

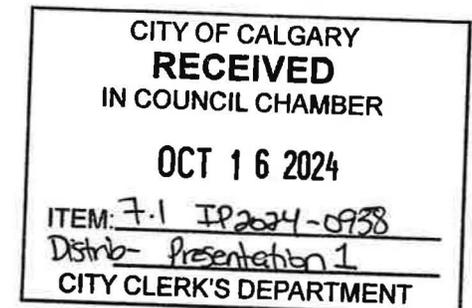
Riley Communities Local Area Plan

Comments to Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure
and Planning

Dr. Angeles Mendoza Sammet

Member of the Working Group for the Local
Area Planning, Riley Communities

Oct. 16, 2024.



Something about me

- **Professional Biologist** (Alberta Society of Professional Biologists).
- **Affiliate Researcher**, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, the Netherlands.
- **Policy Analyst** – Fortalece.ca.
- **Mediator** –Community Mediation Calgary Society.
- **Consultant and trainer** on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Past:

- **Lecturer and Researcher in Environmental Planning and Management** –IHE Delft (Environmental Assessment, Policy Analysis).
- **Biodiversity Specialist** (Golder Associates), **Environmental Planner/ Cumulative Effects Specialist** (CH2MHill) .

Education

- **PhD. Environmental Design**, Speciality Environmental Management, U. of Calgary.
- Certificates in **Public Participation (IAP2)**, **Consensus Decision Making** and **Conflict Management** (ADIRA/AAMS).
- **Resident of Briar Hill Community** .

The Engagement Process

The process for the Riley Communities (RC) Local Area Plan needed more transparency and participation.

- Maps were not available for reviewing before or after the meetings,
 - Relevant information was not available for other residents,
 - Other resident did not have opportunities to participate (even this meeting was not among the “upcoming meetings”).
- Planning requires integration of different types of information to analyze alternatives and select the best option.
 - Key information was missing:
 - Focus on types of buildings and locations is insufficient for a 30- year plan,
 - RC Local Area Plan-draft Mobility Plan was not shared,
 - Plan for Parks, green areas and wildlife corridors were not available,
 - Safety concerns were not fully addressed.

The screenshot shows a web interface for viewing meeting schedules. At the top, there are four tabs: "All Meetings", "Council Meetings", "Standing Policy Committee Meetings" (highlighted in red), and "Other Meetings". Below the tabs is a search bar with the word "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a filter icon (a funnel) and a "List" button with a list icon. The main content area is titled "Upcoming Meetings" and lists two meetings:

- Infrastructure and Planning Committee**
Tuesday, October 22, 2024 @ 9:30 AM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
[Meeting Notice.pdf](#)
- Community Development Committee**
Tuesday, October 22, 2024 @ 9:30 AM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
[Meeting Notice.pdf](#)

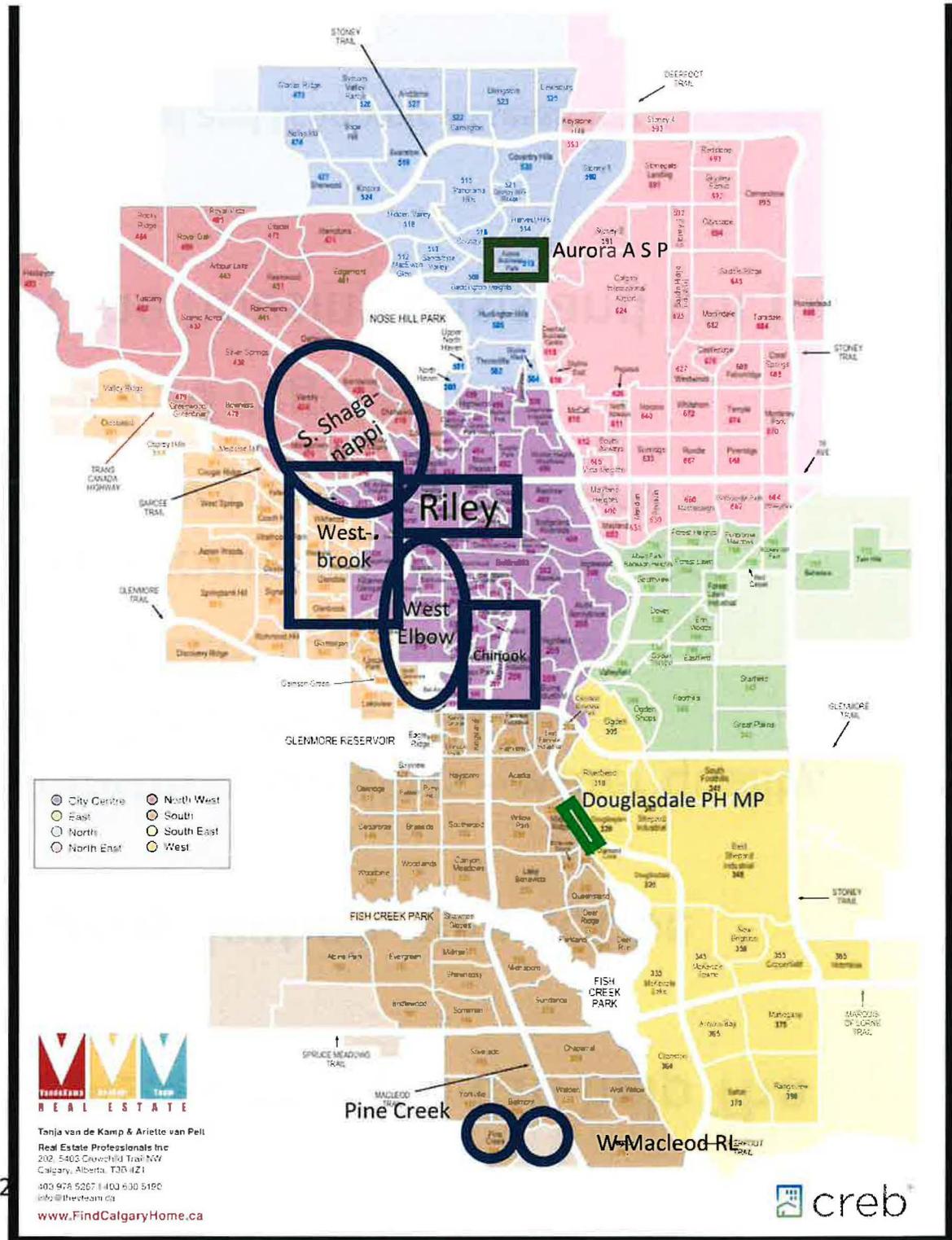
Strategic Environmental Assessment is a recognized process to improve planning¹

The City will benefit by **using Strategic Environmental Assessment(SEA)** to engage residents in the planning process

- **Analyze interactions** (positive and negative) among different local area plans that are being done in isolation.
- **Integrate adaptation of a changing climate** based on constrains (water, space, infrastructure ...).
- **Analyze alternatives** for integrated/multicriteria planning at Local Area and Calgary Region scales.
- **Combine different types of information** to have a better understanding of challenges and opportunities at different scales.
- **Have meaningful** discussions to set a new vision for the future and allow all interested residents- and potentially affect ones- voice their concerns.

¹ Cabinet Directive on Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment, 2024

Cumulative environmental and socio-economic impacts are ignored by taking a piece-meal approach to planning and not integrating different types of information.



Strategic Environmental Assessment(s) can help **The City**, among other...

- **Identify areas** where densification may not be appropriate
 - Glenmore Landing Multistorey buildings – water quality, recreation, visual and cultural impacts
 - Multi-storey buildings adjacent to green areas.
- **Determine potential** environmental, social and economic **impacts** and how to manage them.
- **Analyze gaps** in policies and regulations .
- **Address the causes** of the housing crisis and not just the symptoms.

Example:

Parking Policy (4.1.1 Residential Areas) is insufficient to help residents deal with problems caused by increased density and limited on-street parking:

- Conflict arising in neighbourhoods.

Poor engagement

Land use districts / zones

Find your land use district

Enter your address to find your land use district and property information

2102 12 AV NW

2102 12 AV NW

R-CG

R-CG Residential - Grade-Oriented Infill

R-CG is a residential designation that is primarily for rowhouses but also allows for single detached, side-by-side and duplex homes that may include a secondary suite.

DEVELOPED AREA

Rowhouses and townhouses are in Multi-residential (M1)!

<https://www.calgary.ca/planning/land-use/districts.html>

Thank you for listening

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Some references

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Rise , N and Brooks, N. 2010. Strategic environmental assessment and adaptation to climate change. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. http://content-ext.undp.org/aplaws_publications/1769217/SEA%20and%20Adaptation%20to%20CC%20full%20version.pdf.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). 2023. Guidelines on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Urban Planning Documentation. https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/PUBLICATION%20ENG_0.pdf.