

# Sustainable Calgary

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## Urban Scheming: Acadia residents weigh in

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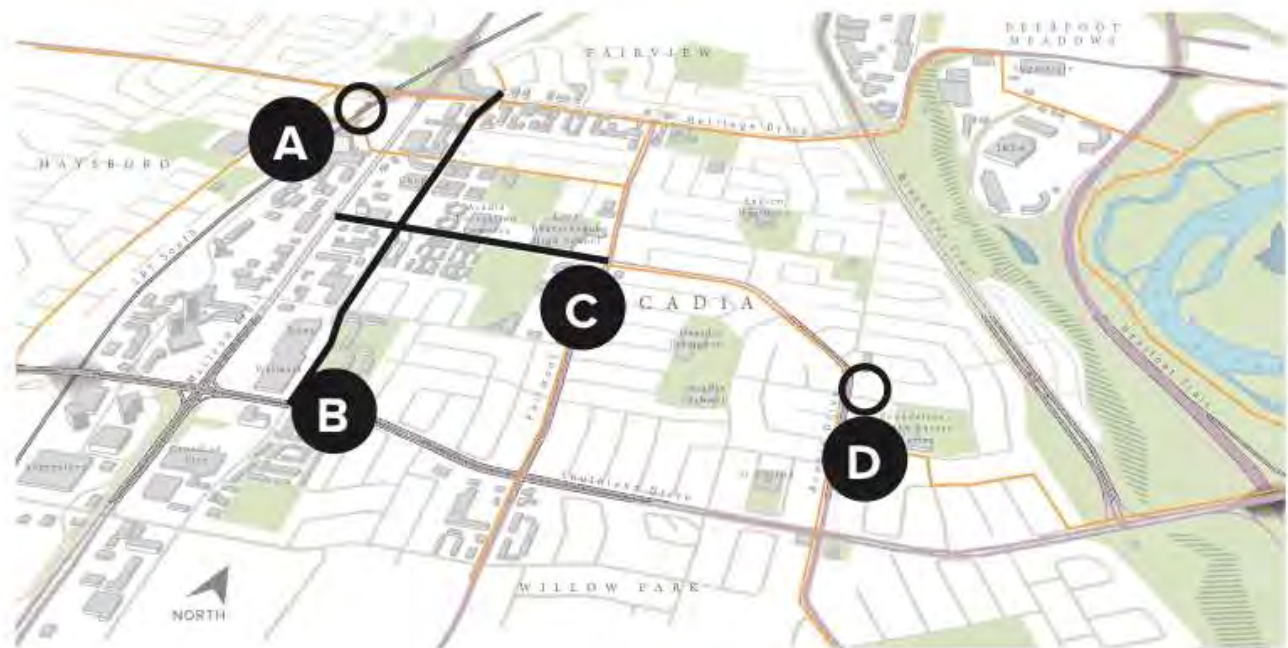
Four schemes devised at the 2016 Urban Design Invitational were presented to Acadia residents at Neighbour Day in June 2016 and the Stampede BBQ in July 2016. Locals cast their votes and provided feedback. Here's what we brought, and here's what they had to say.

### Comments:

- The idea of bringing business to the corners of Heritage and McLeod – awesome!
- We need a coffee shop! Would love to fill all that empty space at Heritage/McLeod with businesses. Will give us things to do. Outdoor workout equipment there would be great – pump iron while waiting for the bus. I think

## ACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS CANADA

# ACADIA DESIGN SCHEMES



How can the design of our communities contribute to public health, wellness and safety? Respond to traffic congestion? Stimulate the economy? Work towards the overall sustainability of our city? These are questions that inspired the development of Active Neighbourhoods Canada, a collaboration between Sustainable Calgary, the Montreal Urban Ecology Centre, and the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation. Active Neighbourhoods has been working with Acadia to find out the good, the bad and the “meh” of its public spaces. The schemes presented here are the result of community





there are City \$\$ for this. Put the equipment where the people are.

- When cycling, this intersection (Heritage/McLeod) takes forever. Can pedestrians go over the traffic?
- Sure would be nice to walk or cycle more!
- Coffee shop please!
- Coffee and tickets should be available at stations! This is the only city where not available.
- Getting across McLeod is the problem! Takes a long time, not pleasant.
- Underground access to Heritage Station – ok if well-lit and manned. If manned, then yes. In Toronto, there are always people around, which makes underground passageways feel safe.
- I use the LRT frequently. The current overpass is ok, it's working. Underground passageway would be much better. I am a 5-year resident, and I don't drive. I take public transit frequently. One more bus to COSTCO/IKEA please.

#### Comments:

- Yes, please improve sidewalks. Sidewalks on both sides please.
- 7/11 – no sidewalks to get there on Bonaventure. Makes McLeod Plaza inaccessible.
- No doors on back or side of the Co-op. Deters local traffic.
- I would walk to the Southland LRT if the walk felt safer/ had sidewalks.
- Keep street as is (don't narrow) but get more green space and sidewalk too.
- Currently ugly!
- In 70s, Bonaventure was a back lane. That's why it is the way that it is.
- Why are the sidewalks on Bonaventure so close to the street? Too close to cars! I like the idea of redeveloping this for pedestrians and improving access to shops.
- Would just take someone on their cell phone for a second for an accident to happen, with the sidewalks as they are.



## ACADIA

### Design Schemes



# CONFLUENCE: RE-THINKING HERITAGE STATION



Heritage LRT Station is a major hub in a network of pedestrian/cycling pathways extending into four Calgary communities and two natural corridors. Currently it is an awkwardly-scaled place surrounded by vacant lots and industrial uses. The overarching idea of this scheme is to make LRT travel more attractive, convenient and safe by re-imagining the station and

its surroundings. In this scheme, underground passageways overcome pedestrian barriers created by the site's rail lines. Green roofs, shops, sitting areas and playgrounds create vibrancy, comfort and convenience. The scheme is motivated by a renewed investment in the public realm, and an emphasis on connectivity over division.





### Comments:

- Acadia Recreation Centre needs better bike racks.
- Businesses need more and better bike racks.
- Don't know about traffic circles – one in McKenzie Towne is bad. Not pedestrian friendly.
- Can we have street lights that change at night based on a sensor?
- I love speed bumps.
- We're in a playground zone on 88<sup>th</sup> – people drive too fast.
- Roundabout would be awesome – as cyclist, the light doesn't change for us. People are not driving smart at this intersection. Would improve my commute on bicycle significantly.
- People come to the community garden because it's a destination. We need more benches, picnic tables, gathering places and BBQs in Acadia. They don't need to all be in the same place, but if you could access them all on a green loop through Acadia, that would be awesome (bike racks, benches, BBQs, picnic tables, gardens, park amenities, bike stands and fixing stations).
- Bike Fixing Station at the community garden would be great – we want that!
- Roundabout with high school drivers would be ... interesting. But I like traffic circles.
- Nowhere to sit in the shade in parks – parents roast. Also, I've seen those water fountains that attach to fire hydrants. We should get some of those.
- We need more public washrooms for seniors, parents, children.
- Athletic loops through the community would be great! (Hurdles, etc.) Mobile adventure playgrounds. Gets people circling the neighbourhood. Spreading the wealth. Nothing is currently aimed at teens, and no water parks. We would host pop-up sprinklers at the Community Garden.
- Loop in the Community Garden folks!!

### Comments:

- Good idea.
- Government should support this work in communities, that make them more vibrant.
- New 7/11 – nowhere to sit.



## ACADIA Design Schemes



# B RE-IMAGINING BONAVENTURE DRIVE



Behind almost every commercial street in Calgary sits another street that does the primary street's 'dirty work'. This parallel route handles two-directional traffic, access to loading docks, and creates a gap between commercial and residential uses. Bonaventure drive is one of these streets.

This scheme re-imagines Bonaventure Drive as a neighbourhood main street. This concept is given generous sidewalks and paths, community gardens, space for markets and

shops, and pubs and coffee shops. It becomes a series of inviting, adaptable and vibrant pedestrian spaces.

This is a concept that evolves over time, beginning with better pedestrian infrastructure and temporary pop-up stores and markets. As redevelopment occurs, the new main street calls for addresses to be oriented toward the neighbourhood, stitching together MacLeod Trail's commercial spaces with the community.

Upgrades to public realm make the street a better environment for active users, and provide a more functional connection to existing commercial spaces.

Over time, new development oriented toward Bonaventure Drive can fill in under-used gaps.

Existing residential uses on the east side of Bonaventure Drive can make small changes to allow units to walk out to the street.

Fingers of high-quality pedestrian space can create access to existing commercial uses.

Traffic calming measures help reduce





speed while maintaining vehicle volume and functional access.

Over time, big-box redevelopment can integrate more human-scale additions that increase street frontage and reduce pedestrian barriers.



- We would love to help create an even more vibrant site. Community orchard expansion + more community shared beds. Love your (ANC) ideas!
- Good idea.
- Sure there are enough people to support a coffee shop here. Tim Horton's is always packed.
- This space is very quiet. This concept will bring more people?
- People love coffee.
- Dangerous corner (6<sup>th</sup>/Acadia) – people turn too fast!
- Kaffeeklatsch portable coffee shop would be a good pick.
- I love the 94<sup>th</sup> street community garden. Who harvests it?
- Such an empty space – parking is always empty. Opportunity to do something here.
- Coffee shop would work. Currently the Italian Centre is my favourite place to hang – they have coffee and the soccer World Cup.
- Having people/furniture near the street makes people think differently when they drive through.
- This is a cut-through. Your idea forces people to say “this is a neighbourhood”.
- 6<sup>th</sup>/Acadia is a sweeping corner. I don't cross there. Bump out is great.
- Italian Centre – so busy cause you can sit and have a coffee.
- Nowhere in neighbourhood to get a good coffee!
- I like this one. Please put bike parking here.
- Not a lot happens here, and so much parking. Thumbs up on this project.

And the winner?? This was an *extremely* tight race, but **Acadia Village Pop-Up Plaza (D)** won it in the end! Close behind was the Confluence (A), with A Green Welcome (C) and Re-imagining Bonaventure (B) Drive tying for 3.

We're currently 'scheming' how to implement some of these changes, and will keep you up-to-date! Already pilot projects hit the ground in March 2016, courtesy of the City of Calgary and Safer Calgary's Safe and Smooth Symposium, with feedback gathered from drivers by Calgary Police. Woot!





Tony reporting observations from traffic calming pilots that morning, March 2016.

## TO ACADIA

As part of a broader network of green, pedestrian-oriented streets, this redefined portion of 90th Avenue improves the major west entrance to Acadia. The scheme incorporates public trees, new plazas, sections of shared street space, and a range of traffic-calming measures. Special thought is given to neighbourhood legibility, managing pedestrian-vehicle relationships, and to spaces for seniors

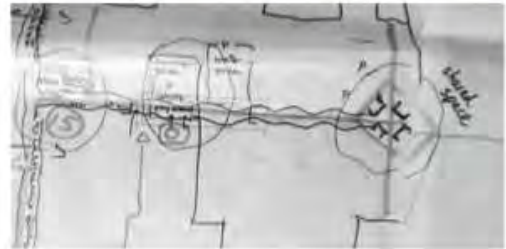
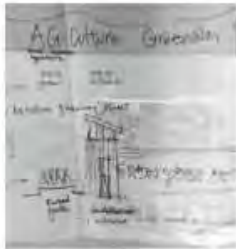
and children. Landmark elements on the west edge define the entrance from MacLeod Trail. At Bonaventure Drive, a small plaza creates a transition point to this important north-south route. Toward the centre of the scheme, a shared road space defines a central district and links the rec centre, tennis centre, and high school. A green corridor intersects the street here, providing a legible connection

to this new hub, especially for the seniors and students nearby.

Green space is created with street trees, parks, playgrounds, and community gardens. These kinds of changes are good for people as well as local ecologies. This scheme incorporates a traffic circle at 90th Avenue and Fairmount, which helps calm traffic and reduce the risk of collisions.







## ACADIA Design Schemes



# D ACADIA VILLAGE POP-UP PLAZA

In this scheme, parking stalls and lost spaces are transformed into a flexible neighbourhood plaza in the heart of Acadia. The plaza offers potential for seating, lighting, green space, and temporary commercial and food uses – a great place to engage in public life at the local scale. Residents identified this site as perfect for experimenting with

temporary pop-up elements, like furniture and commerce. If you put chairs out, will the people come? Can a coffee truck become a sustainable business? This project offers a playful space to ask questions about life in Acadia's public spaces.

