



Calgary



Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan

Public and Stakeholder Information Session

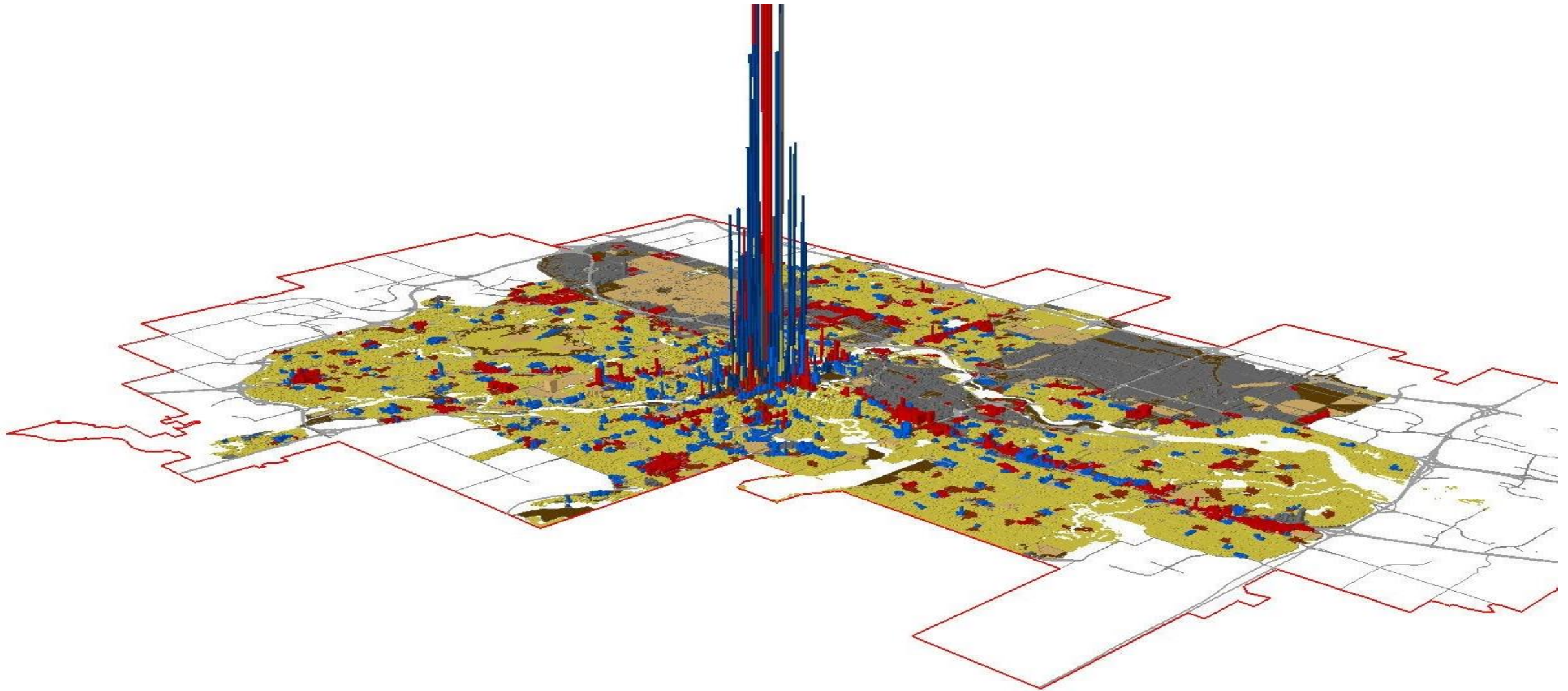
January 20, 2021

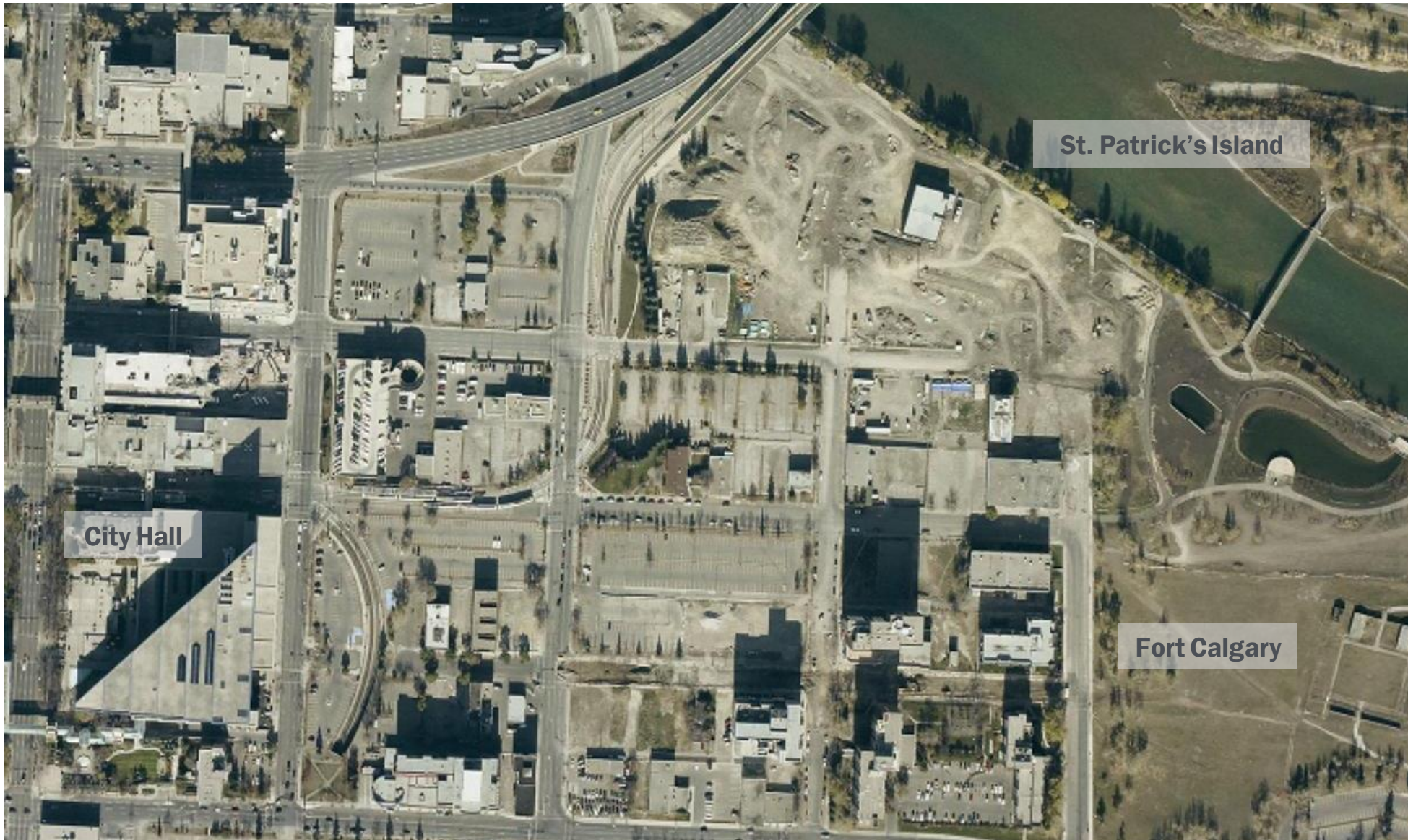
Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Introductory remarks from Councillor Farrell
3. State of the Greater Downtown
4. Past Engagement
5. Vision and principles
6. Strategic moves
7. Manager round-table
8. Downtown Strategy
9. Question and answers

Go to www.menti.com and enter the code 23 25 02 1

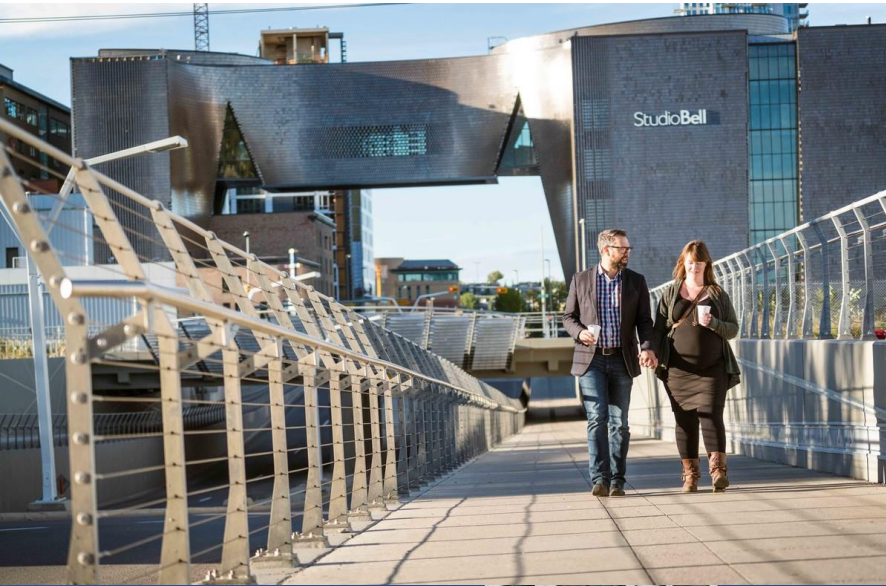
Downtown is important for Calgary







East Village Revitalization



Introductions

Project Sponsor: Thom Mahler

Project Lead: Julie McGuire

Project Steering Committee Members:

- Thom Mahler, Chair
- Dick Ebersohn, Climate Change and Environment
- Keath Parker, Parks
- Feisal Lakha, Transportation Planning
- Scott Lockwood, Community Planning

Technical Advisory Committee Members:

Across the organization and civic partners

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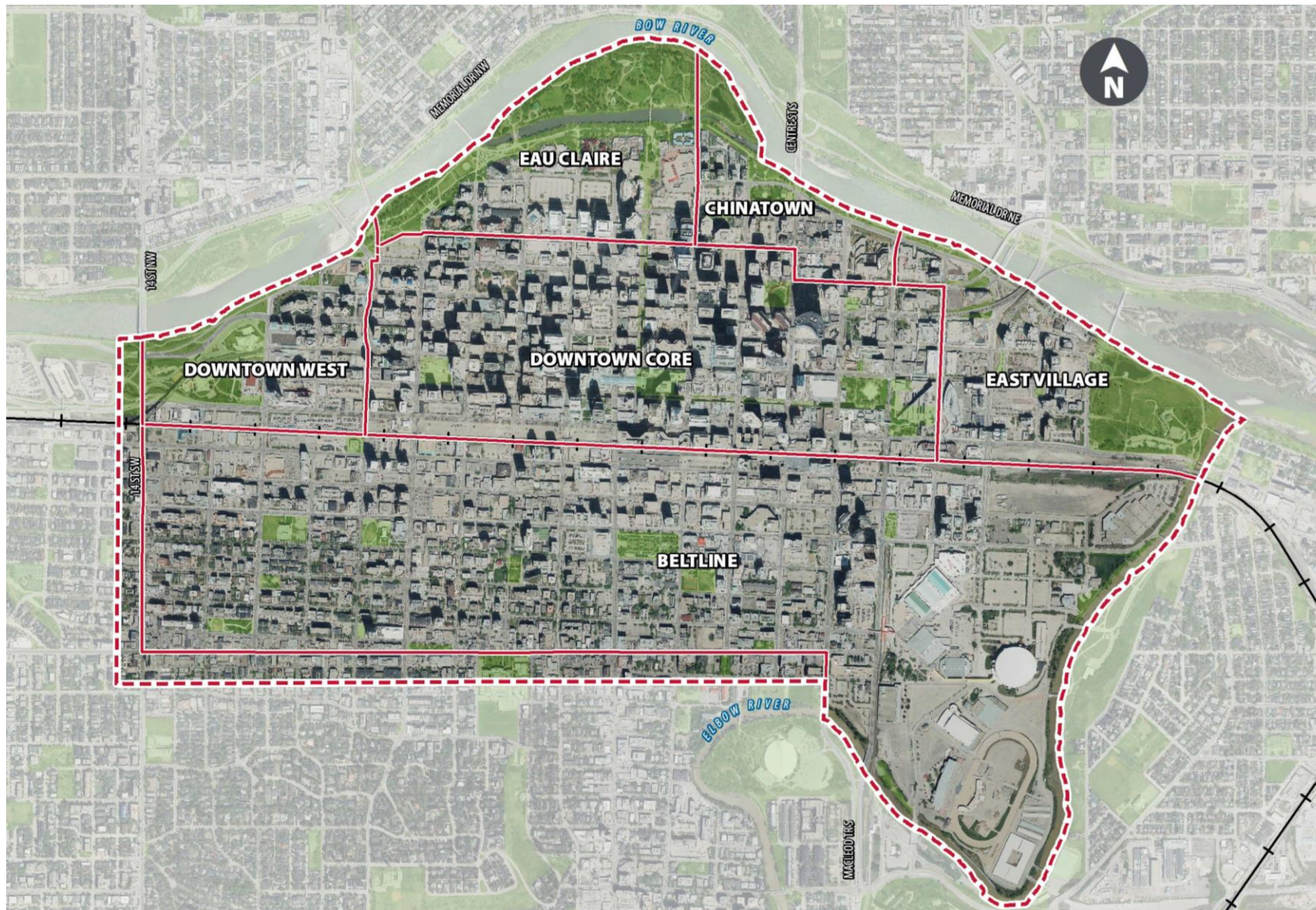
- What represents your interest in Downtown?

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State of the Greater Downtown

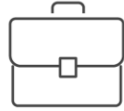
Calgary's Greater Downtown



Legend

- Greater Downtown
- Plan Boundary
- Neighbourhood Boundary

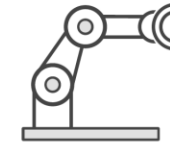
Current State



154,000
Jobs



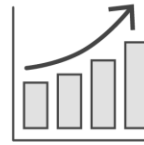
31%
Business &
Finance



21%
Science &
Engineering



49,653,614 sq. ft
Total Office Space



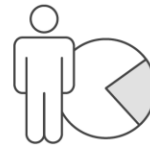
31%
Growth from
2007



14,091,624 sq. ft
Vacant Office



44,991
2019 Population



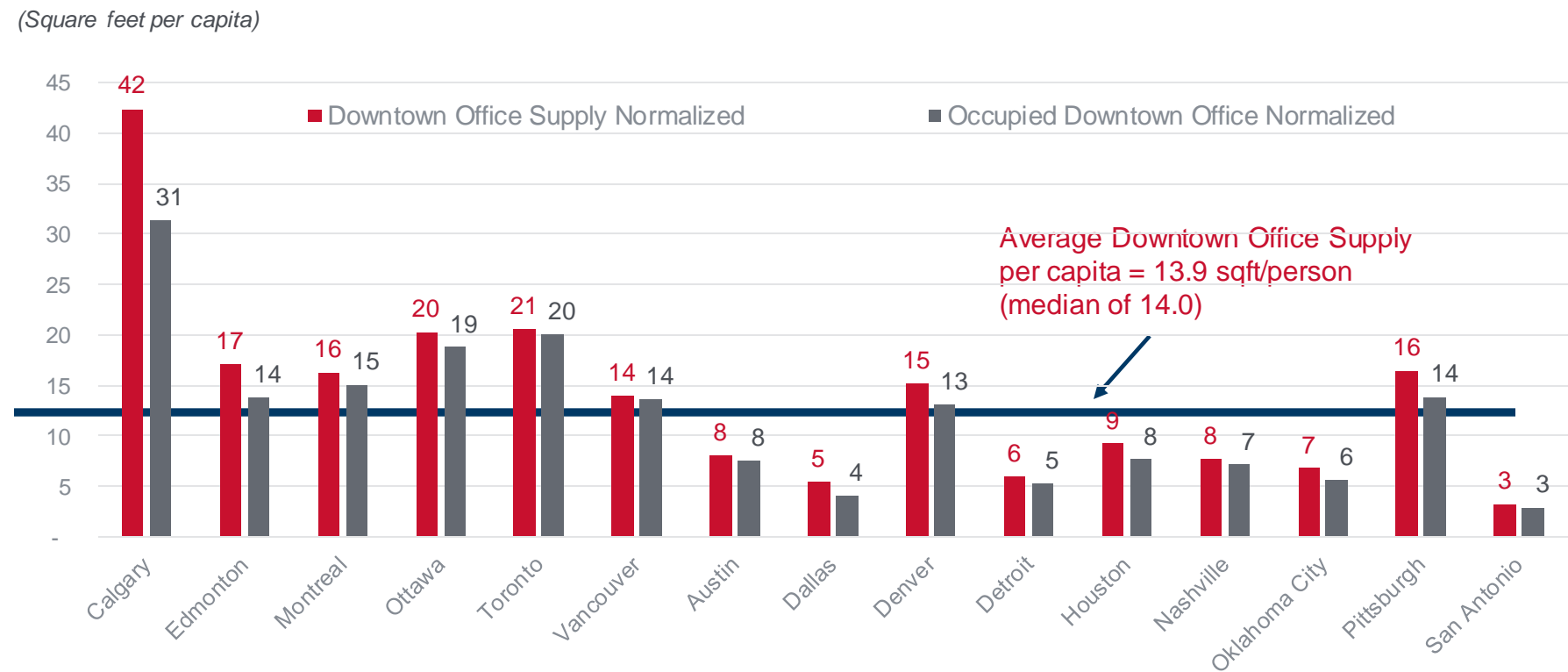
35.9%
Population Increase
2007 to 2019



32,019
2019 Units

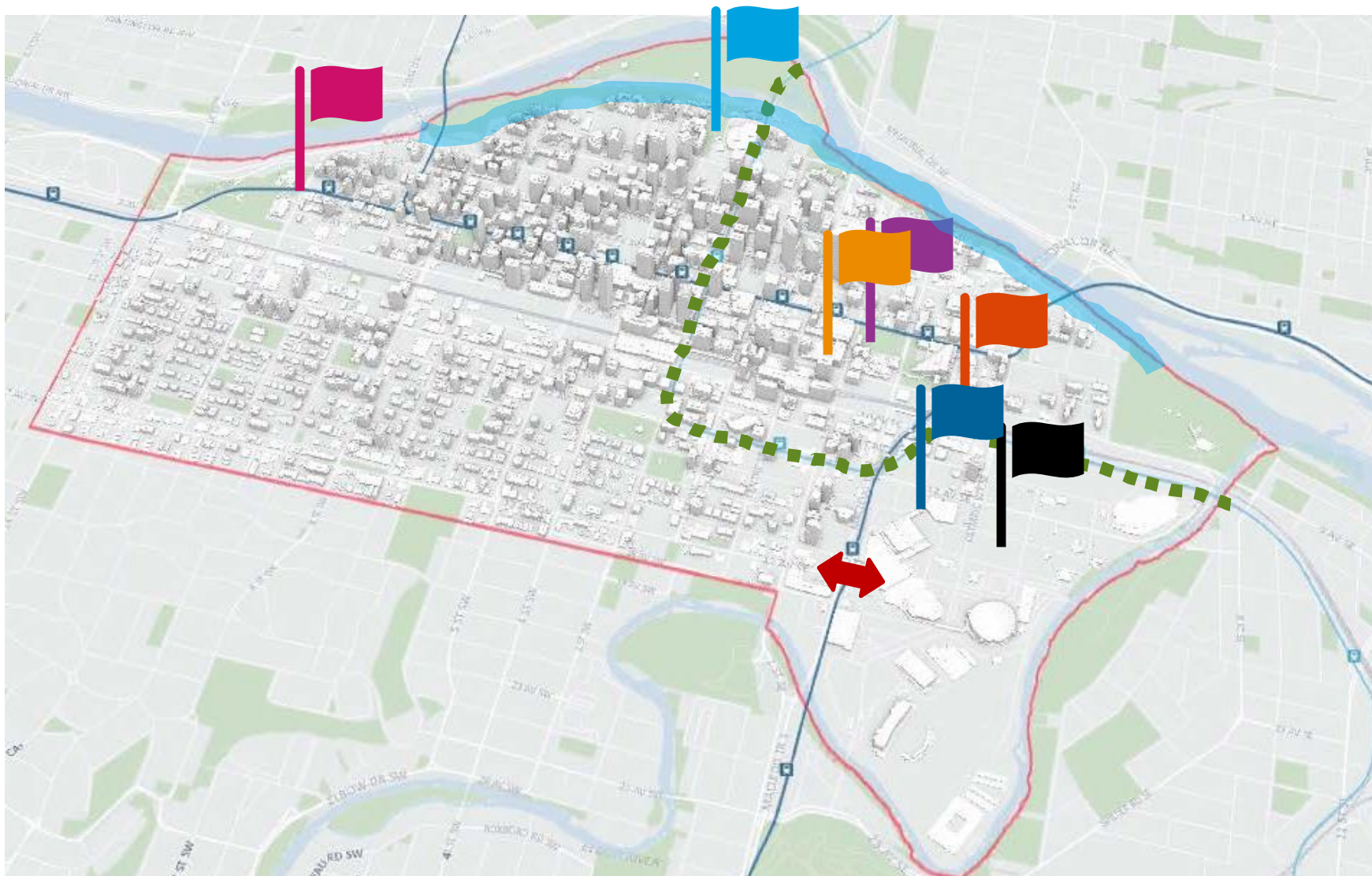
Downtown Office Supply Per Capita

Downtown Office Supply and Population Size:
A Comparison across Cities in Canada and the U.S. (2019)



Source: CBRE, Oxford Economics, Statistics Canada, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce

Placemaking investments



- A. Events Centre
- B. Arts Commons Expansion
- C. BMO Centre expansion
- D. Glenbow Museum Renovation
- E. Contemporary Calgary
- F. Riverfront and Eau Claire Public Realm
- G. Green Line
- H. 17 Ave SE Extension
- I. Platform Innovation Centre

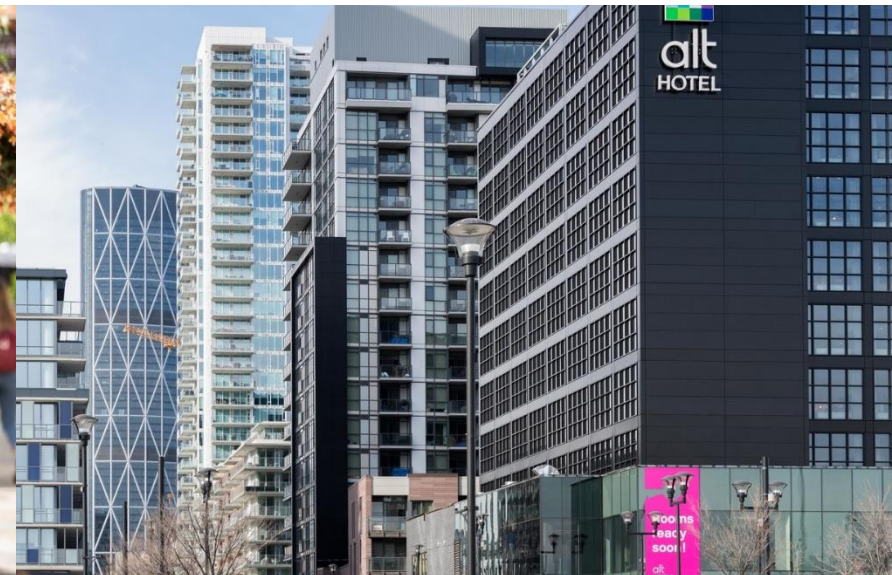
Go to www.menti.com

- The word I would use to describe what I like most about downtown is?
- The word I would use to describe what I like the least about downtown is?

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Trends and impact of pandemic

- Work from home
- E-commerce
- Tourism / business travel



We need to create a downtown with a
NEXT future in mind



Past Public Engagement

What is Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan?

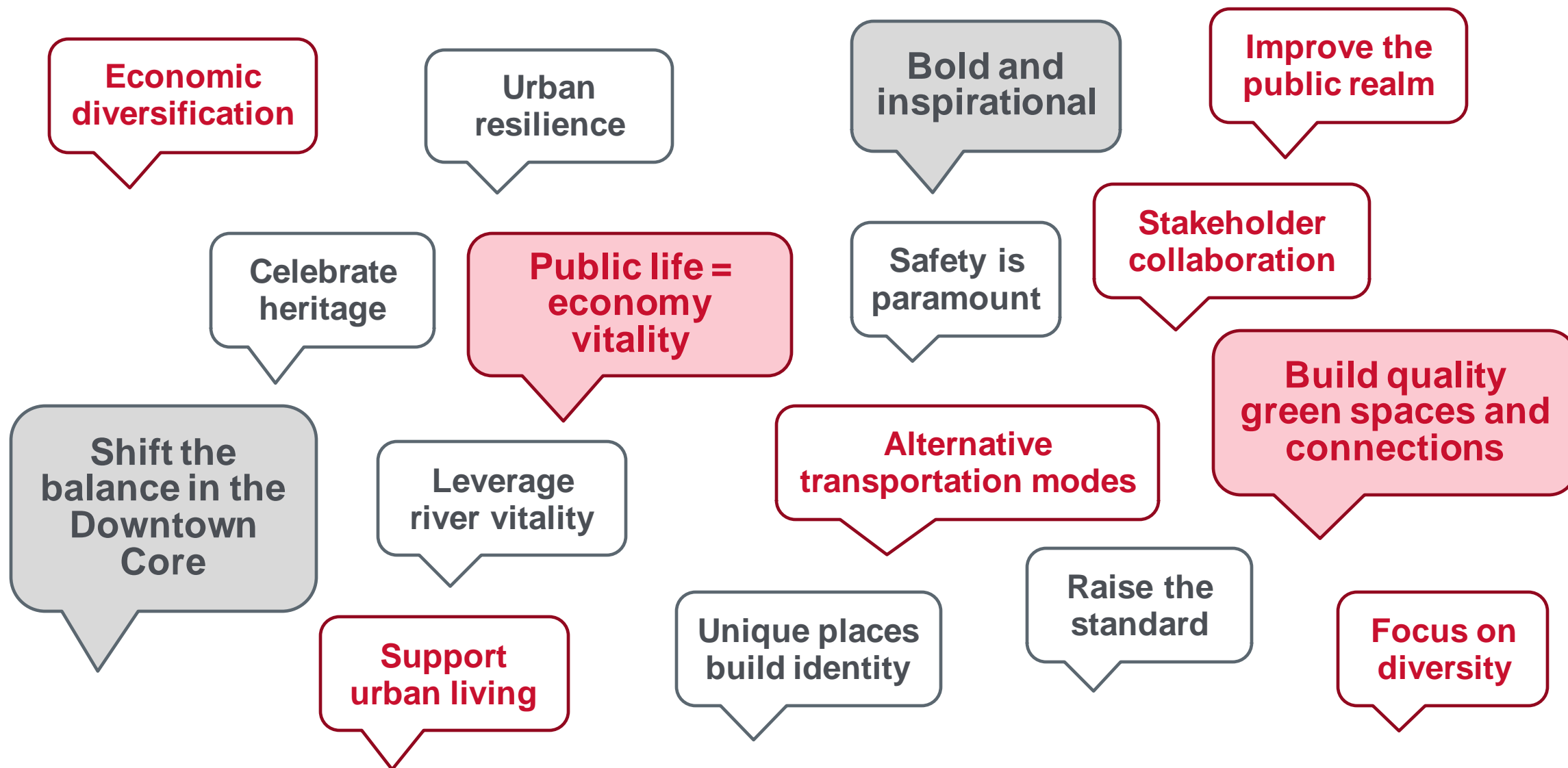
Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan is an opportunity to reinvigorate a commitment to success in Greater Downtown and align with new initiatives underway.

The **OBJECTIVES** of this new Plan are to:

- Create a Vision, Principles and Strategic Moves
- Be visionary and provide direction to deliver on actions in the next 10-years
- Enable us to be innovative, nimble and bold in trying new ideas that advance the broad principles and strategies identified in the Plan.



What have we heard so far?





Vision and Principles

Calgary's Downtown:

Greater Downtown is the economic heart of Calgary; a **resilient** and **vibrant** place for everyone, with welcoming neighbourhoods, active streets and well-used public spaces.

Greater Downtown Plan Vision

Go to www.menti.com

- Do you agree with the vision statement for Greater Downtown?

Go to www.menti.com and enter the code 23 25 02 1

Principles

Economic vitality
and innovation

Identity and place

Opportunity and
choice

Health and
wellness

Social interaction

The Green
network and
natural
environment

Transportation
network
reimagining

Climate mitigation
and adaptation

Quality urban
Design

Resilient and
prepared



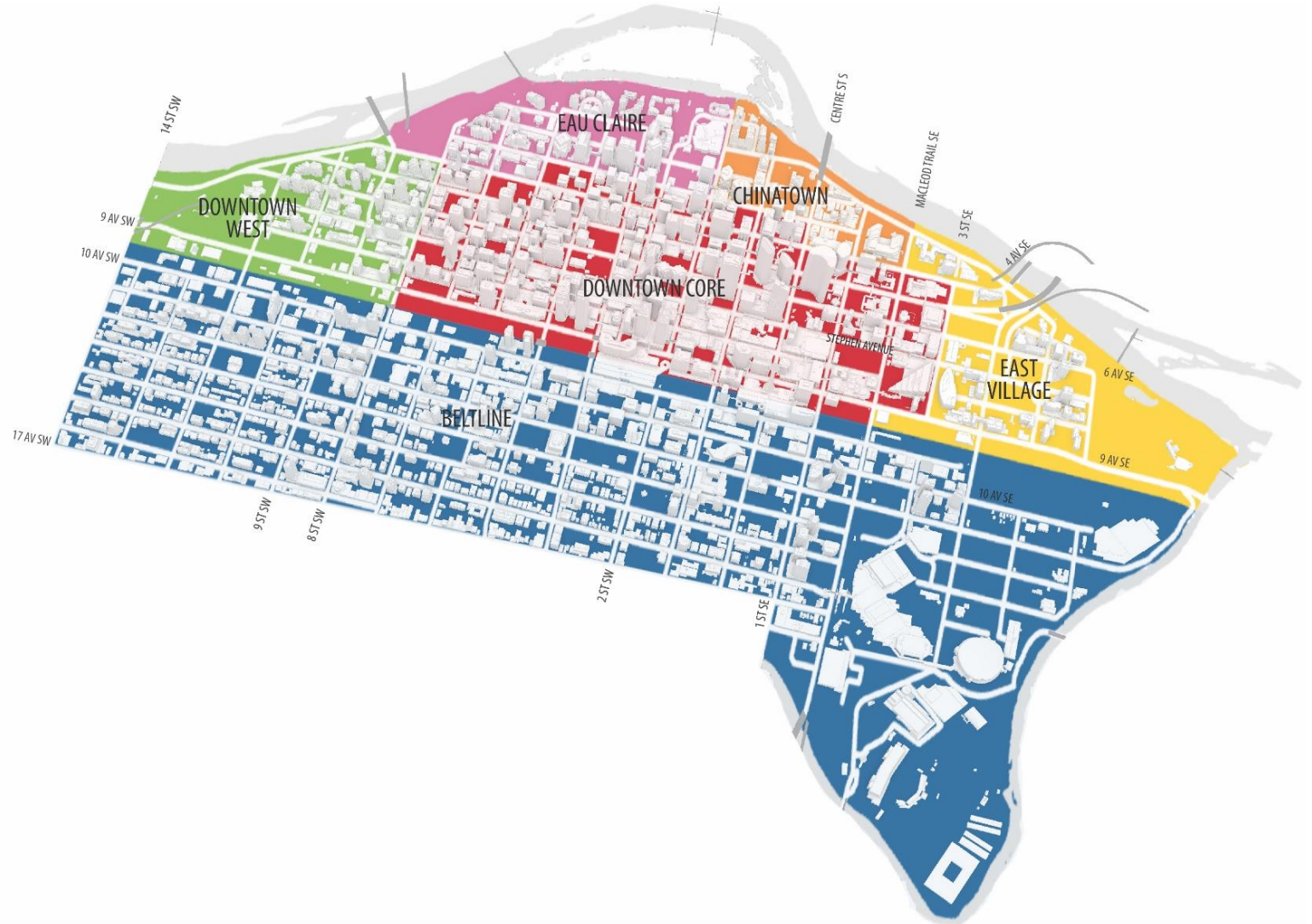
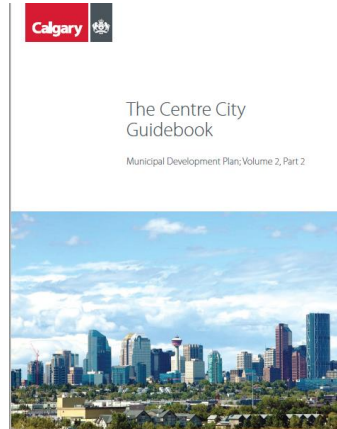
Strategic Moves

Cultivate growing neighbourhoods & districts

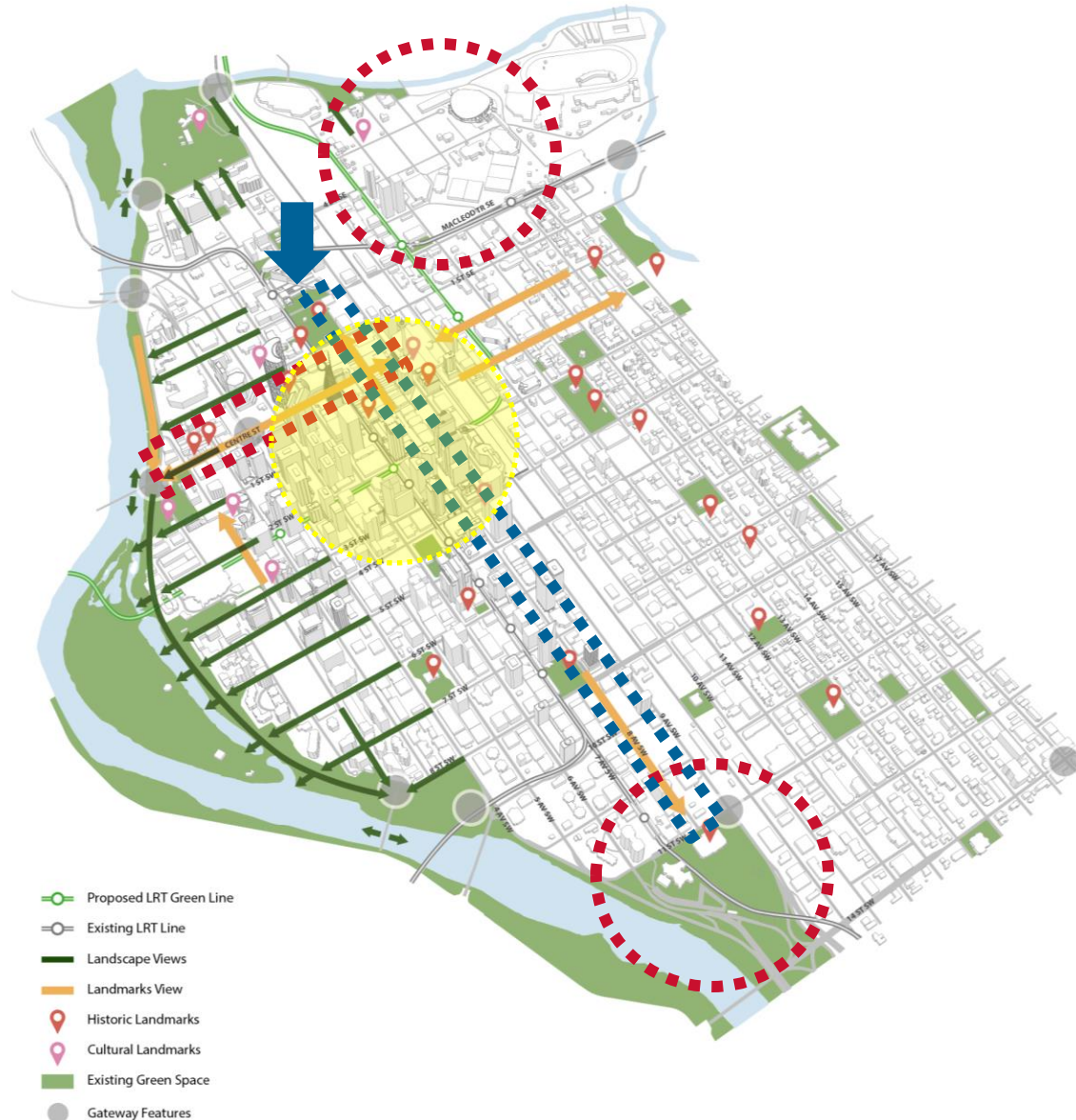
1. Reinforce the value of mixed-use neighbourhoods
2. Preserve and enhance neighbourhood gateways, landmarks and view corridors
3. Create spaces that celebrate diversity, culture, art and history
4. Advance redevelopment of key gathering places
5. Increase residential housing and supporting amenities
6. Shift the image of the Downtown Core



Cultivate growing neighbourhoods & districts

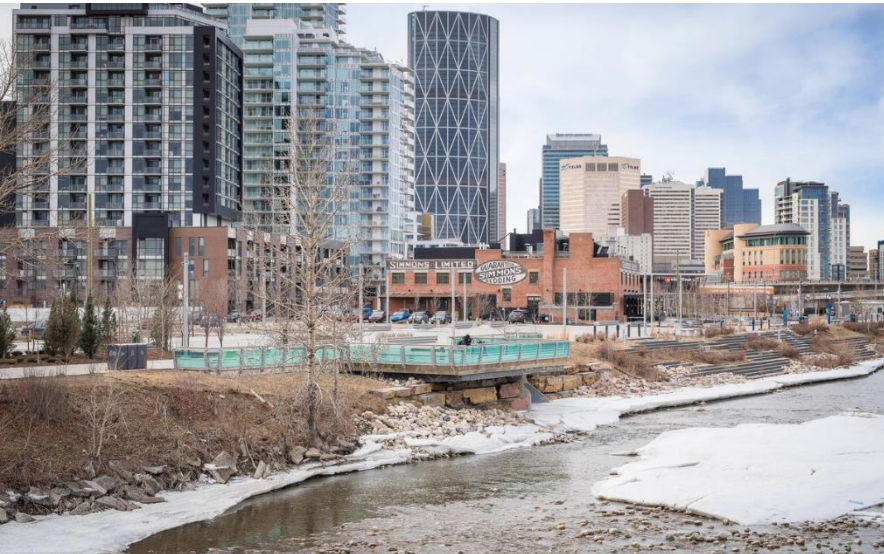


Cultivate growing neighbourhoods & districts

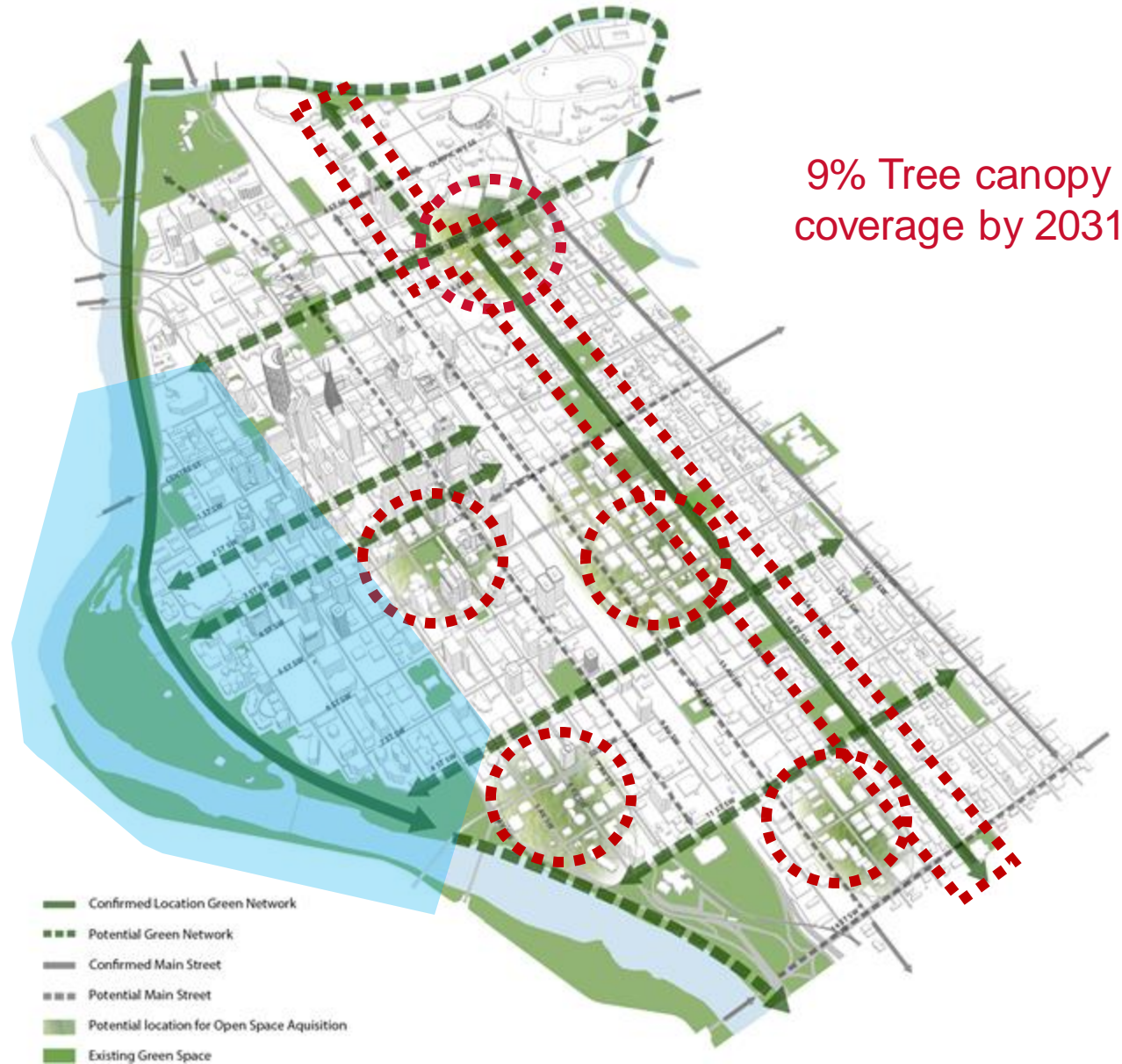
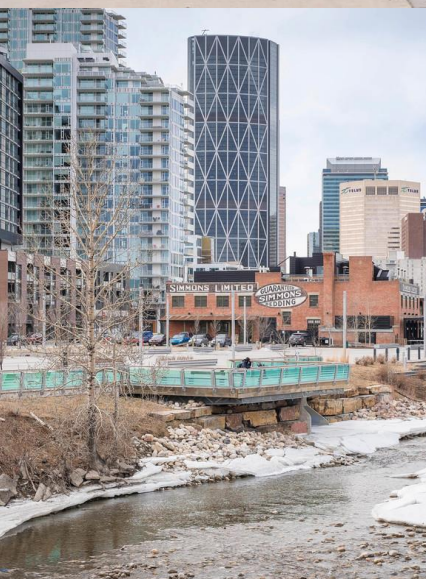


Grow the green infrastructure network

1. Plan, expand and connect to the Green Network
2. Protect, maintain and grow the tree canopy
3. Connect and celebrate the Rivers while improving flood resiliency
4. Be flexible and accommodating in design and use
5. Leverage green infrastructure assets to create year-round vibrancy



What is the Green Network



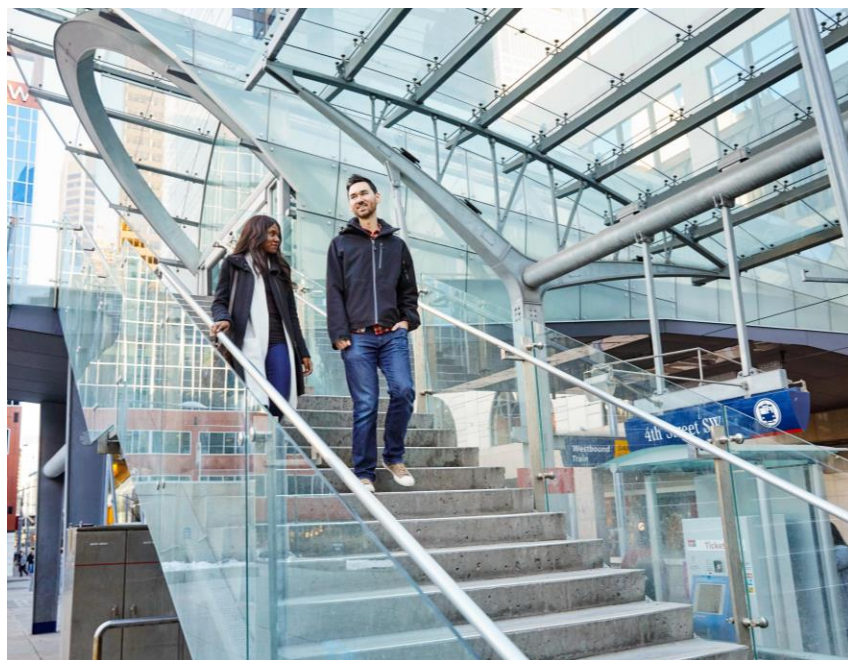
Reimagine streets for communities

1. Plan comprehensive and integrated networks for all Modes
2. Re-think the road rights-of-way
3. Improve connectivity between destinations
4. Invest in the public realm
5. Support the Plus 15 Network



Enable public transit as a preferred mobility choice

1. Expand Transit Service
2. Invest in Frequent and Efficient Transit Service
3. Improve transit stations and stops to create welcoming experiences



Future-proof in an innovative environment

1. Promote an innovation and testing environment
2. Offer regulatory flexibility to enable development
3. Reduce vulnerabilities to high-risk hazards and long-term climate impacts
4. Improve energy use and reduce GHG emissions in buildings and infrastructure



Go to www.menti.com

- Which big moves/ideas do you feel are the most important?

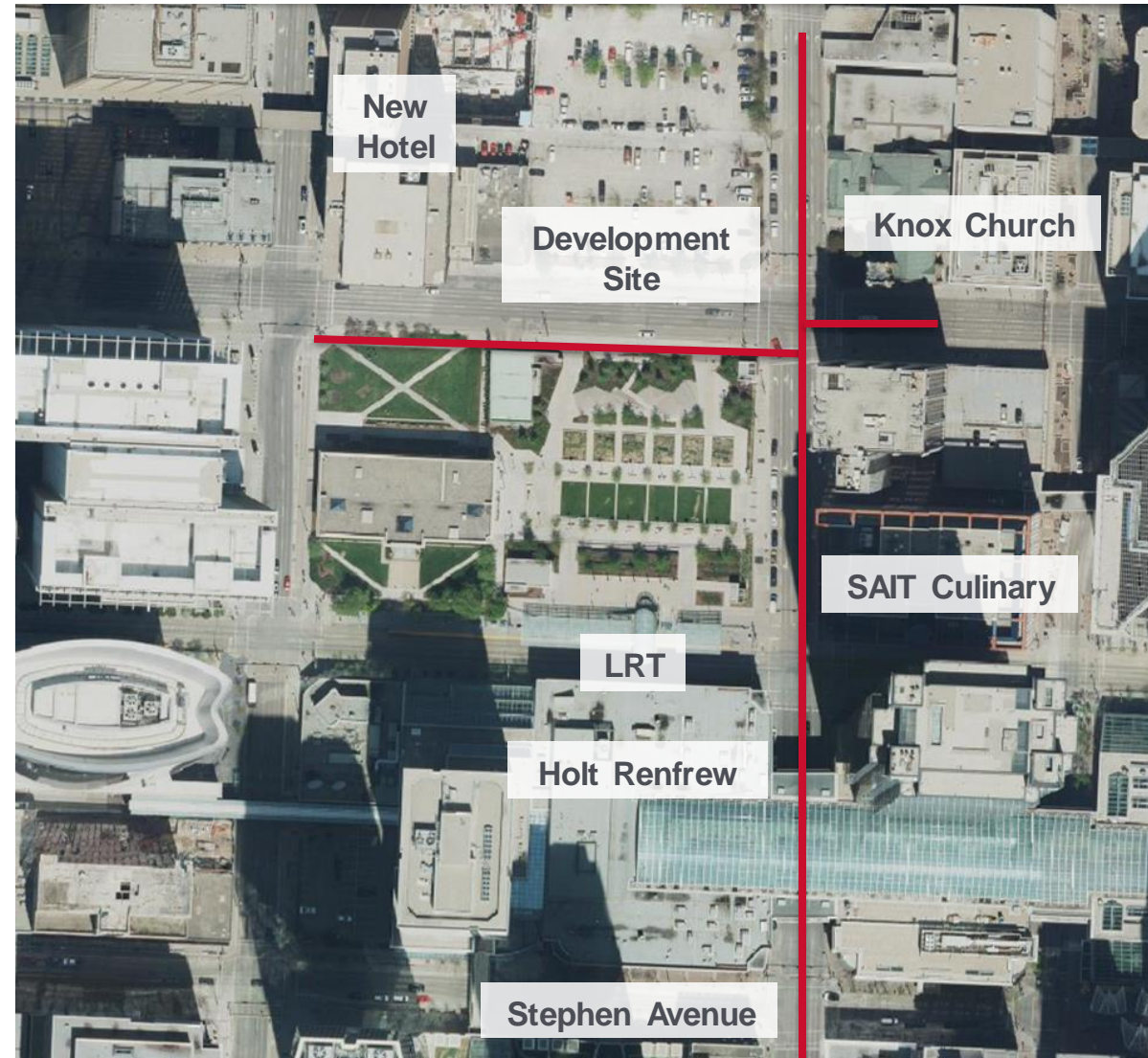
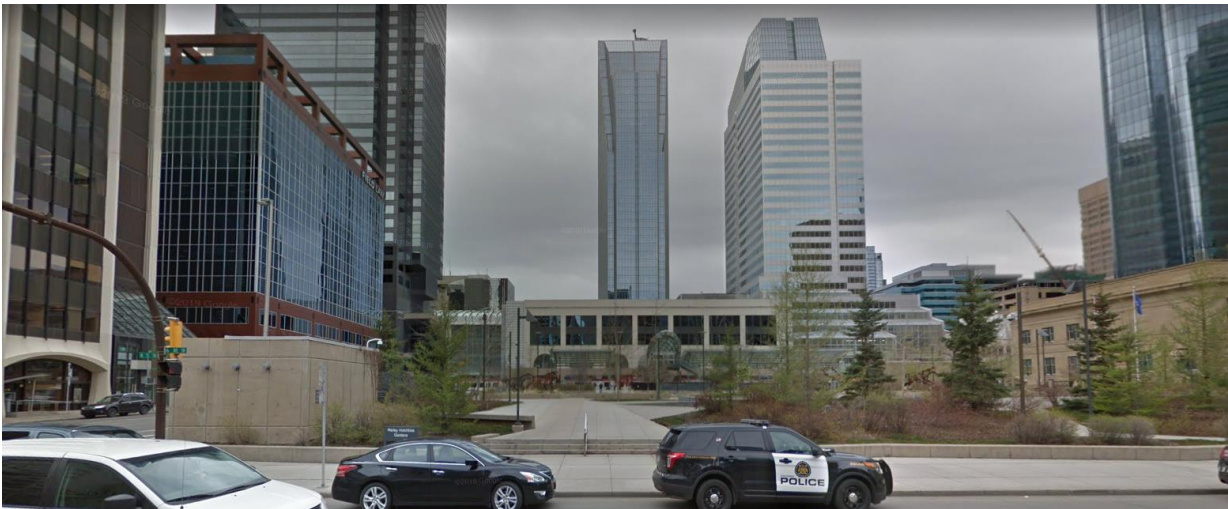
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Putting it all together – Illustrated examples

Bring Courthouse Park to Life

- Program park with The Core and CDA (think Fashion Week)
- Close lanes to expand public realm for food and beverage.
- Investigate active use for Courthouse
- Access to LRT
- Light Heritage Buildings (Courthouse and Knox)
- Involve SAIT
- Give destination use to new Boutique Hotel
- Incent a major mixed-use development



Union Square Park New York

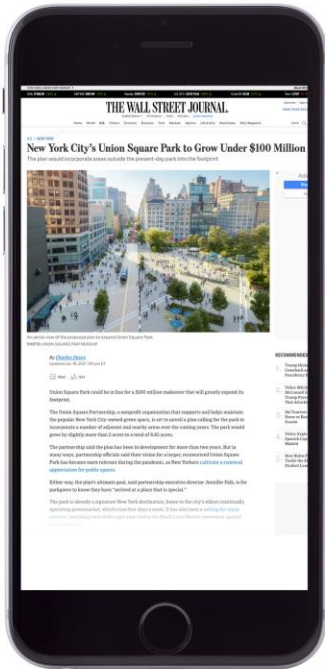


Image from The Wall Street Journal, January 18, 2021
www.wsj.com



An aerial view of the proposed plan to expand Union Square Park.

PHOTO: UNION SQUARE PARTNERSHIP

Using parks tools and assets to create community and destinations



Example – Alternatives for parks operations & activation

Some of the following approaches could be considered:

- The activation of parks through a range of programming initiatives.
- Partnerships with businesses and a neighbourhood-level residential population for downtown park stewardship (including and re-thinking volunteerism).
- Alternative mechanisms of park administration and fee-based use.
- The creation of new smaller vibrant publicly accessible neighbourhood parks that support community need first.



Transportation – leveraging our assets

Examples of our assets:

- Roadways and right of way;
- Transit;
- Mobility options;



Transportation – Reallocation of space & balancing priorities



Transportation – ideas and concepts to cultivate community



An aerial view of the proposed plan to expand Union Square Park.

PHOTO: UNION SQUARE PARTNERSHIP

Image from The Wall Street Journal, January 18, 2021 www.wsj.com

Climate and our Downtown



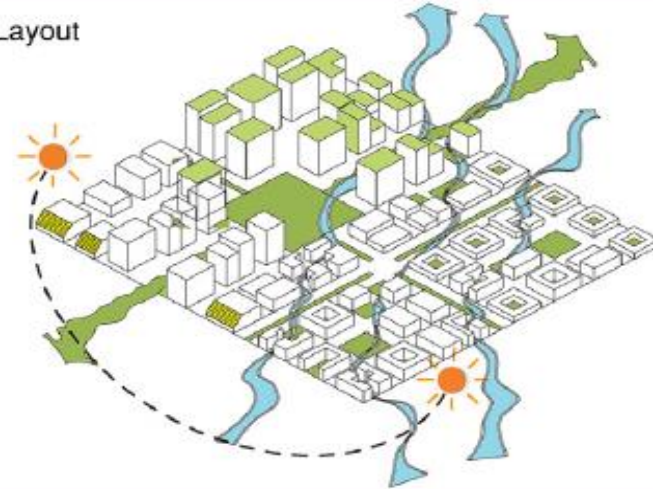
- Reducing emissions from buildings and decreasing maintenance costs
- Increasing investment in building retrofits
- Aiming for Net Zero
- Decreasing climate risk

Climate and our Downtown

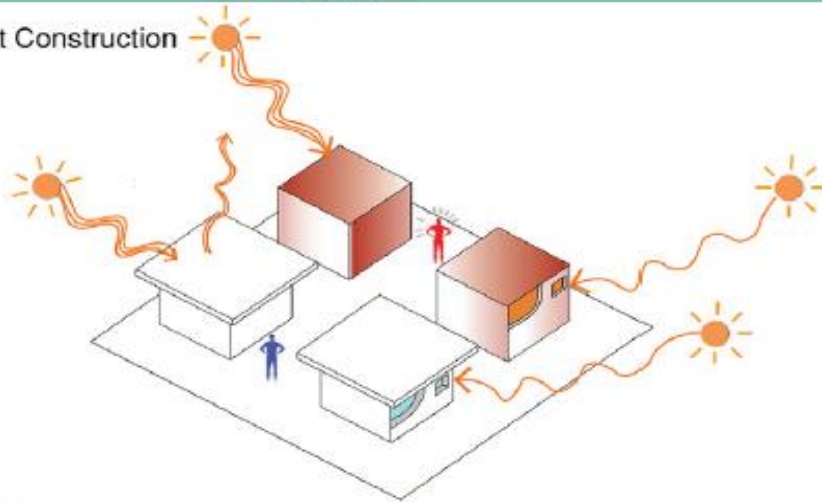
1. Efficiency of Urban Systems



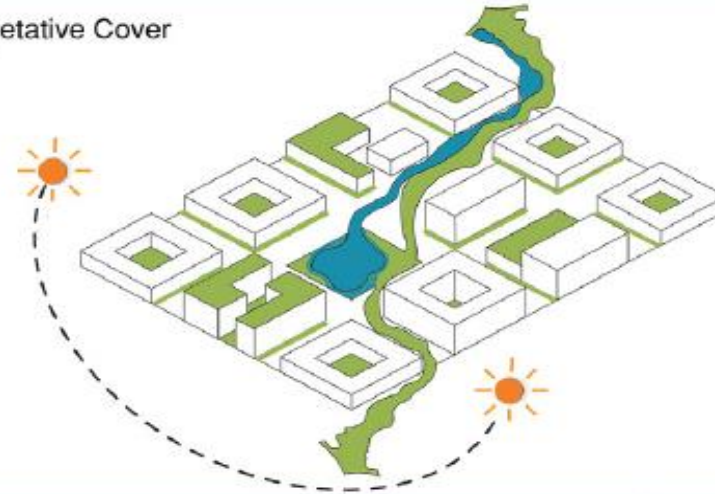
2. Form and Layout



3. Heat - Resistant Construction Material



4. Vegetative Cover



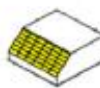
Transit -
Oriented
Zone



Green
Path



Natural
Ventilation



Solar
Energy



Green
Roof



Urban
Farm



Urban Water
Drainage



Hot
Roof

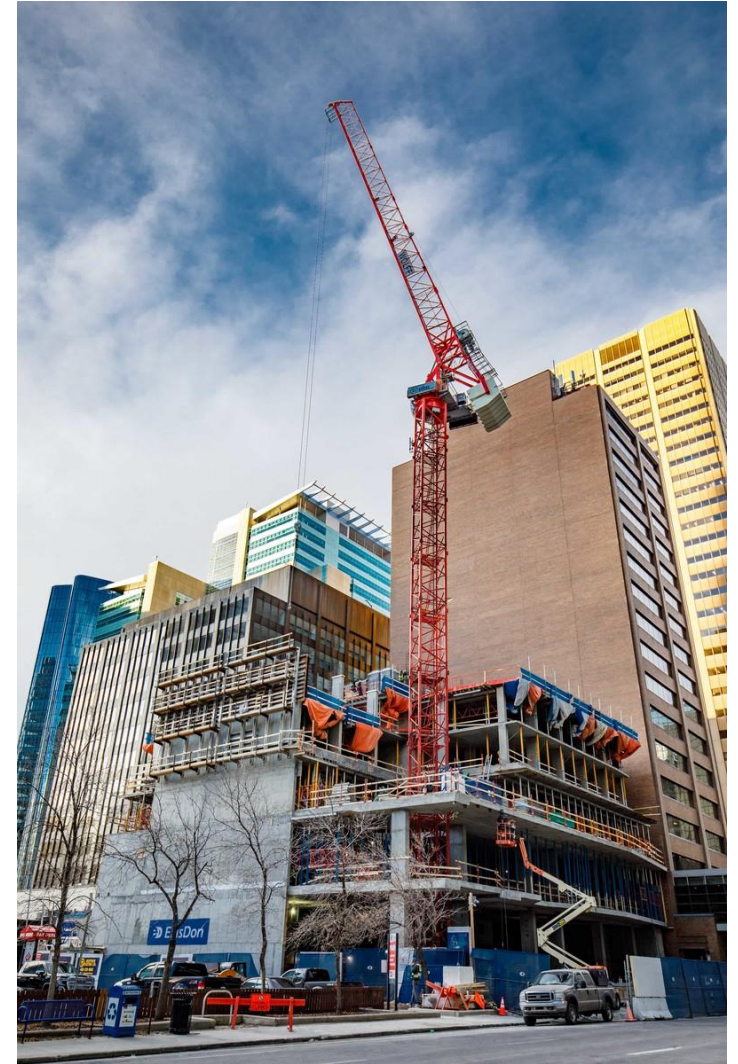


Cool
Roof

Example: Net Zero Emissions

Proposed Actions:

1. Implement an Energy Performance Standard for new buildings and major renovations to existing buildings in the Greater Downtown. Over time increase the stringency of the standard to eventually require buildings to have net zero emissions by 2050.
2. Develop a program for deep energy retrofits of existing buildings to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 or a minimum GHG emissions reduction of 80 per cent below 2005 levels.



Go to www.menti.com

- Given what you heard from us, what one word / phrase describes the future downtown that you want to see?

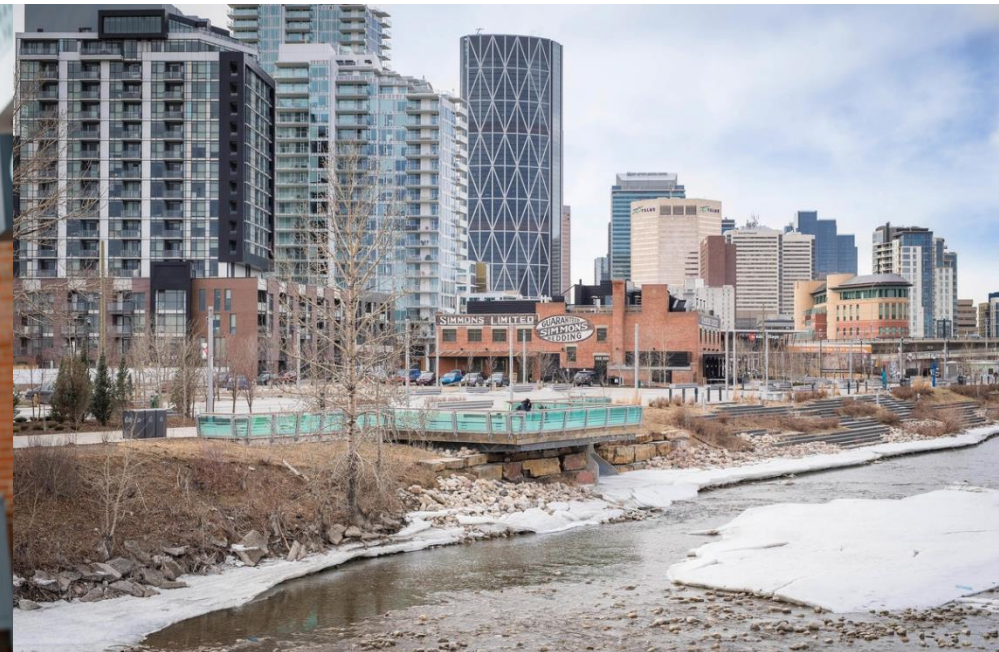
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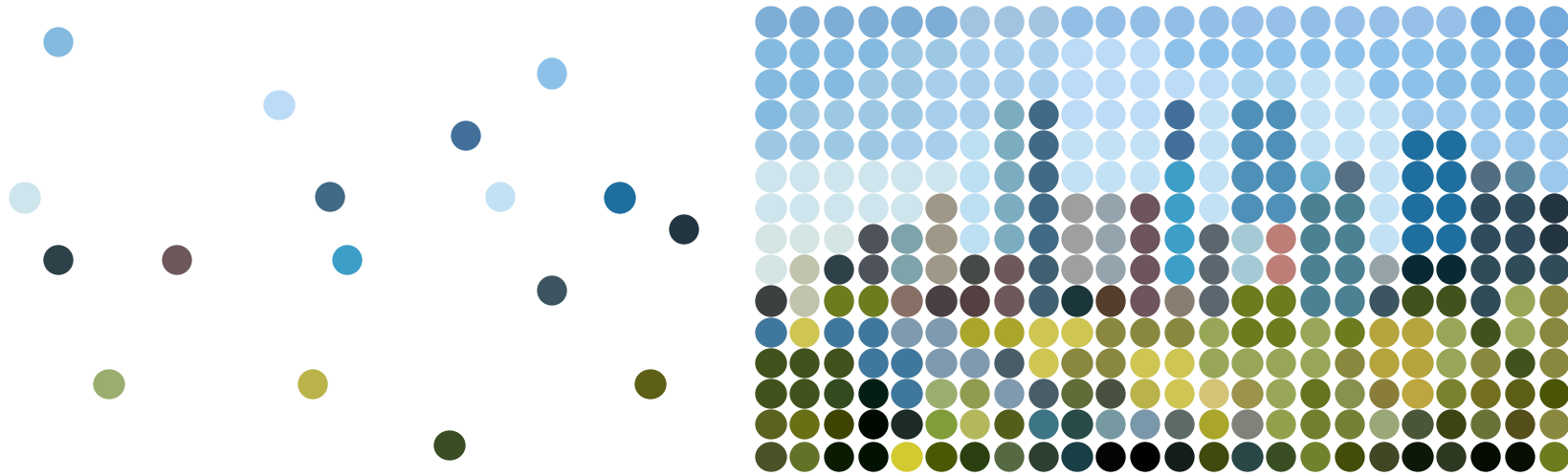
What's next?

How will this Plan be implemented

- Downtown Strategy
 - City-led actions and partnerships
- Calgary Municipal Land Corporation – Rivers District and other projects
- Through the next budget cycle
- Renewed focus on downtown within City Hall
- Review of Local Area Plan and other enabling tools



Calgary's Downtown Strategy



CONNECT

PLACE

WORK

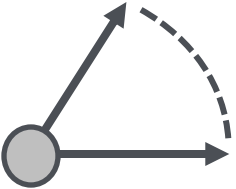
LIVE

CALGARY IN THE NEW ECONOMY

Calgary's Downtown Strategy



Acting with urgency to address a structural shift in our economy. We're active and proactive.



Pivoting to a new downtown that thrives in the new economy.



Building momentum with partners.



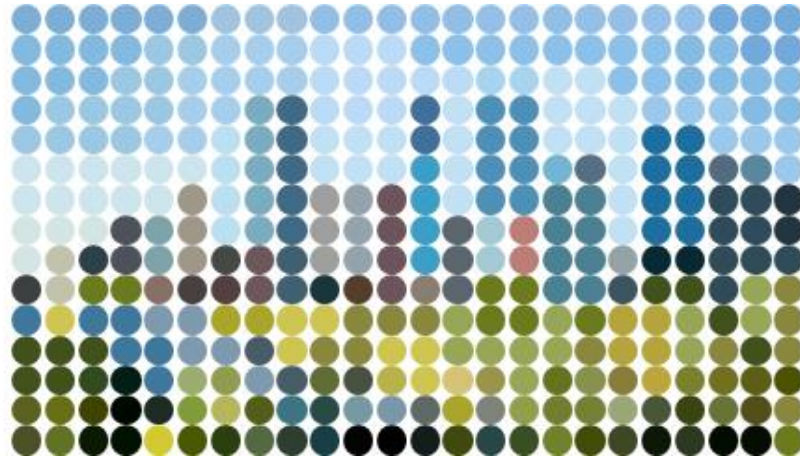
Focusing and aligning our efforts to intensify our collective energy.

Who is making downtown a priority?

Downtown Strategy: A Partnership



Continuing the dialog





QUESTIONS?

8 Street S.W. Transformation

MASTER PLAN | NORTH ANCHOR | FROM THE RIVER - 4TH AVE



MASTER PLAN | NORTH ANCHOR | FROM 4TH AVE TO 8TH AVE



- Draw pathway users into core
- Green the corridor for more residential character
- Stimulate re-occupancy of office buildings
- Incent new street level uses and façade improvements
- Stimulate new residential development
- Enhance investment in Century Garden

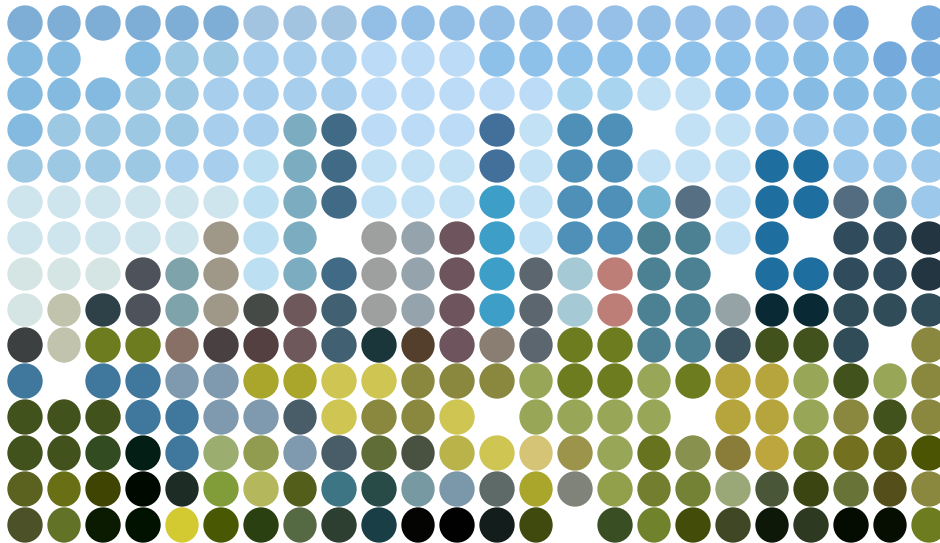
Current initiatives

- **9 Block program / Calgary's Downtown District**
 - improving safety and vibrancy in City Hall's neighbourhood
 - bringing downtown's arts, culture and business leaders together in a shared vision and strategy
- **Tomorrow's Chinatown –** planning for the future, while embracing the past
- **Culture + Entertainment District**
 - Transform East Victoria Park into a vibrant destination



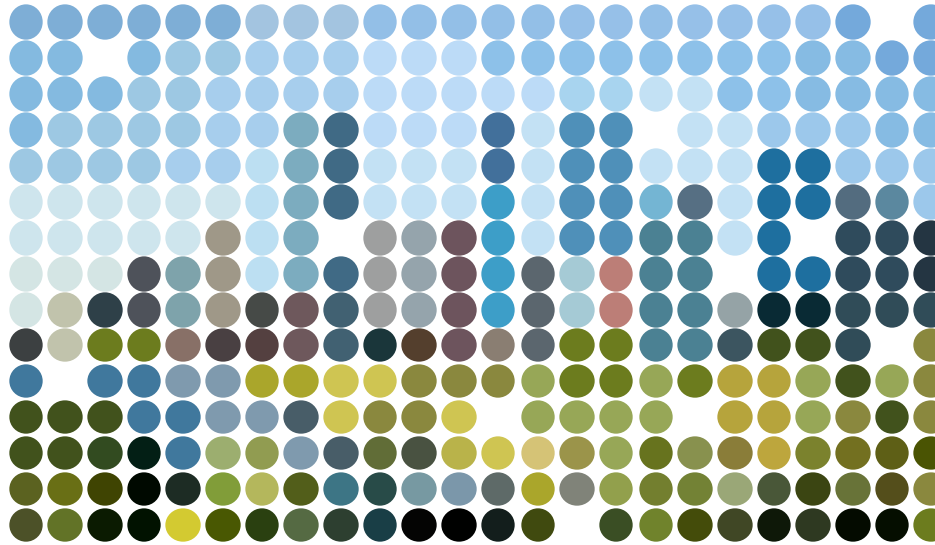
Current initiatives

- **The Future of Stephen Avenue**
– Reimagining and repositioning Calgary's hallmark downtown main street
- **Adaptive roadways** – Using our roadways for different functions at different times
- **Underpass Improvements** – Building great public spaces and encouraging public life
- **The 5A Network expansion** – Adding to the cycle track network



Current initiatives

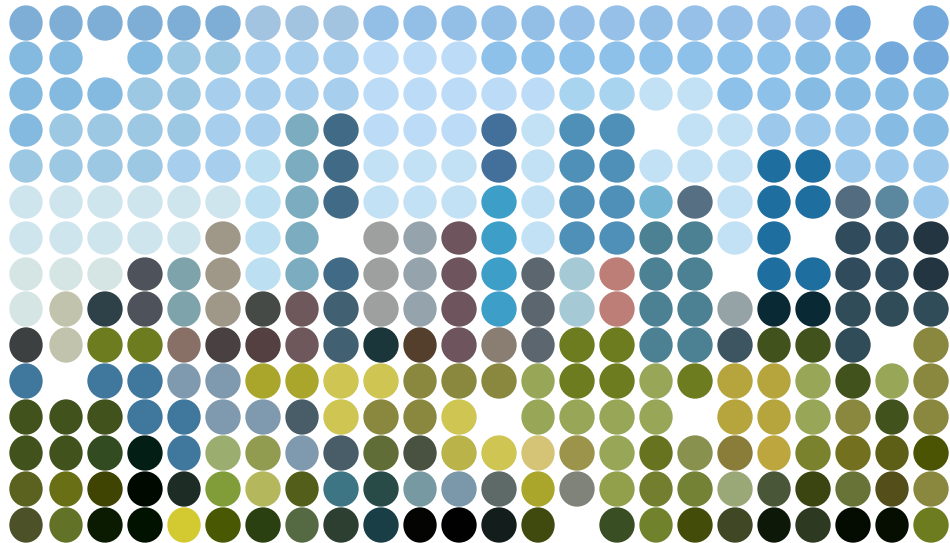
- MAX BRT
- Green Line



Current initiatives

- Notice of Motion to review regulatory and financial incentives to encourage residential development through office conversion or new construction.

Fostering an innovation district.



Project timelines

- Initial scoping (Ltd Refresh) **2018 June**
- Stakeholder / Public engagement to **2018 Q4**
- Additional Focused Workshops **2019 Q1/Q2**
- Council endorsed Downtown Strategy **2019 Q2**
- Rescope Project to prepare a NEW Plan (initiative of the Downtown Strategy) **2019 Q3**
- Calgary Planning Commission Closed Workshop **March 19, 2020**
- Formed a manager Steering Committee **July 2020**
- Rescope Project **September 2020**
- Drafting **Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan**
- Planning and Urban Development Committee (PUD) **April 2021**
- Council **May 2021**

Summary of past engagement

