

What is STEP FORWARD?

STEP FORWARD is The City of Calgary's pedestrian strategy, which is an action plan to outline how The City can create a better quality pedestrian environment.

Strategic Planning Diagram



VISION "To Be a Pedestrian Friendly City"

GOALS

- Improve pedestrian safety.
- Provide universal accessibility.
- Improve the quality and experience of the pedestrian realm.
- Prioritize and coordinate pedestrian related works.
- Promote a culture of walking.
- Further walking as a sustainable, convenient and viable part of Calgary's multi-modal transportation system.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1) Increase the amount of people walking in Calgary regardless of age, ability and gender. *CTP
- 2) Create a safe, well maintained and vibrant pedestrian realm that encourages people to walk. *MDP
- 3) Recognize the vital link between walking and transit by creating high quality pedestrian connections to transit stops and stations with priority investment in activity centres and corridors. *MDP
- 4) Support the physical and mental well-being of Calgarians and promote environmental sustainability through encouragement of walking. *2020 Sustainability Direction
- 5) Cultivate a city authority that can provide for, support and safeguard citizen's ability and choice to walk. *Walk21
- 6) Ensure citizens are given opportunities to celebrate and enjoy walking as part of their everyday social, cultural and political life. *Walk21

*CTP Calgary Transportation Plan, September 2009

*MDP Municipal Development Plan, September 2009

*2020 Sustainability Direction, March 2010

*Walk21 International Charter for Walking

Strategic Planning for STEP FORWARD Pedestrian Strategy

PRELIMINARY FOCUS AREAS

1. Safety

Definition – Reduce pedestrian-vehicle collisions and increase the feeling of personal safety

Tactics:

- a. Improve traffic signals, signs and warning lights for pedestrians
- b. Improve lighting specific for pedestrians and increase lighting levels to illuminate crossing areas
- c. Modify roadway speed limits and propose amendments to the Traffic Safety Act to the benefit of pedestrians
- d. Use CPTED principles for the design of public space to limit the opportunity for crime
- e. Implement no-right-turn-on-red in areas with high pedestrian volumes
- f. Focus safety efforts at pedestrian generators such as: LRT stations, schools, shopping centres, hospitals

2. Plan & Design

Definition – The use of high quality design to ensure functional and accessible connections, to facilitate walking within communities

Tactics:

- a. Address barriers to walking for seniors and the disabled
- b. Improve connections in the existing network, pathways and missing sidewalks
- c. Improve the pedestrian's experience by finding opportunities for amenities and public art
- d. Assist the implementation of Complete Streets standards to remove the bias towards vehicles
- e. Include walkability principles in planning of new sub-divisions and new developments
- f. Address conflict between pedestrians and bicycles especially at underpasses and overpasses

3. Operate & Maintain

Definition – The management of sidewalks as public spaces and the seasonal maintenance and repair of infrastructure

Tactics:

- a. Improve snow and ice clearing policy, and sidewalk closure policy to benefit pedestrians
- b. Address sidewalk obstructions such as poor placement of poles, electrical boxes and signs
- c. Align various programs such as VSI and Local Improvements with walkability principles
- d. Develop management plans for special events and for Placemaking initiatives
- e. Coordinate major projects to realise corporate efficiencies in capital improvements
- f. Improve asset inventory of all pedestrian infrastructure and expand data collection practises

4. Educate & Encourage

Definition – Campaigns to educate citizens about shared responsibilities for road use and encouragement of walking for both recreation and commuting

Tactics:

- a. Develop campaigns to address distracted pedestrians, behaviours and visibility
- b. Encourage more kids to walk through programs such as Safe Routes to School
- c. Support community led initiatives and foster partnerships with local advocacy and in other levels of provincial and federal government
- d. Research trends in walkability and encourage innovations in materials and technologies
- e. Publish findings on the correlation between walking and health and celebrate Calgary's achievements

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PRELIMINARY ACTION PLAN

1. Table list of Action Items also identifying the lead City Division, Business Unit or Agency
2. Action items with timelines, immediate (2016) then short (0-2yrs), medium (3-5yrs) and long term (5-10yrs)
3. Action items with associated funding requirements, Operating or Capital Budget

PRELIMINARY MONITOR, EVALUATE & ADJUST

A monitoring and evaluation program for pedestrians is important as it will allow The City to gain information that can guide future decisions, measure progress towards becoming a pedestrian friendly city and provide accountability to the public.

1. Safety Performance Measures

- a. Rate of crashes involving pedestrians
- b. Vehicle speeds along identified corridors
- c. Pedestrian level-of-service data collection

2. Plan & Design Performance Measures

- a. City investments toward accessibility infrastructure improvements
- b. City implementation of Complete Streets design improvements
- c. Number of network connection improvements
- d. Transit ridership
- e. Mode share (more people walking)

3. Operate & Maintain Performance Measures

- a. Snow and ice clearing level-of-service review
- b. City investments in sidewalk improvements
- c. Rate of sidewalk closures
- d. Pedestrian infrastructure and asset inventory data collection

4. Education & Encouragement Performance Measures

- a. Children walking to or from school
- b. School participation in pedestrian safety, education, and encouragement programs
- c. Driver and pedestrian behaviours and awareness of pedestrian laws
- d. Public communication about pedestrian issues
- e. Alberta Health Services reports on the levels of health and chronic disease in Calgary