

May 26, 2022

201, 1225A Kensington Road
Calgary, Alberta
T2N 038

Dear Jen Malzer,

It is my pleasure to express Sustainable Calgary's support for the Neighbourhood Streets Policy.

Our organization has worked at the intersection of health research, urban design and community engagement for the past decade. From 2013-2020, we co-led the Active Neighbourhoods Canada program with partners in Toronto and Montreal, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. We worked with citizens and designers in 4+ Calgary neighbourhoods to conceptualize more walkable and bikeable public spaces, and leveraged this work towards built projects in each community - from low-budget tactical urbanism to multi-million dollar capital projects. We developed curriculum on healthy community design for public schools and post-secondary institutions; created resources and presentations to inform policy; and conducted and advised on original research. In 2021, we were funded by the federal government's Climate Awareness Fund to bring our codesign approach to the classroom. The object: design and prototype safe, active and inviting routes to school. Our publication "Kids Reimagine School Streets" summarizes this project.

We have learned over the course of our work that the design of roads and communities affects every facet of our lives: our levels of physical activity, risk of chronic disease, risk of collisions, exposure to pollution, exposure to heat; our contributions to climate change; our access to amenities; our social lives, expenditures, levels of happiness and loneliness; our parenting strategies; our resilience to floods - and so on. As our knowledge of these interconnections grows, so too must our policies and practices. We need streets and communities that serve our quality of life. Most urgently, we need streets that help us respond to the Climate Emergency – currently the number one threat to global public health.

Thousands of Calgarians we have worked with want to see changes to their neighbourhood streets. They have called for safer streets; good active travel connections to transit, parks and schools; more opportunities for play and socializing; better snow clearing of sidewalks and pathways; more seating and bathrooms; more trees and greenery; and accessible infrastructure.

The Neighbourhood Streets Policy sets the stage for doing things differently. It identifies and invites the diversity of functions streets can serve. It identifies the *ingredients* for great neighbourhood streets: the people, programs and physical elements. It addresses current best practices and leaves room for emerging ones. It supports greater modal choice and transportation affordability. It will create a much-needed intake process for communities to participate in the design of their streets –not only empowering them to address their priorities, but adding capacity to the City at a time when the need for infrastructure change is so great. It will help the City meet the goals of the Climate Resilience Strategy.

Thank you for your thoughtful, exciting and pivotal work on the Neighbourhood Street Policy. I look so forward to its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Celia Lee', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Celia Lee, B.Sc., M.E.Des.

Executive Director
Sustainable Calgary

May 31, 2022

Worship Jyoti Gondak and Members of Council

Re: Neighbourhood Streets Policy - Letter of Support

Dear Members of Council:

The Federation of Calgary Communities (the Federation) is the support organization for over 240 community based non-profit organizations, including 152 community associations. Among other activities, we assist community volunteers in navigating Calgary's planning process and advocate for a community perspective throughout our work.

We are in strong support of the Neighbourhood Streets Policy (NSP). The Federation has long promoted the liveability of our neighbourhoods and in 2016 introduced ActivateYYC to encourage residents to "walk, play and be neighbourly" by engaging in tactical urbanism. Through this pilot program, we have seen groups improve streetscapes, walkability, and neighbourliness. Our microgrant projects have tested City permitting processes, improved community safety and reclaimed spaces as community gathering places. While great strides have been made, City of Calgary permission space for innovative projects that are located on or near city streets are not consistent or equal nor, if permissions are available, they are not clear for the groups to navigate.

As a member of the NSP steering committee, we had an opportunity to share community ambitions for creating beautiful safe streets that offer connection to people and spaces. A city where streets and connectors are accessible and safe for everyone. Streets that also encourage alternative forms of transportation. Many groups in Calgary, would like to facilitate broader tactical urbanism projects, that might see street closures and traffic calming measures, that currently are not permitted but would be excellent experiments to increase safety, connectivity and mobility.

NHS policy begins to address and empower stakeholders to work together to improve our street safety and accessibility. We believe it enables an environment that encourages people to activate their roadways to improve connectivity, mobility options, safety and, of course, to add a little "fun" to the street scape.

The Federation is in support of this policy and look forward to working with all stakeholders to further activate our streets in Calgary!

Sincerely,



Leslie Evans, BSc., M.M.
Executive Director



**CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Paediatrics, Alberta Children's Hospital**

May 27, 2022

To members of Calgary City Council:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the City of Calgary Neighborhood Streets Policy being led by Jen Malzer. The Neighbourhood Streets Policy supports safe street design in a more responsive and holistic way than under the Traffic Calming Policy. Engineering interventions are so critical to influencing behaviour, through changing the built environment through activation, retrofit and community empowerment will lead to far superior outcomes and is desired by Calgarians. Streets are more than mobility: they are what connect our communities and residents. Starting in the sixties, transportation professionals lost sight of this and the results are now visible in preventable injury, hospitalization, and chronic disease.

I am grateful to have collaborated on this policy, and particularly on an innovative project to establish evaluation metrics that show whether Calgary is advancing towards the values of the policy, or not. Metrics can serve as a determinant of success and by scanning international literature we are able to access a growing body of professionals who are contributing to our understanding of the built environment. The goals of our collaboration with this policy are to find leading indicators that describe success before collisions happen or achieve feelings of belonging and establish walking and wheeling as viable choices.

Our Child Active Transportation Safety and the Environment (CHASE) Canadian research network connects Calgary with examples of inequity of traffic calming investment, and the cognitive abilities and behaviours of children influencing their safety. Connecting this research to policy and implementation through collaboration with city staff is rewarding as it can accelerate how quickly we can develop the communities we all wish to see and live in. In 2019, there were a total of 1457 injuries and 20 fatalities among child pedestrians and bicyclists reported to police in Canada. There is also evidence that child and parent perceptions of traffic safety are associated with children walking and biking to school.

As a child injury epidemiologist, it is my role to understand systemic patterns that contribute to wellness and to work with other professionals to make change. Our focus is on protecting a vulnerable population that is deserving of safe, independent travel and creative communities. The Neighbourhood Streets Policy helps give youth a voice and the opportunity for increased safety - both physically and psychologically. In fact, built environments that support children are good for everyone and contribute to sustainable and environmentally friendly travel options.

Thank you for supporting the Neighbourhood Streets Policy, I look forward to additional collaboration, across governments, to protect children.

Sincerely,

Brent Hagel, PhD
Professor
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