

Attachment 5 – Project Engagement Summary

Overview of Engagement Stages

Engagement on the MDP/CTP review project was divided into two overall stages. Stage 1 occurred between 2019 February and 2019 July. It was guided by the original scope which sought a full review of both plans, focused on both public and stakeholder discussions and feedback in a variety of forums. After the revised scope was adopted in 2019 July, Stage 2 engagement pivoted to being directly focused on proposed amendments using targeted discussions with stakeholder groups. The amendments were posted online 2020 February 18 and feedback was originally set to close on 2020 March 20 but was extended to 2020 June 26 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was augmented by three open houses held in late February and early March of 2020, prior to the pandemic restrictions.

Public Engagement Activities

For Stage 1, public feedback was sought through The City's online engagement portal, in addition to an interactive exhibit at the Central Library location and through visits to several Calgary high schools. The project was advertised by way of online ads, newsletter articles, a Report to Calgarians television segment and distribution of flyers at several city-wide events and locations. In total, there were over 1,900 public interactions through engagement activities.

Generally, feedback:

- Desired a city consistent with the existing vision and policies
- Identified challenges with respect to how policies were implemented
- Identified issues that are being addressed through existing and planned City initiatives
- Noted that funding levels were not sufficient in many regards to achieve plan outcomes.

While feedback was sought on how the plans might be improved, most feedback received was of a more general nature. Policy amendments have been crafted to address key issues that were within the project scope. The feedback helped inform the decision to focus on key amendments in phase 2 when the scope was revised as part of the 2019 July budget measures.

For Stage 2, public feedback was sought through a combination of open house events and online feedback. There were over 4000 visits to the website; 61 comments were received on the proposed amendments. Several comments were aligned with feedback that was received from stakeholder groups. Remaining comments informed minor policy adjustments or spoke to implementation concerns.

Stakeholder Activities

Under the original scope of the project, engagement sought feedback on what was working well with the plans and where there was room for improvement. A cross-section of community, cultural, academic and business stakeholders was assembled to participate in focus group

discussions in the early phases of the project. Discussions focused on what was working well with the plans, what could be improved, and what priorities should be considered going forward. Generally, feedback was similar to public feedback, which indicated that more progress needed to be made on the plans, but the vision continues to describe the future Calgary that stakeholders aspire. After the scope revision, feedback was tightly focused on the proposed amendments and potential impacts to stakeholders. This feedback was used to refine the proposed amendments for the plan.

Three main areas of feedback emerged. Community stakeholders were concerned with perceived erosion of the importance of low-density areas, the initial approach of incorporating equity in the document, and inclusion of community associations in engagement policies. The team provided revised proposed amendments which stakeholders indicated largely addressed the concerns.

Detailed feedback was received from Sustainable Calgary and Calgary Climate Hub. While supportive of the proposed changes, concerns were raised about the pace of progress with respect to climate initiatives, transportation choice and support for developed areas. The team was able to make some additional amendments in response; however many concerns will be addressed through the proposed core indicator review, implementation program and the future, full update of the plans.

BILD Calgary provided many comments between both documents. Concerns primarily focussed on the potential implementation burden from proposed policies (particularly environmental policies), the proposal to make the CTP a statutory document, and the impact of COVID-19 on the two plans. The team was able to incorporate several language improvements. For many of the environmental policies, the proposed policies augment previously approved Council policy. Introducing language and high level policies to support this work is appropriate for the MDP and CTP, and is consistent with how other city plans approach these items. Making the CTP statutory will ensure decision making is consistent, particularly with respect to appeal decisions, which will decrease risk for industry.

No other comments were received by development industry representatives. The item was presented to Calgary Planning Commission (CPC) for comment. Feedback was generally supportive of the proposed amendments, with discussion on how to further improve the plans at the time of a full update.

The plans were circulated to CMRB regional members for a courtesy review as part of the 2020 February circulation. A final formal review, as part of inter-municipal plan requirements, was conducted with neighbouring municipalities over August/September. Comments from Rocky View County, Chestermere and Foothills County were received and addressed both directly and through dialogue at inter-municipal coordination meetings, with no concerns left outstanding.