

CORRIDOR Planning

CORRIDOR PLANNING ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The [Official Community Plan \(OCP\)](#) is the long-term vision for Saskatoon, guiding the physical, environmental, economic, social, and cultural development of the community. The OCP emphasises the goal of growth in Saskatoon's transportation corridors, to help the city manage a growing population in a way that is sustainable both financially and environmentally.

To make this vision a reality, the City has created the [Corridor Planning Program \(CPP\)](#) – the blueprint of how to meet the goals of corridor growth. Guided by the [Corridor Transformation Plan](#), the CPP will work to develop specific corridor plans for 10 identified 'segment' areas within the Corridor Growth Area. This Corridor Growth Area follows the routes of the approved Bus Rapid Transit system. The desired result of the CPP will be changing these busy roads into places for people – with housing, job opportunities, improved public spaces like parks and sustainable ways to travel to and from these areas.

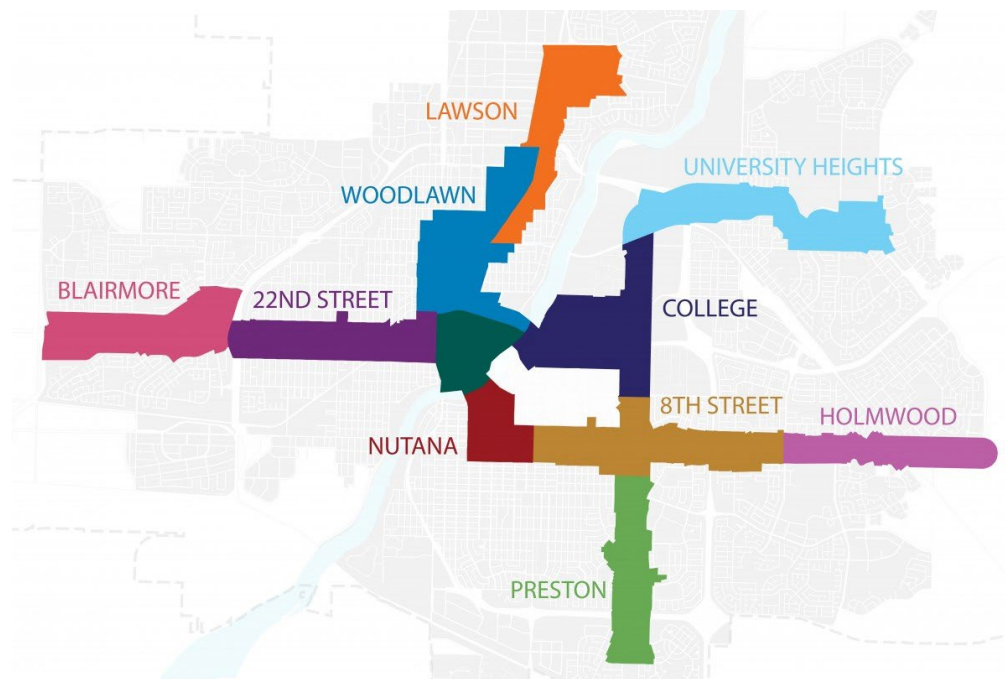


Figure 1: Map of the Corridor Growth Area with the 10 segment areas.

Corridor plans will bring together the goals and principles of the OCP and the Transformation Plan, by setting up future land use. Each of the 10 corridor plans will be developed through a collaborative process between the City and landowners, neighbourhood residents, local business owners, Indigenous communities and partners and other stakeholder groups.

This approach will:

- Gather information on existing conditions and challenges (known or felt);
- Create a strategy for best use of land and the policy to support it (building heights and densities, which land uses are permitted, etc.);
- Create a plan for to improve public spaces (design, public art, benches, bike parking, neighbourhood park upgrades, etc.);
- Create a plan for potential infrastructure upgrades (i.e. sewer, water, driveway access management, etc.); and
- Develop a funding and action plan outlining how and when to make these improvements.

The City will engage with residents and stakeholders at each phase of the Corridor Planning Program process in order to identify issues, opportunities, and solutions that are reflective of community needs, while striving to encourage infill development to provide a balanced approach to growth.

Official Community Plan

The purpose of the **Corridor Planning Engagement Strategy (Engagement Strategy)** is to outline the City's goals and processes for working with community members throughout the Corridor Planning Program. It was created by talking to a variety of representative stakeholders and partners in Spring 2021. More details on the feedback received, how it informed this Strategy, and the Corridor Planning process, can be found in the [Preliminary Engagement Report](#).

Over the course of the CPP, the Engagement Strategy will be regularly reviewed and updated as needed to ensure the success of engagement efforts during the entire CPP.

What is Engagement?

- Engagement involves including those who are affected by a decision in the decision-making process to improve the quality of decisions.
- This ranges from asking community members for feedback to working together to find solutions, to having the community make the decision.
- At the City of Saskatoon, responsibility for final decisions typically remains with City Council.

The City strives to conduct public engagement in a way that meets the vision of the City's [Public Engagement Policy](#):

Inclusivity: Making sure engagement is done in a way that supports community contributions and builds relationships with diverse stakeholders.

Early Involvement: Get stakeholders involved as early as possible for active participation.

Decision Making: The engagement process must include real opportunities to influence decisions.

Transparency & Accountability: Engagement will be open about level of influence and the outcomes.

Open & Timely Communication: Objective, timely and accurate information sharing is key.

Relationship Building: Building relationships must be rooted in mutual trust and respect.

Evaluation: There will always be work towards continuous improvement of the engagement process.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Corridor Planning Engagement Goals

The overall goals of engagement for the Corridor Planning Program are:

- a. Develop and maintain continuous, positive working relationships with all groups, including Indigenous groups, that have an interest in Corridor Planning.
- b. Follow the City's Engagement Principles.
- c. Build community understanding of the individual corridor plans and the concept of corridor growth in general.
- d. Provide clear and transparent communications about project timelines and how the process may impact stakeholders, partners and residents.
- e. Understand how stakeholders and partners want to be involved in specific corridor plans and their preferences for how the project team engages and communicates with them.
- f. Understand how each corridor is important to the community - what the corridor means to different community members.
- g. Work with stakeholders, partners and residents to identify opportunities and challenges for each corridor plan.
- h. Work with stakeholders, partners, and Administration to develop solutions to lessen the risks of potential challenges.
- i. Understand how different options will affect stakeholders, partners and residents, and their option preferences.
- j. Strive to create engagement opportunities where stakeholders, partners and rightsholders feel safe providing feedback.
- k. Work to achieve the objectives of corridor growth as outlined in the Official Community Plan in ways that align with community needs and desires.

Stakeholders and Partners for Corridor Planning

Stakeholders and partners for Corridor Planning were identified during the preliminary engagement process that assisted in the development of the Engagement Strategy.

- First Nations and Métis rights holders, partners, and organizations
- City Administration
- City Council
- Property owners in Corridor Planning area
- Residents who live in the Corridor Planning area
- Visitors who work, or access services and attractions in the Corridor Planning area
- Meewasin Valley Authority
- Business Associations
- Community Associations
- Education and health institutions with interests along the corridors
- Development and building industry
- Organizations related to reducing poverty
- Organizations related to housing needs
- Newcomer and ethno-cultural groups
- Heritage and culture groups
- Young people
- Older adults
- Active transportation groups
- Environmental groups
- Accessibility groups
- LGBTQ2S+ groups

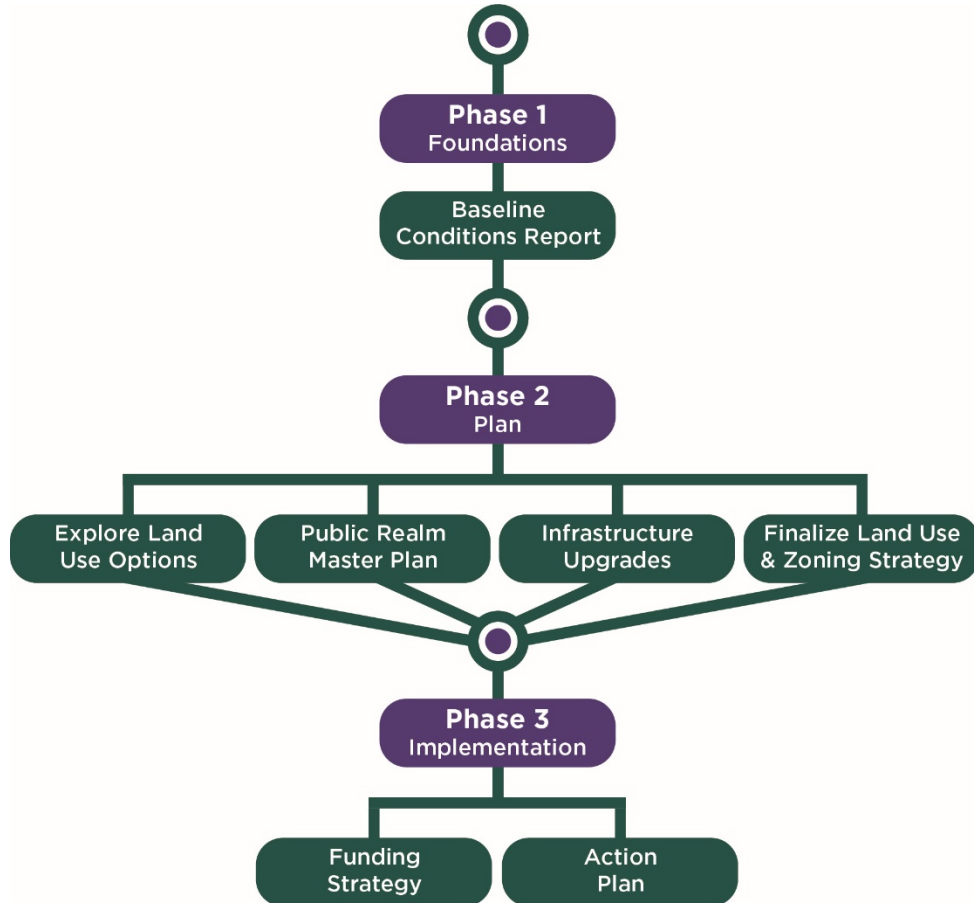
Each corridor plan will follow a general engagement process that includes:

- Updating the engagement strategy and communications plan
- Carrying out engagement activities
- Examining what was heard during engagement
- Reporting back to participants and City Council
- Evaluation of the process

PROJECT PHASES

Figure 2 illustrates the overall process involved in creating a corridor plan.

Figure 2: Corridor Plan Process



Corridor Plan Engagement Process

Table 1 outlines the engagement steps that can be expected for each corridor plan. A variety of activities are recommended to make participating as easy as possible. Meetings, surveys, group presentations, pop-ups and workshops will be offered depending on the specific stakeholder or partner. Efforts will be made to have both in-person and virtual engagement where appropriate.

Identified for each step is the level of influence that community members will have. These are based on the [International Association for Public Participation’s Engagement Spectrum](#).

Consult: We are asking for feedback to inform a decision.

Involve: We want to understand how community members will be affected by a decision.

Working Together: We will work together to find solutions to a problem.

Empower: Community members and stakeholders make the decision.

Table 1: Engagement steps and activities involved in a corridor plan process.

Project Phase	Engagement Step	Activities
1	<p>Targeted Stakeholder Communications & Meetings – Involve/Work Together</p> <p>Meetings with various stakeholders and partners to determine their interest in a specific corridor plan(s). This provides an opportunity to update information on interests and preferences. Meetings also enable the project team to update stakeholders and partners on the project and may also identify issues/concerns related to a specific corridor.</p>	<p>Emails</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>Surveys</p>
1	<p>Heritage Site Identification – Work Together/Empower</p> <p>Work together to identify sites of interest for the Baseline Conditions Report – a background on existing conditions and key considerations for a corridor plan.</p>	<p>Work Collaboratively with Heritage Organizations and Indigenous Partners</p>
1 & 2	<p>Community Corridor Stories - Involve</p> <p>Broader engagement with residents and visitors to understand what a specific corridor means to them. This is a chance to hear their stories and understand corridors as places with history and character. This could take place at the end of phase one or early in phase two.</p>	<p>Surveys</p> <p>Pop-ups</p>
2	<p>Understanding Opportunities and Challenges - Involve</p> <p>This step is to understand the values that stakeholders, partners and residents hold about increasing density and changing the public spaces on a specific corridor. The earlier Targeted Meetings and Community Corridor Stories work will contribute to this step. It should provide a more detailed understanding of opportunities and challenges that various stakeholders, residents and partners see in terms of where density should go in the Corridor Planning area and the public realm work.</p>	<p>Pop-Ups</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Meetings</p>

Project Phase	Engagement Step	Activities
2	Thematic Workshops – Involve/Work Together Workshops will be organized around specific issues or themes raised throughout engagement. Stakeholders who are interested in a specific topic related to Corridor Planning or who are worried about a particular challenge can work with the project team to develop solutions.	Workshops Follow-up surveys Meetings
2	Building a Plan – Preliminary Options – Involve/Consult Based on earlier feedback and additional research / technical considerations (i.e. infrastructure upgrade requirements and costs) options will be developed to share with stakeholders, partners and residents for feedback, including options for both land use and public realm design.	Workshops Meetings Surveys
2	Options Preferences - Consult Based on feedback from earlier engagement, land use and public realm options will be refined. Stakeholders, partners and residents will have the opportunity to indicate preferred options.	Pop-Ups Survey Workshops/Meetings
2	Engagement on Tailoring of Corridor Zoning Districts and Zoning Strategy – Consult/Involve Gather input on potential corridor-specific tailoring of certain development standards in the corridor zoning districts, as well as how zoning districts could be applied based on the preferred land use option.	Email Meetings
3	Plan Reviews – Consult The project team will share the draft plan with stakeholders and partners for feedback. The plan will also be shared on the City's Engage Page for residents to provide feedback.	Email Meetings
1, 2, and 3	Additional Engagement if Needed Recognizing that planning often involves revisiting issues, additional engagement steps may be identified.	TBD
1, 2, and 3	Indigenous Engagement – Work Together/Empower Partnership with Elders and Knowledge Keepers on each corridor plan to identify unique areas that may be of interest to Indigenous organizations and community members, and to ensure all Corridor Planning engagement is accessible and meaningful to Indigenous peoples.	Engagement done in partnership with an Indigenous Elder or Knowledge Keeper.
3+	Evaluation – Consult/Involve Stakeholders, partners, and residents to evaluate the engagement process. Make any necessary revisions/updates to the Corridor Planning Engagement Strategy and documents outlining stakeholder/partner preferences.	Surveys Meetings Email

Note on **Corridor Incentives and Financing Tools:** There will be engagement with interested stakeholders, partners, and community members during the first year of Corridor Planning to develop a framework of financing tools and development incentives to support corridor growth. This will lay the foundation for corridor-specific discussions for how to fund improvements identified in individual corridor plans.

Getting Involved

More specific details about engagement opportunities will be continuously updated and shared on the [City's Engage Page](#) and through the Corridor Planning [mailing list](#).

We look forward to productive engagement with the community on Corridor Planning.

