



Paths for People Releases Map to Crowdsource Edmonton's Bike/Walk Grid

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Today, Paths for People released a tool that Edmontonians can use to give input into their vision for the city's grid of high-quality walk/bike routes.

"Edmonton has rightly changed strategies with its bike infrastructure" said Paths for People Chair Conrad Nobert. "It has shifted from trying to build low quality lanes everywhere to building high-quality bike routes in Edmonton's central areas. However, there is no vision right now for what it will look like. We want to kick start the discussion by asking Edmontonians where they think the routes should go."

"We're calling the routes *Bike/Walk* routes because a street that is safe and comfortable for people on bikes can feel the same for people who are walking, if it is designed right," Nobert said. "Cities around the world, including winter cities, are finding that once they install bike/walk infrastructure, people get outside and use it."

Paths for People is working with Edmonton-area physician and exercise specialist Dr. Doug Klein, co-founder of weekly outdoor fitness program MOVE (www.moveyeg.ca), on the crowdsourcing project. "Installing bike/walk routes is a way that the City can encourage a healthy lifestyle for Edmontonians," said Dr. Klein. "When people feel safe getting to services or work, they will take out their bikes or try walking instead of defaulting to their cars. With over 200,000 people living in central Edmonton, the potential for a grid of bike/walk routes to make people healthier is significant".

"There is also a need for more inclusiveness in Edmonton's active transportation options," added Dr. Klein. "A healthy city allows for everyone to move around actively in safety and comfort, including families with young children, the elderly and people with disabilities."

The group is asking Edmontonians to add their input using the crowdsource map hosted on the Paths for People website. "We're inviting people who are already walking and biking around Edmonton to help us create a vision: a well-connected grid of routes in Edmonton's central areas that are comfortable to bike on and walk along."

The results of the map will be unveiled at the *A City for Life* event on April 15-16, which will include a public presentation by esteemed urbanist Gil Penalosa and a vision-building summit of Edmonton leaders.



The crowdsourced map can be found at the [Paths for People website here \(www.pathsforpeople.org\)](http://www.pathsforpeople.org).