
What's next for Banff Avenue Pedestrian Zone?

Public Workshop

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Welcome! Please take a seat and we will begin shortly.

Welcome to the **Banff Avenue Pedestrian Zone Public Workshop!**

Housekeeping

- Agenda
- Introductions
- Respect & encouragement

Agenda

- History and Current Status
- Discussion #1
- Future Opportunities
- Discussion #2



Public Engagement Purpose

Each summer since 2020, the Town of Banff has created a pedestrian zone by temporarily closing two blocks of Banff Avenue to vehicles.

The Town is seeking input from residents to help inform discussion by Council this December.

Council will discuss:

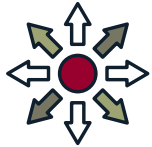
- The future of the **Banff Avenue Pedestrian Zone**.
- Whether **permanent changes** should be considered to accommodate the pedestrian zone.



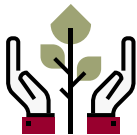
Our Goals for Today



Listen and **confirm** what we have heard so far.



Provide **information** about some of the emerging feedback themes.



Share **concepts** of what the Banff Avenue Pedestrian Zone could look like.



Collect your **feedback** to share with Council and the community.

Public Engagement Process

The following timeline outlines completed efforts and next steps. In addition to receiving feedback from public engagement processes, Council will also be provided with data on traffic impacts, public safety, and other relevant information.



OCTOBER 10, 2023

The 2023 summer Pedestrian Zone was decommissioned and reopened to vehicle traffic on October 12. The summer of 2023 was the final year of the latest 2-year commitment of the temporary pedestrian zone on Banff Avenue.



OCTOBER 10, 2023

Public engagement starts with online survey, pop-up tents and meetings with interested groups.



WE ARE HERE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Public Workshop on the pedestrian zone and a review of design options for potential future of Banff Avenue.



EARLY DECEMBER 2023

Summary of feedback will be prepared to capture the comments heard through engagement. The summary will be shared with Council and the Community.



DECEMBER 18, 2023

Banff Town Council discussion on the future of the Pedestrian Zone at annual Budget and Service Review meetings.

Banff Avenue is **Evolving**

Banff Avenue has evolved over the decades, changing with different needs, uses and opportunities.



1900



1915



1935



1955



2006



2020

Banff Refreshing

2007

In 2007, a reconstruction project called “Banff Refreshing” was completed. The project focused on the following along Banff Avenue:

- Replacement the deep utilities.
- Streetscape improvements to enhance the pedestrian experience (i.e., widened sidewalks, beautification, etc.).

2020-2021

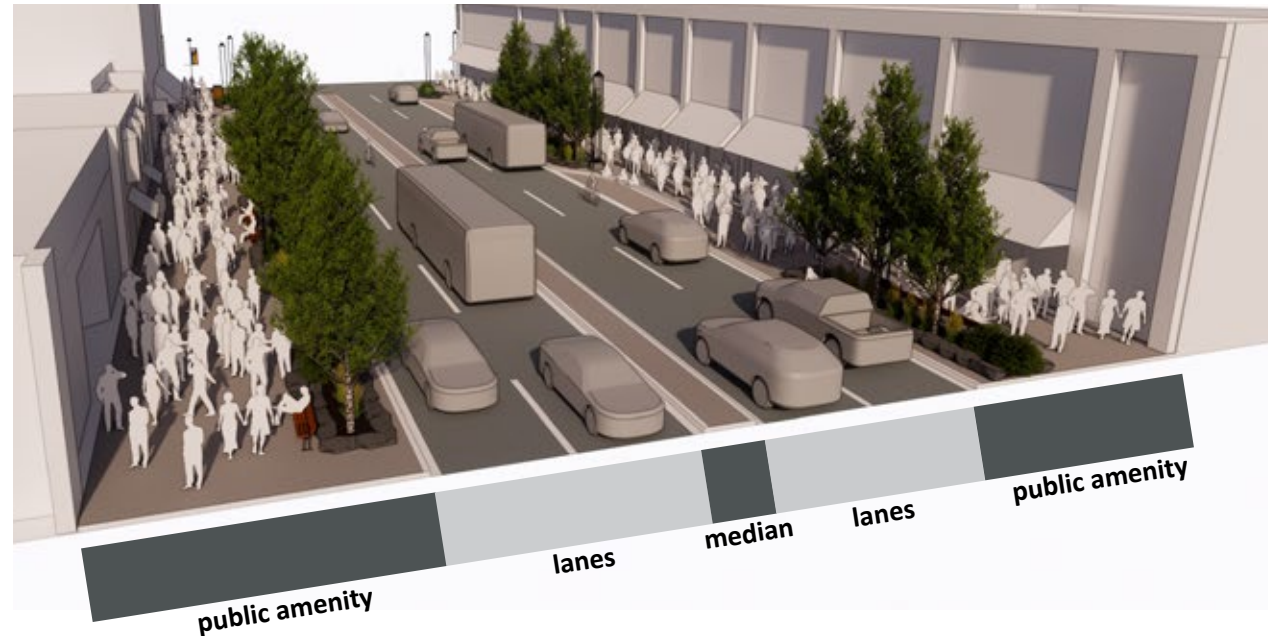
Banff Avenue Pedestrian Zone was opened to accommodate pandemic distancing.

2022-2023

Pedestrian Zone continued in the summer seasons until October 2023.



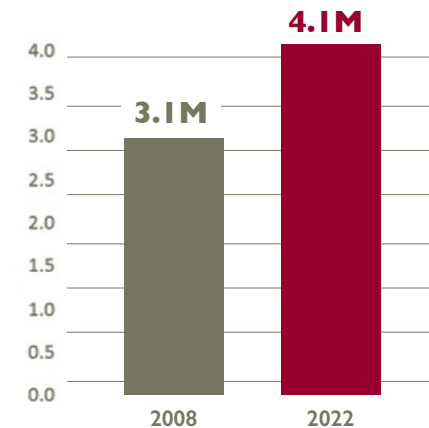
Existing Conditions



Banff Avenue: Recent Context

- As Alberta's population grows, Banff is only getting busier.
- With up to 40,000 pedestrians per day, Banff Avenue's pedestrian infrastructure has already been reached or exceeded.
- Since Banff Refreshing was completed in 2008, a **33% increase** in visitation has occurred. With the provincial population expected to surpass 7M in the next 30 years, we should expect to accommodate a growing visitor base.

Person visits to
Banff National Park



Icebreaker: If the pedestrian zone does not move forward in 2024, what will Banff Avenue look like?

Please share one thought in three words or a doodle.

What We Have Heard So Far

We have received valuable feedback from residents on the Pedestrian Zone since 2020.

- Launched formal survey, October 18 until November 27, 2023.
- Received over 1,300 responses to date, close to **900 responses** from Town residents.

Active Transportation **Sentiment**

92% agree that the Town of Banff should continue its efforts to reduce reliance on visitor vehicles in town.

91% support the Town of Banff's goal to promote and support walking, cycling and taking transit.

Bear Street Sentiment

- Many respondents appreciate the pedestrian-friendly design.
- Some respondents advocate for a complete ban on vehicles, while others express difficulties navigating due to the mixed-use nature.
- Some suggested improvements include better signage, reducing or eliminating cars, and optimizing street layout for safety and efficiency.

We asked what did you **like** about the summer Pedestrian Zone?

718 people responded, 107 skipped

1. Room to move for pedestrians (652 responses).
2. Atmosphere/ambiance without vehicles (570 responses).
3. Outdoor dining spaces (563 responses).
4. No vehicles except transit (551 responses).
5. Enjoyable for strolling or meeting up (537 responses).

We asked what did you **not like** about the summer Pedestrian Zone?

595 people responded, 277 skipped

1. Traffic impacts elsewhere (443 responses).
2. Detour of vehicle traffic to adjacent streets to/from southside destinations (363 responses).
3. No vehicle access/should allow vehicles (177 responses).
4. Presence of people on bicycles/scooters/skateboards (152 responses).
5. Inconvenient access to destination (142 responses).

Table Discussion #1

**What are the primary challenges
of the pedestrian zone?**

What are the primary benefits?

Moving Forward: Designing the future Banff Avenue Pedestrian Zone

Design Process

Scatliff +Miller + Murray Inc. have created concepts based on guiding principles, policy, and initial public feedback.

Public Input

The design concepts show what a future pedestrian zone could look like. Please share your feedback on the design concepts.



Guiding Principles



Protect and amplify views to Cascade Mountain.



Provide a balance of private and public space.



Improve safety, accessibility, and permeability.

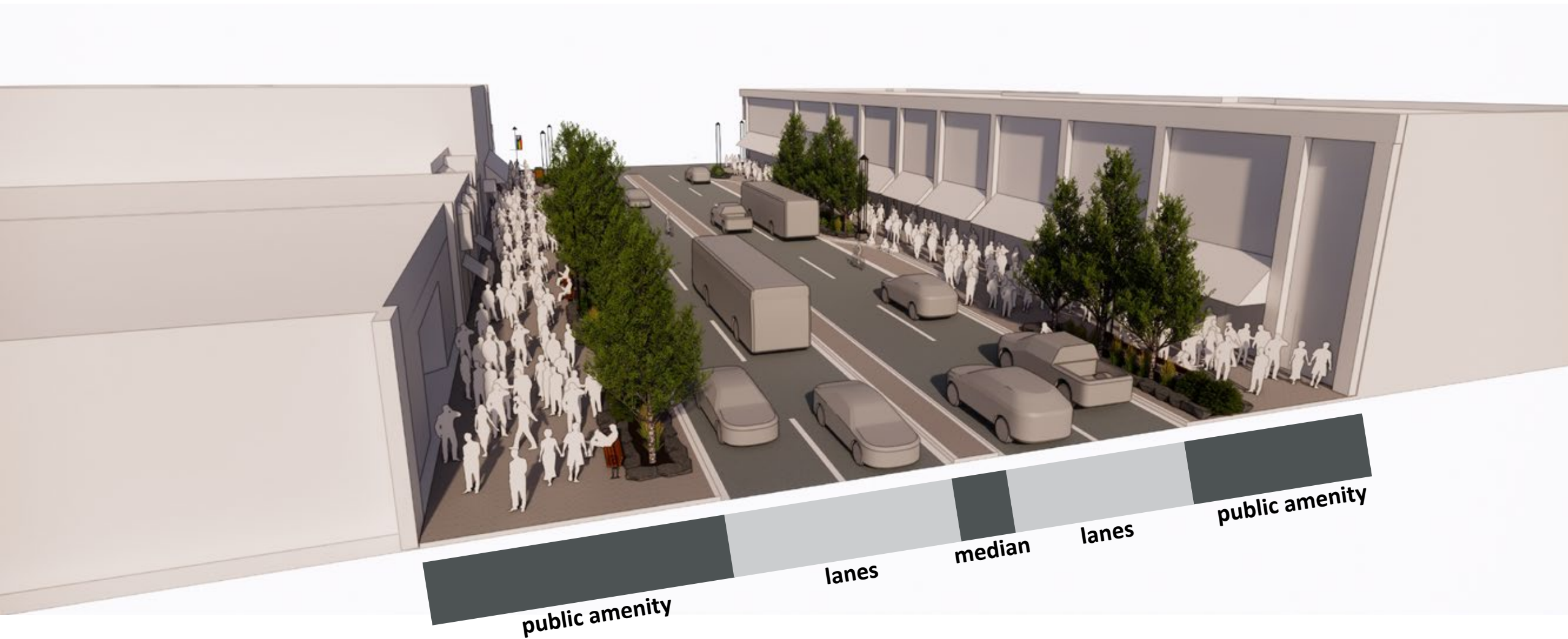


Preserve and build upon existing character streetscape elements.

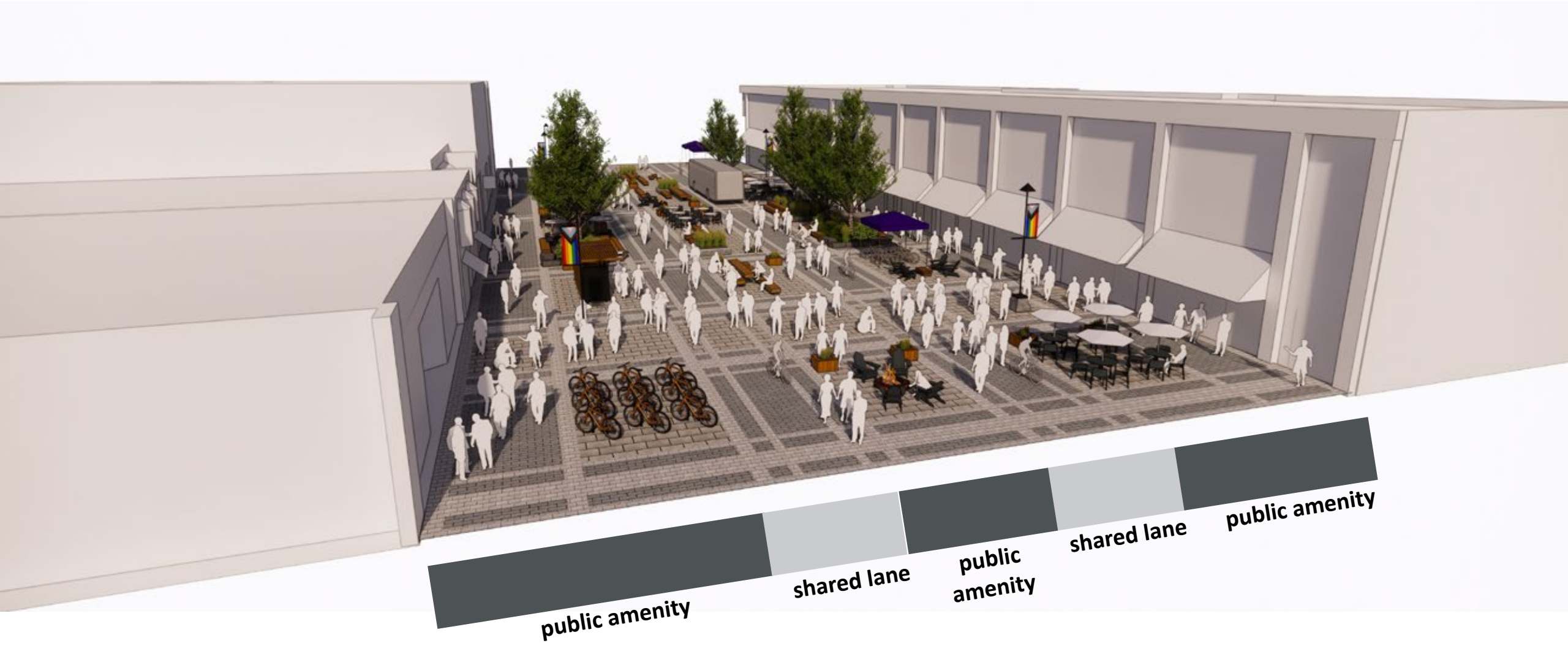


Provide seasonal flexibility.

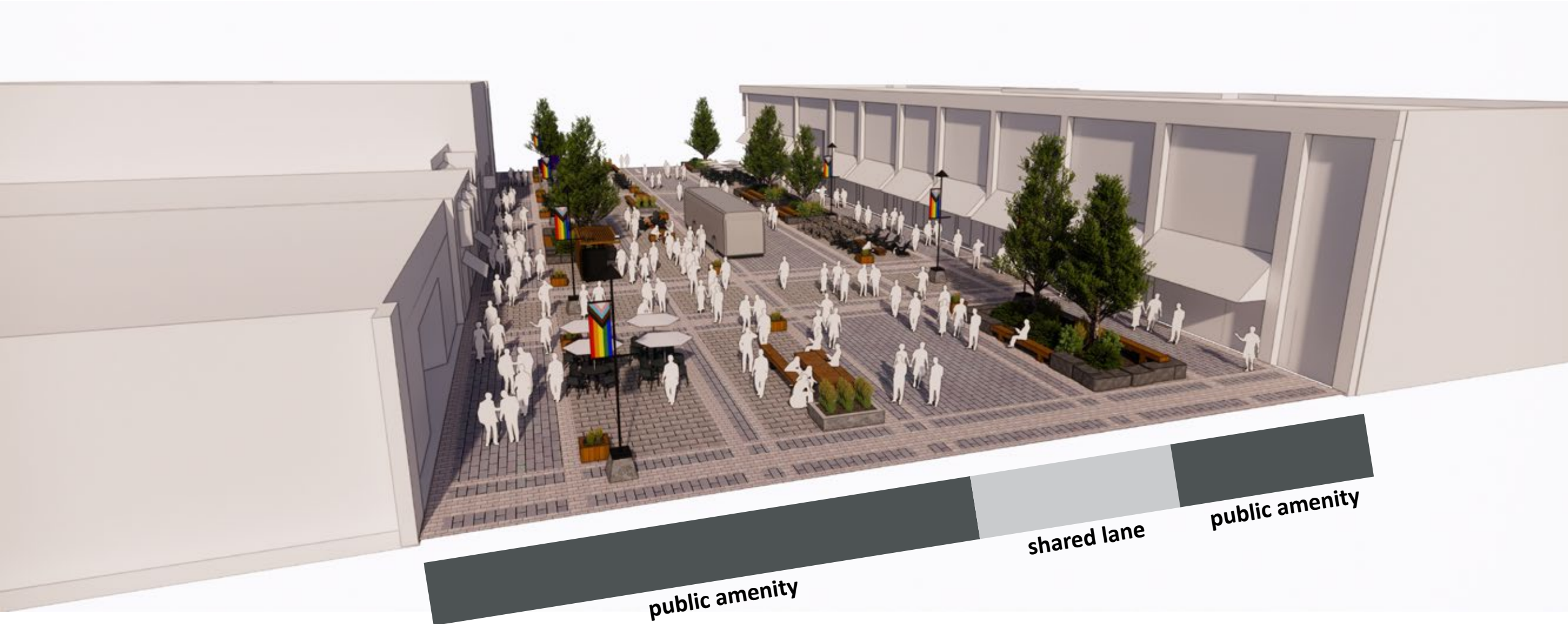
Design Concepts **Existing Conditions**



Design Concepts **Symmetrical**

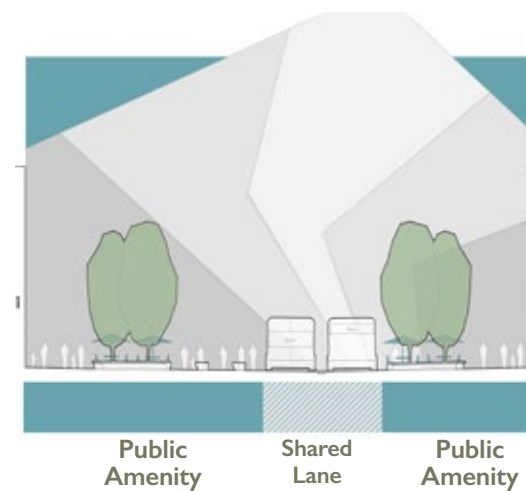


Design Concepts **Asymmetrical**



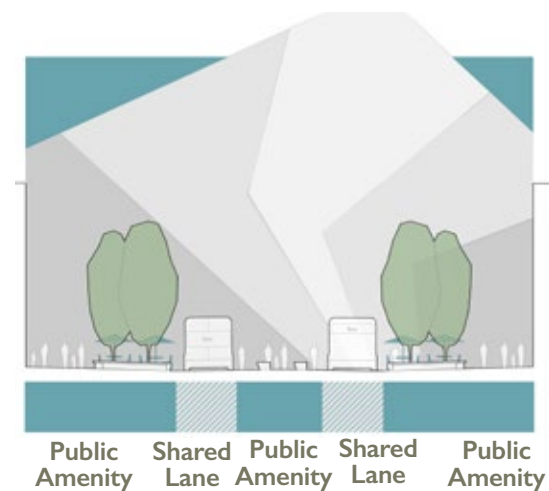


Design Concept I: Asymmetrical





Design Concept 2: Symmetrical



Seasonal Flexibility

There are strategies to support year-round activation, enhance pedestrian comfort, and facilitate winter maintenance and operations. These strategies can be applied to both design options.



Summer



Winter

Table Discussion #2

**Based on the early design concepts,
what does *your* future Banff Avenue
look like?**

Thank you for participating!

Model View Design Concepts options 1 and 2
in-person today.

Next Steps Share findings with Council at the
Budget and Service Review Meeting (December 18).

Complete the survey, there is still time!
Open until November 27.

