



# City Building Program Engagement Summary

## Calgarians are at the heart of the Calgary Plan.

Tens of thousands of Calgarians participated throughout five phases of engagement on the City Building Program. From Fall 2023 to Spring 2025, participants attended events, held conversations and submitted comments to share ideas about how our city should grow.

This dialogue has been instrumental in shaping the drafts of the Calgary Plan, Zoning Bylaw, and Street Manual, to guide planning and development in Calgary over the coming decades.



**47,900+**

Calgarians engaged



**180+**

organizations involved



**175+**

engagement events



**5 phases**

of engagement

plus ongoing meetings and communications

## Who we engaged



General public



Community groups and partners



Industry groups



Indigenous Nations and Peoples

## What we heard: Theme highlights

### Simplifying and streamlining

The Calgary Plan, Zoning Bylaw and Street Manual should provide clarity and predictability.

### Growth and transit-oriented development

Growth should be directed to places that can support it—particularly near LRT stations, major bus corridors, and established activity centres—so more people can live close to jobs, services and daily needs.

### Natural areas, parks and trees

Feedback underscored the high value Calgarians place on natural areas, parks and trees, alongside significant concerns about their preservation and integration within new development across the city.

### Affordability

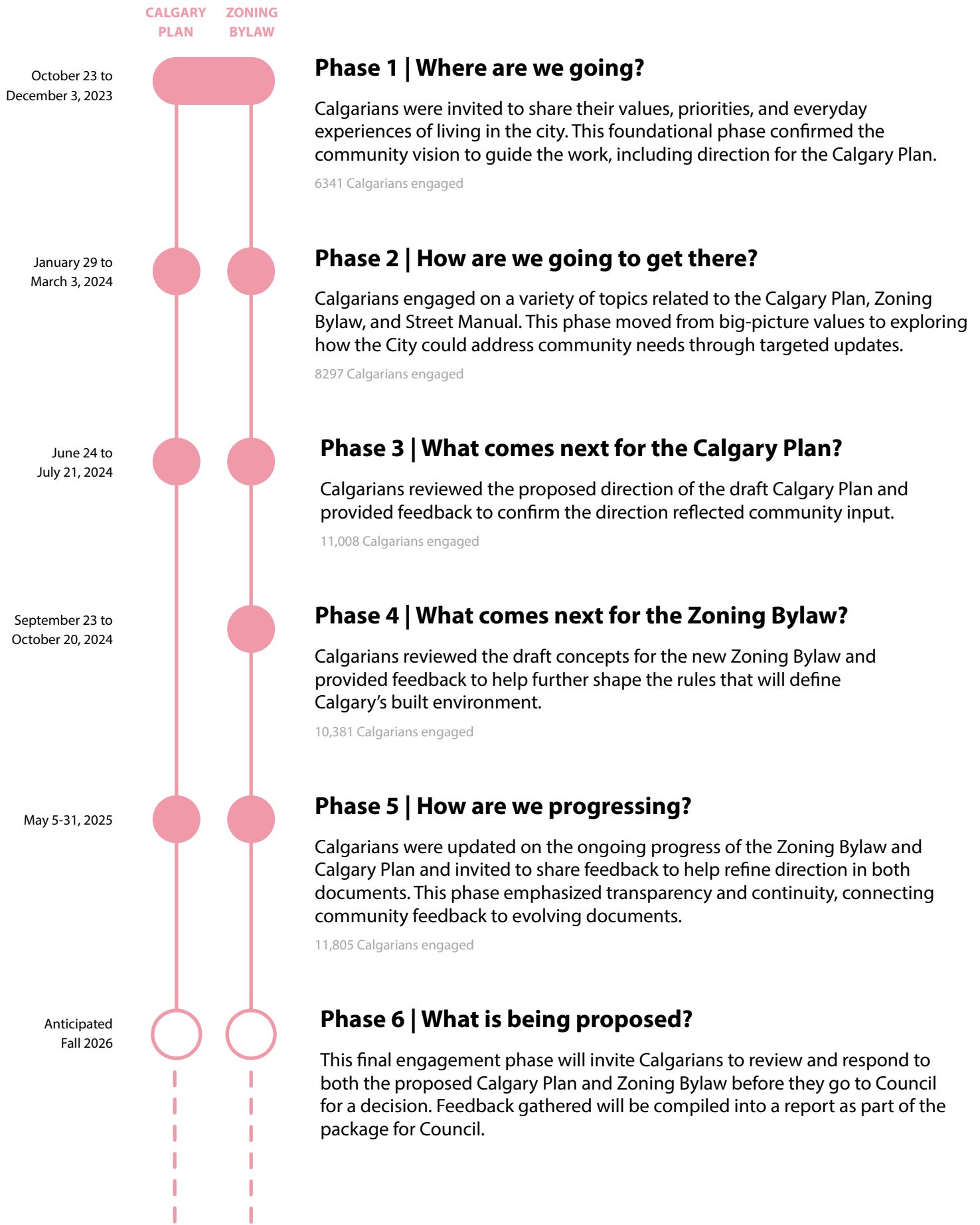
Affordability, particularly regarding housing and the cost of living, is a high priority and a major challenge currently facing Calgary.

### Neighbourhood context

Neighbourhood character and day-to-day livability is important: how new development fits beside existing homes, how privacy and sunlight are protected, and how street parking, trees and local traffic are managed as communities change.

# When we engaged: Phases of engagement

What We Heard reports for all phases are available at [engage.calgary.ca/citybuilding](https://engage.calgary.ca/citybuilding)





## How we engaged: Engagement activities

**28**  
Workshops

Interactive, hands-on sessions for in-depth roundtable discussions with the public, industry, or community groups (both online and in-person).

**51**  
Pop-up events and displays

Information, activities and conversations with the project team in high-traffic locations, at community events, and in every ward.

**10**  
Open houses

Standalone drop-in events to explore materials, share input and speak with the project team.

**50+**  
Collaboration sessions and activities

Unique engagements designed in partnership with organizations to meet the diverse needs of members and communities.

**5**  
Walking tours

Location-based discussions on-the-ground in communities.

**5**  
Engage portals

Interactive sites with tailored, in-depth information for each phase of engagement.

**6**  
Online surveys and tools

Submission tools on the Engage portal for the public to share their thoughts on their own time.

**12**  
Online webinars

Live information sessions to learn about topics and ask questions.

All communications and engagement was designed to make City Building approachable and available to as many Calgarians as possible:

**Accessible:** We made information easy to understand and share, so anyone could engage regardless of their background or prior knowledge.

**Convenient:** We brought engagement directly into communities, meeting people where they already were.

**Equitable:** We took a deliberate approach to reach a broad range of Calgarians across all wards, including those who may not typically get involved in public engagement.

**Adaptable:** We listened, learned and adjusted our strategy at each stage to reflect the needs of communities.

## How we spread the word: Information sharing



Newsletters

Direct emails

Displays at City and recreation facilities

Roadside signs

Digital billboards

Transit ads

Online banners and ads



Social media

Reddit (ads and AMA)

Multi-cultural radio and banner ads

Radio (local and Spotify)

TV spots

YouTube ads

Informational videos



Community toolkits

Summary sheets

Community partners

# What we are doing: How feedback is guiding the work

Highlight	What we heard	What we are doing
Simplifying and streamlining	There was support for the objective of simplifying and modernizing The City's planning documents, characterizing some of the current documents as complicated, hard to navigate and difficult to read.	The City Building Program, through the <b>Calgary Plan</b> , <b>Zoning Bylaw</b> and <b>Street Manual</b> , is transforming how Calgary plans for growth by integrating land use and mobility into a single, streamlined approach. By reducing redundancies and improving clarity, the new documents will make planning direction more clear. The result is a planning framework that is easier to navigate and better aligned with Calgary's long-term vision. Beyond simplification, the City Building Program introduces a more enabling policy and regulatory environment that is less prescriptive, less procedural and more adaptable to changing needs.
Natural areas, parks and trees	Feedback underscored the high value Calgarians place on natural areas, parks and trees, alongside significant concerns about their preservation and integration within new development across the city.	<p>The <b>Calgary Plan</b> includes policies that both enable diverse housing options and prioritize the retention and protection of public trees and increasing the urban forest. It also emphasizes the importance of natural spaces, ecological networks, and urban greenery throughout the city.</p> <p>In the <b>Zoning Bylaw</b>, large trees are required in new housing and mixed-use developments, to contribute to the tree canopy.</p> <p>The <b>Street Manual</b> has integrated medium and large canopy trees into most standard cross-sections with healthy soil environments and utilities arranged to avoid conflicts.</p>
Affordability	Affordability, particularly regarding housing and the cost of living, was highlighted throughout all phases as both a high priority for Calgarians and a major challenge currently facing Calgary. Feedback suggested making affordability a primary lens for policy development, moving beyond just housing supply so that Calgarians have housing choices.	<p>The <b>Calgary Plan</b> emphasizes greater housing, recreation, and mobility choices. More choice means more ability to make decisions based on household budgets and needs. The Plan includes policies to enhance housing choice, housing supply and support for a range of non-market and market housing across the city.</p> <p>The <b>Zoning Bylaw</b> supports affordability by enabling a wider range of housing types and forms across neighbourhoods. Flexibility in zoning can support more efficient use of land and infrastructure, which can help keep development and housing costs lower over time.</p> <p>The <b>Street Manual</b> supports affordability by promoting streets that are right-sized, flexible, and cost-effective. By aligning street design with surrounding land uses and community context, the Street Manual helps avoid over-building infrastructure while still supporting safety, accessibility, and mobility.</p>
Growth and transit-oriented development	Across engagement, Calgarians emphasized that growth should be directed to places that can support it—particularly near LRT stations, major bus corridors, and established activity centres—so more people can live close to jobs, services and daily needs.	The City Building Program aligns the <b>Calgary Plan</b> , <b>Zoning Bylaw</b> and <b>Street Manual</b> to make it easier to build well-designed housing and services near transit, reduce the need for long car trips and support safe, direct walking and cycling connections to stations and stops. This includes enabling a wider mix of uses where appropriate, supporting higher densities closest to transit, and planning streets that prioritize people walking, cycling and taking transit.
Neighbourhood context	Participants consistently raised the importance of neighbourhood character and day-to-day livability: how new development fits beside existing homes, how privacy and sunlight are protected, and how street parking, trees and local traffic are managed as communities change.	<p>Across the City Building Program, we are strengthening how citywide direction is applied in local contexts. The <b>Calgary Plan</b> provides clear citywide guidance while confirming that neighbourhood-specific decisions are refined through Local Area Plans, where building scale, transitions, and place-based design can respond to existing character, topography, heritage resources, and local conditions.</p> <p>The <b>Zoning Bylaw</b> is refining the standards that influence neighbourhood fit, such as building placement, landscaping and tree requirements, and when permitted versus discretionary approvals are appropriate. The <b>Street Manual</b> adds clearer guidance for street design in both new and established communities, including retrofit options that balance safety, parking, trees and right-of-way constraints.</p>

## Next steps

The Calgary Plan, Zoning Bylaw, and Street Manual are all in stages of refinement. A final phase of engagement is anticipated for Fall 2026.