

What We Heard Report – Eau Claire Public Realm Plan

EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC REALM PLAN

Report Back

In September 2017, the City of Calgary held an event at Eau Claire Market to provide a construction update for West Eau Claire Park and an information gathering session for the Eau Claire Public Realm Plan.

The information session presented panels illustrating the purpose and vision of the plan, planning process, and next steps. A written survey was provided to attendees requesting feedback on the overall vision presented in the plan and the vision for each plan area.

102 people attended the information session.

10 people responded to the survey.

Project website: www.calgary.ca/westeauclaire

Overall response from the public:

The survey questions focused on the overall vision presented in the public realm plan as well as the vision for the five different sub zones discussed in the plan. Each question asked the public if they supported or opposed the vision, and to provide comments explaining their choice.

The majority of the survey respondents were from the immediate neighbourhood and supported the overall vision of the plan. Respondents agreed that the public realm plan created "good pedestrian flow", commented that this plan is a step closer to making Downtown Calgary "more vibrant and spectacular" and are in full support of the LRT connection in the neighbourhood. A few respondents believed the new development at Eau Claire Market replaced the "character buildings" with "sterile glass blocks",

Many attendees were interested in the time-line for the projects. Although they stated that they have seen little progress over the last 10 years of engagement, they appreciated the information session. The public would like further consultation and engagement session on the projects as they are concerned with the impact of the design on the neighbouring residences.



What We Heard Report – Eau Claire Public Realm Plan

EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC REALM PLAN

Engagement and Survey Results

102 people attended the information session.

10 people filled out the survey

10 people provided their contact information.

12 design suggestions

+15 connections to existing buildings are necessary.

Traffic flow to Riverfront Ave and Centre Bridge may be too restricted.

Maintain an open, inviting public space in the new design of Eau Claire Market

Eau Claire Plaza should have a family friendly character in

Festival space needs to be maintained and enlarged

Ensure the neighbours are protected from odors and unsightly views of the relocated 1886 Cafe.

Widen pathway of West Eau Claire Promenade to accommodate volume.

Lighting should not be a hindrance to the residential building.

Flood mitigation measure on West Eau Claire Promenade should consider the back yard of the residences.

Consider options to reduce potential vibration from the proposed Green Line.

Design of the new Eau Claire Development needs to ensure the buildings are not bland glass cubes

With the increase in density in the area, maintain fire access

5 concerns regarding the Plan

Character buildings are being replaced by sterile glass blocks

Loss of indoor public space.

Barclay Mall seems to disappear.

Eau Claire requires tweaking not complete demolition.

Open space is being converted to office towers.

What We Heard Report – Eau Claire Public Realm Plan

Survey Results

7 comments supporting the Plan

Vision

- » Good pedestrian flow
- » Step closer to make downtown more vibrant and spectacular

Zone 1

- » Pleased with LRT Connection
- » Invites more people to visit Downtown

Zone 2

- » Appreciate the wavy streets, keeping the current character

Zone 3

- » Eau Claire Market has been a dead-end mall for too long. Retail + business will help invigorate the area.

Zone 5

- » Protects property values (reduces flooding).
- » Lighting essential.
- » Hopefully wont increase transient population in area.

4 comments of concern

Zone 3

- » Disappointed that the city has allowed developer to completely change the area, this includes the demolition of the Barclay Mall, Joey's Spaghetti Factory and historic Bow River Lumber. These buildings have character and are being replaced by sterile glass blocks.
- » Loss of indoor public space now in Eau Claire Market. Barclay Mall seems to disappear.
- » Eau Claire requires tweaking not complete demolition. Very disappointed that the character buildings described above will not be exonerated into the design of the "redevelopment". Calgary has a shortage of old buildings and we are now loosing more for sterile odd buildings that look like everywhere else.
- » This is just developer B.S. to hide the fact that more open space is being converted to office towers.

7 design suggestions

Vision

- » Need +15 connections to existing buildings.

Zone 1

- » Traffic flow to Riverfront Ave and Centre Bridge may be too restricted.

Zone 3

- » Maintain an open, inviting public space

Zone 4

- » Keep a family friendly character
- » Festival space needs to be maintained/enlarged
- » Do not have the back of the 1886 Café facing the existing green roofed town homes

Zone 5

- » Widen path to accommodate volume

