



Corridor Planning Preliminary Engagement Summary

This summary is an overview of the preliminary engagement work done by Corridor Planning project team. The team asked community stakeholders and partners about their preferences for participating in the Corridor Planning project. More in-depth details on the preliminary engagement results can be found in the [Corridor Planning Preliminary Engagement Report](#).

This preliminary engagement was done before broader engagement on the first corridor plan for the College segment and informed the project's [Corridor Planning Engagement Strategy](#) – the guiding document for how the City of Saskatoon (City) will conduct community engagement for Corridor Planning. *Figure 1* shows the 10 corridor segment areas:

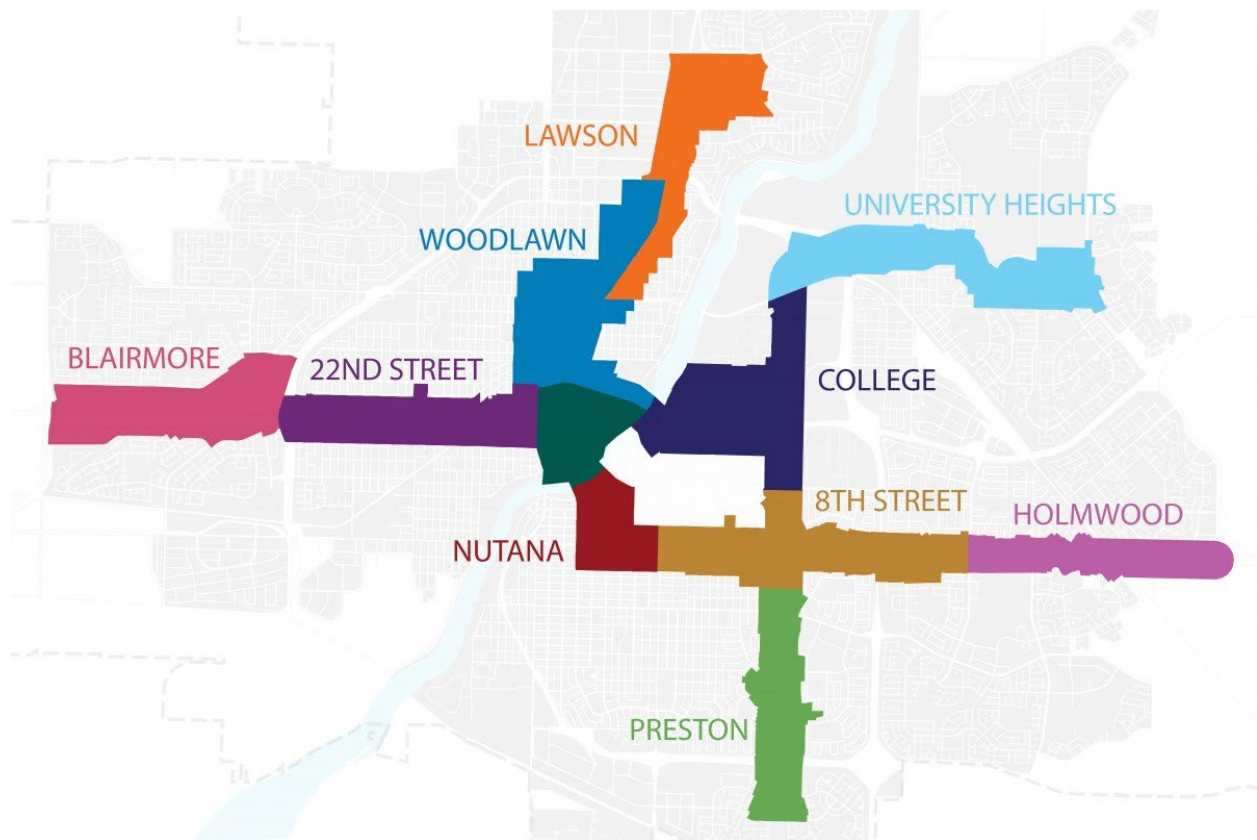


Figure 1: The 10 segment areas for Corridor Planning.

What We Did

The preliminary engagement work included:

- An overview of Corridor Planning, past City decisions that led to the creation of Corridor Planning and the process of creating a corridor plan. *Figure 2* illustrates past and future decisions on Corridor Planning.
- The project team described the components of the corridor plan process as generally fitting into three “buckets of scope:”
 1. land use and density;
 2. public realm i.e. the look and feel of a corridor; and
 3. offsetting challenges associated with corridor development.

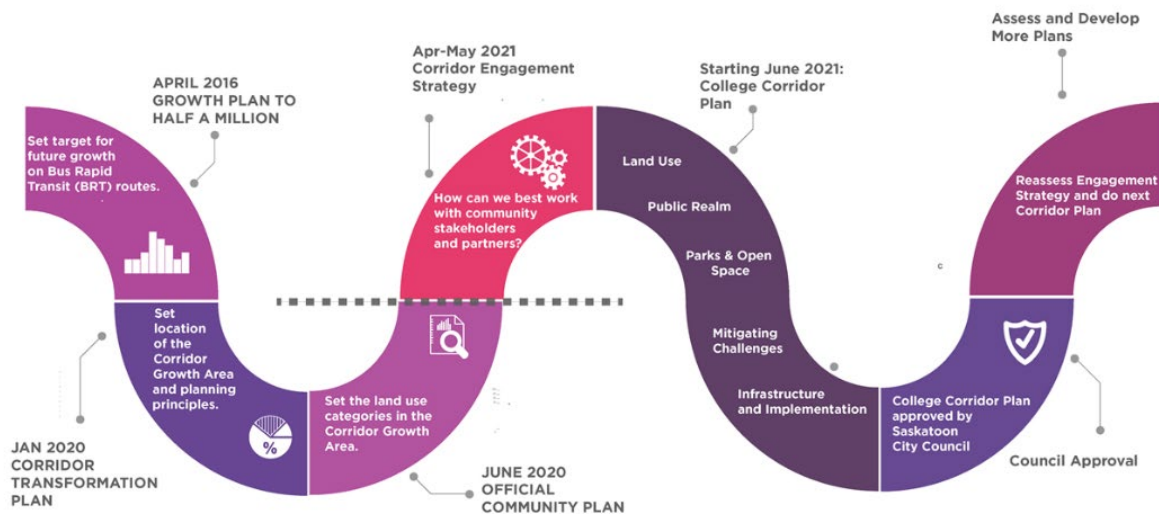


Figure 2: A timeline of past and future decisions on Corridor Planning

- Asking participants their interests in components of a corridor plan and what corridor segments they were interested in.
- Asking participants their preference of engagement methods or tactics that would work best for their needs.
- Discussing considerations and recommendations that the project team should be mindful of in conducting engagement and creating a corridor plan.

Who we started conversations with:

- First Nations and Métis rightsholders, partners, and organizations
- Meewasin Valley Authority (Meewasin)
- Business Associations
- Community Associations
- Education and health institutions with interests along corridors
- Development and building industry
- Organizations related to reducing poverty

- Organizations related to housing needs
- Newcomer and ethno-cultural groups
- Heritage and culture groups
- Active transportation groups
- Organizations that work with young people
- Organizations that work with older adults
- Some individuals with lived experiences with disabilities
- Some property owners in corridor segments

Who we still need to connect with:

- LGBTQ2S+ groups
- Accessibility groups
- Environmental groups
- Arts groups
- Residents, businesses, and property owners in corridor segments
- Visitors who work or access services and attractions in corridor segments

How we gathered input:

- Meetings with subject matter experts on how to include groups that are often left out
- Meetings with organizations, individual representatives, and groups
- Workshops
- Surveys
- Email communications

We conducted 30 meetings (including follow-up meetings with the same group or individual), one workshop (for newcomers through the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association) and nine surveys (seven as post-meeting follow-up surveys and two for groups who we could not meet with). In total, feedback from 96 unique community members representing 33 stakeholders and partners was received.

What We Heard

During preliminary engagement we received recommendations from stakeholders and partners on how we engage on each corridor plan. This list will continue to be refined as work continues with community members. Detailed feedback received during the pre-engagement process can be found in the [Preliminary Engagement Report](#).

- Make engagement as easy as possible by being flexible and adaptable for different participants:
 - When possible, provide for virtual and in-person engagement.
 - Participant-focused engagement considers what tactic would work best for different groups – this means having multiple tactics.
 - Have options to participate at different times of the day and on weekdays and weekends.
 - Work with organizations and partners to reach their members/clients.
 - Give sufficient notice, time and information for participants to think about materials and provide input at own pace.

- Be clear about why a particular group’s voice is important for the project/why the project might matter to them.
- Connect input to outcomes; however, do not make promises and claims the City is unable to keep.
 - Keep surveys short.
- Provide incentives or compensation for participants’ time where appropriate.
- When possible, have relevant City staff from other departments at engagement sessions to help address questions and feedback that may be out-of-scope for Corridor Planning.
- Be mindful to reach marginalized people respectfully. It is important to build relationships and trust. Be kind in asking questions, hearing people's stories, keeping focus on participants and staying connected with people. When communicating about the project:
 - Use a variety of communication tactics.
 - Be conscious that many stakeholders find it difficult to differentiate between City projects and where they overlap.
 - Provide information about Corridor Planning in accessible ways using plain language.
 - Have clear information explaining the basics of the City and city planning, as well as approved policies and decisions.
 - Be conscious about what visuals might convey.
 - For many stakeholders and partners, it’s difficult to separate land use discussions from public space discussions, and it can be difficult to decide which corridor segment they have an interest in. Keep stakeholders and partners informed about the project so they can participate if they are interested.
- Determine if larger multiple-group meetings or individualized one-on-one meetings are better:
 - Some groups valued larger meetings where they could hear and learn from the different perspectives of other stakeholders, partners, and community members.
 - Some groups preferred one-to-one meetings, or organization-specific meetings, to ensure that they and those they represent could fully participate.
- Have transparent communications and reporting about process and what we hear from various groups.
 - Provide regular updates to stakeholders.
- Provide information about our decision-making process, including when reports will be going to council.
- Provide clear parameters from the City regarding what is already decided versus what is up for discussion that participants can influence, so that people’s time is spent in a worthwhile manner.
- Close the loop with stakeholders to let them know how their feedback- informed project outcomes. If their feedback or recommendations were not able to be incorporated, provide reasons why.

Additionally, comments from participants that relate to the content and substance of Corridor Planning as opposed to the process and engagement is summarized below. For detailed information, please refer to the Preliminary Engagement Report.

- Make it easier and/or provide assistance for non-profits, Indigenous groups, and housing providers to participate in corridor development.
- How will corridor plans be realized in terms of translating to development decisions, and getting planned improvements done and maintained.

- Need for more commercial services (e.g. groceries, food markets, shops).
- Need for quality affordable housing that serve people with housing needs (e.g. seniors, students, families, vulnerable individuals),
- Corridor Plans should include tangible benefits for residents in corridor segments.
- Improvements needed for pedestrian and cyclist safety, comfort, and connectivity.
- Improvements for existing bus stops, transit routing, scheduling and fare affordability.
- Lessen impacts and increase benefits to vulnerable groups
- Emphasize that all parts of the city belong to everyone.
- Consider benefits for people who come from beyond Saskatoon for services.
- Acknowledge and incorporate First Nations and Métis history of the Saskatoon area.
- Address the lack of affordable parking and alternative access for hospital visitors and workers.
- Prioritize Corridor Planning for areas more actively experiencing development.
- City to consider, measure, and address sustainability impacts in corridor plans.

Engagement Evaluation

What Went Well

- Working with partners to reach groups that the City does not traditionally engage.
- Building relationships with groups/individuals and ensuring participating in corridor planning benefits them.
- Trying different engagement formats.
- Flexibility with engagement process so that tactics met the needs of participants.

What We Can Do Better or Should Do Going Forward

- There are groups that still need to be engaged, understanding time and capacity given ongoing events such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Focused discussions with representative individuals and organizations, meaning there may have been missed perspectives of those with living experiences or who do not feel represented by the organizations. For future engagement it will be important to work with organizations as well as individuals with living experiences.
- The timeline of the Corridor Planning project meant it may be difficult for some participants to identify how they want to be involved. The project team has committed to check-in with all stakeholders and partners at the outset of each corridor plan to reconfirm interests and preferences.
- Only preliminary engagement with city-wide groups and College segment specific groups was done at this time and did not engage with groups along some of the other corridor segments. The project team will include those geographically-based groups before starting the relevant corridor plan.
- There is a need to determine and convey how Corridor Planning may impact different stakeholder or partner groups.
- The City's project-based structure can result in items raised by participants being out-of-scope. The project team has made efforts to share feedback with other project teams and leadership whose work may be more applicable to certain issues raised by participants.

What's Next?

- The Corridor Planning Engagement Strategy has been completed. The Corridor Planning Engagement Strategy is intended to be a living document that the project team will update in response to participants' feedback and any conditions or considerations that arise.
- Work on the first corridor plan for the College Drive segment has begun and will continue for approximately one year.