

## One Thing to Improve Your Quality of Life

Calgarians were asked to name one thing that would improve their quality of life in Calgary over the next few years. Similar to last year's results to this question, the biggest issue was transportation.

### Transportation

#### Access and affordability of public transportation

"A functional, accessible, affordable transit system. IE- The C-Train!! If I knew that the c-train was reliable I would take it daily as much as possible instead of using my car. Instead I use it maybe 2-3/week because the c-train does not provide enough coverage of the city."

"Better access to safe clean transit"

"Reduce public transit costs, and increase in routes/busses/trains, particularly 24 hour train service, even if it's only Thursday/Friday/Saturday"

#### Decrease commute time

"more and better roads decrease in commute time to work or play fewer cars parked on streets home generation of power"

"Affordable housing closer to Downtown to decrease my commute time."

#### Decrease traffic

"Improve the traffic situation!"

"Improved traffic flow and safety."

"Less traffic congestion."

"Less traffic congestion. Better driver training ( I thought merging was a requirement to pass a drivers exam but not in Calgary)"

#### More walk and bicycle pathways

"A safe way to bike from the SW to downtown"

"Bike paths - need more, esp more off road, and they need to be better connected to provide a reliable alternative to driving into the city."

"Upgrading the bike paths to accommodate both cyclists and pedestrians; making bike paths more commuter friendly in morning and evening hours."

## Better/expanded transit system overall

“A more efficient, dependable transit system.”

“A realization by the city (city council?) that not everyone lives in the suburbs and works downtown. Massive amounts of cash spent on new transit options to downtown during small windows of time each day are useless to many citizens.”

“Less urban sprawl, a more walkable, less car-reliant city with better public transit system.”

“Better public transportation: more bus routes, more LRT lines, less time between buses in outlying areas. More and safer bike routes”

## Don't want to rely on car so much/make transit more viable option

“A functional, accessible, affordable transit system. IE- The C-Train!! If I knew that the c-train was reliable I would take it daily as much as possible instead of using my car. Instead I use it maybe 2-3/week because the c-train does not provide enough coverage of the city.”

“Better opportunities to leave the car at home”

“Better transit services so I don't have to rely on a car.”

“More and connected rapid transit - in a grid going all over the city so that I can leave my car at home - or get rid of it. Having all LRT routes leading in and out of downtown isn't enough. I need to be able to get across the city and connect with different lines. Buses are not the answer. Rapid transit is.”

## Housing

### Reduce property taxes

“Drop in property taxes (But that can't happen)”

“I worry that in the very near future I will have to give up my home, because I will not be able to afford the taxes and upkeep. I have watched all around me as my neighbours have had to sell their homes because they were on fixed incomes. They tear down 1 home and build 2 in its place. And oh the cost for 1 of them. It is a worry,”

### Improve fire safety codes (houses farther apart, fire retardant materials mandatory)

\*\*No comments under “one thing” related to this. From “what's missing”

“Houses in many areas & most new neighbourhoods are far too close to each other which is not good in case of fire; and not good either because of noise and traffic”

“The building codes are pathetic. The homes, condos, apartments are poorly built made of highly flammable unsuitable materials & all of them built too close together. Time to look at

better types of innovative building materials more suited to protection from; the elements, mould, rot, water / hail/ wind / fire damage - the technology is there.”

Diversified housing options (secondary suites, opportunities to age in place, seniors housing, housing coops, special needs housing)

“better senior housing options is my neighbourhood”

“Increase in housing opportunities (such as townhouse condos) for seniors in the inner city. I love the inner city and don't want to live in the suburbs, but know there will come a time when I can no longer handle single family home ownership.”

Affordable Housing

“Affordable housing (not for low-income) but everyone. Oil and gas employees and markets have skewed our housing costs to the extreme. Should not be paying as much as I do for an inner city old bungalow.”

“Less urban sprawl, and more affordable housing options for first time home buyers.”

“More affordable rental housing that is environmentally sustainable and smoke-free.”

Denser Housing/Less Sprawl

“Reduction of the urban sprawl by increase mixed-use housing and densities.”

“Calgary's challenge is to mitigate sprawl and embrace more density and opportunities for vibrant and walkable communities”

“I would like to see more density of housing around c-train stations.”

## **Environmental Sustainability**

Alternative transportation (expand LRT, increase number of bike lanes and routes, improve vehicle/bike integration, increase walkability, public transportation incentives, improve efficiency of public transportation, reduce transit costs)

“Less urban sprawl, a more walkable, less car-reliant city with better public transit system.”

“Improved walkability of communities. This would increase physical activity, environmental awareness, access to basic needs (food, etc.) as well as safety - people out walking will look out for the people around them.”

“Make our city more walkable, bikeable and CTrainable. Develop quality public spaces so that people are drawn out and can interact spontaneously. Break the old Calgarians of the mentality that "this isn't Montreal or New York, so we can't do that kind of thing here." (Newsflash: we can do whatever we put our minds to).”

“More vibrancy, stop urban sprawl, more green initiatives, more complete communities, less auto oriented, more walkable vibrant streets, less big box retail, better public realm.”

#### Public education

“a shift in awareness re; environmental issues / programs / commitments for change etc. I would like Calgary to be known as a sustainable community with values / programs that support this.”

“this city needs to come to terms with the fact that our lifestyle is no longer sustainable, given the earth's limitations to support 7 billion people”

#### More green spaces/community gardens

“Increasing local food production for by building more community gardens.”

“Improve transit options and address traffic jams on Crowchild Trail. Plant more trees and community gardens.”

“Protecting our natural spaces and making it a priority. Creating more natural spaces that encourage exploration and connection to nature. Not every green space has to be a lawn - "wild" places in the city are just as important.”

#### Expand Recycling Program

“A greener environment, recycling shouldn't be a choice, it should be mandatory!”

“Waste management. we need to compost and recycle. EVERYBODY needs to, and EVERYBODY needs to have the facilities to do so, including apartments, condos, malls and hospitals.”