and external stakeholders in order to insure the policies meet a wide variety of needs.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the goals of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy and Design Reports?

The aim is to present the needs of pedestrians and cyclists in a format such that future and existing pedestrian and bicycle environments can be designed and planned with those needs in mind.

2. What are the basic needs of pedestrians?

- Connectivity
- Routes free of obstructions
- Character and a feeling of security and safety

3. What are the basic needs of cyclists?

- Space to ride
- A smooth surface, clear of obstacles
- A connected cycling system
- Ability to maintain speed
- Bicycle parking and amenities at destinations
- To be safe and feel secure
- Education and enforcement

4. What types of policies are being proposed and how did you decide on them?

The policies are based on the guiding principle of creating, operating, and maintaining well-designed, direct, convenient, safe, and comfortable pedestrian and bicycle routes and facilities that provide access to commercial and public services and amenities. Proposed policies include:

Pedestrian Policies

- Plan and build compact, mixed-use communities in order to support walking as a viable mode of transportation.
- Integrate high quality pedestrian facilities with all land use and transportation planning and design.
- Improve existing pedestrian routes and build missing links in the pedestrian system.

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- Decrease conflicts between users on pedestrian facilities through design, education and enforcement.
- Integrate pedestrian movements into everyday maintenance and yearly programs.
- Provide pedestrian routes that are of engaging character and feel secure and safe.
- Plan for pedestrians separately from planning for bicycles; the needs of the two groups are different and the planning approach for each should be separate.

Bicycle Policies

- Plan for cyclists separately from planning for pedestrians; the needs of the two groups are different.
- Plan and build compact, mixed-use communities in order to support cycling as a viable mode of transportation.
- Integrate high quality cycling facilities with all land use and transportation planning and design.
- Improve existing bicycle routes and build missing links in the cycling network.
- Increase acceptance and understanding among road and pathway users through design, education and enforcement to reduce conflicts between cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.
- Regularly maintain bicycle routes.
- Integrate on-street bicycle route improvements into everyday maintenance and yearly programs.
- Provide bicycle parking and other amenities at cycling destinations.

5. Where can I find out more?

The draft documents are available on the internet at:

http://www.calgary.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_766_230_0_43/http%3B/content.calgary.ca/CCA/City+Transportation/Transportation+Planning/Transportation+Solutions/Transportation+Solutions.htm

Contact:

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If you have any questions concerning this issue, you can contact our office at 531-6250.

For your convenience, all UDI – Calgary bulletins are posted on our website at www.udicalgary.com

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