



EVENT CENTRE/ARENA • CONVENTION CENTRE • BRT

DOWNTOWN EVENT & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we talking about the Downtown Event & Entertainment District?

Saskatoon residents want fun, welcoming places to gather, enjoy events, support local businesses and make memories. The Downtown Event & Entertainment District, or the District, could become Saskatoon's "living room." It could be a place where people of all backgrounds can gather year-round.

The vision is about more than new buildings and big events. It could improve public spaces, transportation and services for residents, businesses and visitors. The goal is to create a lively Downtown where people want to spend time, visit and live.

Isn't this just about an arena?

No. An event centre is only one part of the plan.

The District could also include a convention centre and public spaces, and will be connected by Link rapid transit. It would build on what is already Downtown, including Rемаi Modern, the library, heritage buildings and the riverfront. These public investments could also encourage private investment, such as new homes, businesses and jobs. The goal is a connected Downtown with spaces and services everyone can use.

What might happen if we don't do this?

Doing nothing also has costs. SaskTel Centre and TCU Place are aging. They will need major repairs and upgrades to meet modern needs. This could be costly and may require both buildings to close for several years. That could affect events, local businesses and jobs.

Without a plan, Saskatoon could miss out on major events, visitors and new residents. Planning now gives the City more choices and may help avoid higher costs later.

Doesn't the City have more important priorities?

The City must do more than one thing at a time. It must maintain roads, water systems and other core services, while also planning for the future. The City can maintain the services and infrastructure residents rely on every day while still considering Saskatoon's long-term needs.

Investing in the District does not change the City's responsibility to maintain existing infrastructure. Current and future projects are included in the City's multi-year budgeting process. The project could also receive grants or funding from other governments.

A stronger Downtown can support other City goals. More homes, businesses, jobs, visitors and events can make better use of roads, utilities and services already in place. A busier Downtown may also help people feel safer because more people are using the area.

The City will also continue its work on homelessness with community partners and other levels of government.

How would the District be paid for?

The District includes several major projects, so creating a funding plan will take time.

No final funding plan has been approved. City Council would need to approve any future funding plan through a public process.

The City is looking at several funding sources. These may include support from other governments, partnerships and City funding options that do not use property taxes.

In June, City Council asked Administration to begin talks with Muskeg Lake Cree Nation about a possible partnership. The City will report publicly to Council as those talks move forward.

Will an event centre create more traffic Downtown?

Traffic studies show that Downtown streets could handle event traffic.

Even if most people drive and arrive shortly before an event, traffic levels would stay below the levels already seen during busy times Downtown.

Some intersections near the District may have delays before and after events. However, major traffic congestion across Downtown is not expected.

Will there be enough parking?

Studies show there is a lot of parking available Downtown during evenings and weekends, when most events take place.

There are more than 11,000 parking spaces within a 15-minute walk of the planned event centre. At 7:00 p.m., more than 8,000 of those spaces are usually empty.

Even during a sold-out event, studies show more than 2,000 parking spaces could still be available.

Have City Council's decisions been public?

Yes. City Council has made decisions about the project in public meetings.

So far, the City has collected public feedback, chosen a location, created early designs, bought land, prepared a funding plan and developed a City Centre and District Plan.