



Engagement Summary

Executive Summary

More than 21,000 Calgarians from all walks of life were engaged in the Calgary Plan to help shape the future of the city. The engagement was expansive in terms of the nature of the topics covered and methods used to engage. We conducted a multi-faceted engagement approach to gather input from all identified interested parties at appropriate times and in accessible ways to ensure that the experiences of Calgarians are integrated meaningfully into the final Calgary Plan.

Engagement for the Calgary Plan was conducted across three phases.

PHASE 1: WHERE ARE WE GOING?

PHASE 2: HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE?

PHASE 3: WHAT COMES NEXT FOR THE CALGARY PLAN?

HOW WE ENGAGED

An iterative approach to engagement was used, starting by understanding the vision and lived experience of Calgarians, and moving to a draft plan built upon those foundations. As a result, by the time we reached Phase 3 engagement, there was general agreement from Calgarians on the goals and direction of The Plan.

We built our engagement efforts around a set of key ideas to make our work accessible to as many Calgarians as possible. These ideas included:

ACCESSIBLE:

We made information easy to learn and share.

CONVENIENT:

We engaged out in community.

EQUITABLE:

We took an equitable engagement approach to reach a broad range of Calgarians, including equity-denied groups.

ADAPTABLE:

We learned and adjusted the engagement strategy at each step of the process.

WHO WE ENGAGED

Engagement efforts were divided into four streams to ensure a comprehensive approach and provide different groups with information and discussions tailored to their level of knowledge and interest in the project.

GENERAL PUBLIC:

Tactics and communications were designed to be broad, accessible and geographically diverse.

EQUITY-DENIED COMMUNITIES:

Engagement focused on underrepresented and historically marginalized populations in Calgary. The goal is to build trust, understand lived experiences and generate solutions.

INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND PEOPLES:

Engagement with Indigenous Nations, including the Blackfoot Nations of Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, and Amskaapipiikani, the Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations of Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney, the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Regions 5 & 6. We also met with urban Indigenous peoples and groups. This strengthens relationships, reflects community priorities and incorporates Indigenous knowledge.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Engagement with organizations and representatives expressing specific interest in one or more aspects of the project. These groups provide valuable subject matter expertise to the City Building Program.

In total, we conducted over 100 in-person and online engagement opportunities and 14 online surveys, reaching over 20,000 Calgarians.

OUTCOMES

Several key themes emerged from our engagement across these streams.

1. HOUSING AND DENSITY:

Participants in our engagement expressed a shared understanding that increased housing supply, types and density are essential to meet current and future needs of diverse Calgarians. Although opinions varied on where to locate growth within the city, there was broad agreement on the fundamental necessity for it.

2. MOBILITY:

Participants expressed a desire for easier movement throughout the city, regardless of their transportation choice. They highlighted interest in more options for walking and wheeling, along with improved access to transit. Participants wanted these options, especially transit, to be safe and cost effective.

3. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES:

Throughout all three phases of engagement, many participants emphasized the importance of Calgary's parks, green spaces, and urban canopy. They expressed a strong interest in protecting the city's existing natural systems and expanding them to ensure equitable distribution and access to green spaces for everyone. Additionally, participants highlighted the role these natural systems play in enhancing climate resilience.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE:

Throughout the engagement, participants expressed the need to prioritize access to and maintenance of essential infrastructure. They highlighted the importance of services like water, wastewater, stormwater, roads, and other critical systems, emphasizing that this infrastructure must meet the demands of Calgary's current and growing population, as well as the challenges of a changing climate.

5. EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY:

Equity and accessibility were both recurring themes in the feedback we received from Calgarians. Participants expressed a desire for all residents – regardless of geography, ability, socio-economic status, or other factors – to have access to the benefits available to many Calgarians.

Information on how feedback was applied in the Calgary Plan can be found in [Attachment 5](#), as well as in the extended [Calgary Plan Engagement Summary](#).

Document library

- [Phase 1 Public What We Heard Report](#)
- [Phase 2 Public What We Heard Report](#)
- [Phase 1 & 2 Equity-denied Communities Engagement What We Heard Report](#)
- [Phase 3 What We Heard Report](#)
- [Draft Calgary Plan](#)
- Calgary Plan Chapter Summary Sheets
 - [Chapter 1: Introduction](#)
 - [Chapter 2: Natural Systems](#)
 - [Chapter 3: Built Systems](#)
 - [Chapter 4: General City Policies](#)
 - [Chapter 5: City Structure Areas](#)
 - [Chapter 6: Implementation](#)