Executive Summary

First and foremost we wish to extend a warm thank you on behalf of the Plan Your City Development Team to everyone who has made the City Circle process such a resounding success. When this phase of the Plan Your City Municipal Development Plan / Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (MDP/ICSP) was in development the Team had a clear vision of what we wanted City Circles to be – a direct dialogue with the residents of Lethbridge. The principle was simple, we had to try to convince people throughout the City to talk about how to make Lethbridge a better place AND write it down.

The City Circles process began on May 1, 2009, with the first print run of 200 pamphlets, and culminated with the Ideas Fair held on October 17, 2009. Over the course of five and a half months an estimated five hundred* residents from Lethbridge and the surrounding region participated in a City Circle, providing their insight into this City and what it would take to make Lethbridge an even better place to live into the year 2050.

This Ideas Book is a collection of that insight. In all there were 48 City Circles who made a total of 55 submissions. These submissions have been analysed by Urban Planners at both AECOM and the City of Lethbridge and have been used to identify and refine Policies and Actions contained within the Potential Policy Directions Document, a precursor to the first Draft of the Plan Your City MDP/ICSP.

As the Plan Your City process moves forward, the visions and hopes contained in this Ideas Book will become THE point of reference for community direction as the Plan evolves into the guiding document for all of Council’s decision making for the next 40 years.

Thank you for all of your hard work and effort.

Sincerely,

Robert McKay, MCIP, ACP
Senior Community Planner, City of Lethbridge
Plan Your City Project Manager

Brian Conger, BA
Planner, Community Infrastructure, AECOM
City Circles Coordinator

* Approximately 10 participants per City Circle
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London Road Neighbourhood Kicks A**!! Facebook Group City Circle
We Want Lethbridge To Be…

**Sustainable, Healthy and Earth Friendly**

*Built up, not out; arrested urban sprawl*
- Farm (food) land preserved, not turned into urban sprawl
- Limited need for inefficient infrastructure to support sprawl
- Medium- and high-density housing developers rewarded
- Stylish, affordable and appealing medium- and high-density housing

*Medium density housing can be attractive.*

*Predominance of development that supports healthy living*
- Designed to promote non-motorized transportation
- Ready access to food in all neighbourhoods

*Mixed use developments (mixed residential and commercial)*
- Increased opportunities to improve individual health due to walkability and nearby resources for health and wellbeing
- Walkable and self-contained communities centred around resources
- People can walk to the services and resources they require instead of driving
- Revitalized downtown
- Mixed use neighbourhoods
Best practice leader in recycling
- Curbside recycling
- Plentiful recycling depots
- Recycling tubs larger than garbage tubs
- Mandatory recycling for residents and businesses
- Refundable bottles collected by an organized group of bottle collectors (http://www.unitedwecan.ca/)
- http://www.zerowaste.ca/resources.html
- http://www.zerowaste.co.nz/index.sm

Alternative transportation preferred because it’s easier, better, healthier and cheaper
- Efficient, viable, rapid, attractive, and inexpensive public transportation
- Wide sidewalks for pedestrians
- A walkable city, a bicycle-friendly city
- Extensive cycle routes and bicycle lanes
- Bicycle racks that are solid, secure, and ubiquitous
- Traffic lanes designated for bicycles
- High level pedestrian/cyclist bridge from the South side to the University

“We need to change the way we see the automobile. We need to consider that oil is a finite resource. What are we doing to change the way we live so that our lifestyle is sustainable into the future?”—London road Resident

“We only reason I don’t ride my bike in Lethbridge is because when I arrive at my destination, there is nowhere to park it.”—London Road resident
Parking is not a problem because…
- Parkades and underground parking is readily available, especially downtown and adjacent to London Road
- 2-hour parking limits to residential areas (such as London Road) are enforced
- Permit parking in London Road neighbourhood for neighbourhood residents
- Alternative transportation is attractive and viable (walking, cycling, transit)

Preserved river valley, coulees, wild spaces and green spaces
- Non-renewable resources are valued as such
- Coulees are protected as a source of beauty and part of a vital ecosystem
- Dog runs with river access are preserved

Food security
- Community gardens throughout the city, especially for renters
- Year-round farmer’s market that is centrally located
- Downtown grocery store for downtown and London Road residents
- Backyard husbandry is encouraged and regulated on a small scale.

Local food feeds the community, saves the planet, and brings people together.
London Road Neighbourhood Kicks A**!! Facebook Group
City Circle

Ban on outdoor burning
- Health of all residents (especially children, elderly, and individuals with respiratory issues) is protected
- The environment and air quality is protected
- Other ways to enjoy being outside are encouraged and promoted

Central neighbourhood streets and key intersections are safe
- Flashing pedestrian lights, especially at high collision/high traffic intersections
- Speed deceleration zones enforced, especially in London Road neighbourhoods which typically have high pedestrian traffic

Community– and Culture–Oriented

Community celebrations
- Community celebrations, such as Heritage Days, are held centrally (such as in Galt Gardens)
- Participation rewarded with a passport and eligibility for prizes
- Alternative transportation supported to events

“Lethbridge could be a leader and show Calgary and Alberta as a whole a thing or two.”—London Road resident and member of the vibrant arts community

“We need to market a new vision of medium- and high-density housing and mixed use development. Other cities have done this with great success (such as Yaletown in Vancouver). Why not create an Upper East Side Village in the Salvation Army area?”—London Road resident

“We need to stop looking to Calgary for our ideas. We need to look beyond Calgary to much more progressive cities.”—London Road resident

London Road Neighbourhood Kicks A**!! Facebook Group—Page 4
London Road Neighbourhood Kicks A**!! Facebook Group
City Circle

Community spirit promoted by the City
- Formal City support of neighbourhood associations
  - Neighbourhood celebrations supported through equipment loans and waived/reduced insurance fees for block parties and public gatherings in parks
- Administrative support such as web domain hosting, provision of association mailbox at City Hall, and provision of meeting space
- Enabled procurement of meeting space (such as a club house) for Association and neighbourhood club meetings

Artists beautify Lethbridge’s common spaces
- Poetry in the park, buskers, drum circles
- Partnerships and collaboration with arts groups
- Arts Centre that is centrally located

Parks are viable, beautiful and interesting
- Parks are not developed into parking lots
- Civic Field
  - Restored and heavily used (lights, unlocked, accessible, washrooms during organized events, game posts/uprights)
  - Represents the heart of a vital city
  - Relay for Life

“The Civic Field is a real treasure in the heart of our city that I really think deserves to be preserved.”
—London Road resident

The Civic Field park can once again be full of life.
Heritage buildings are preserved and maintained, not demolished
- Rewarding restoration
- Development in historical neighbourhoods (such as London Road) is aligned with local architecture
- Our heritage is valued and helps define us
- Thoughtful, considerate development and transparent processes

“London Road residents want to steer change, not stop it.”
—London Road resident

Socially and Economically Strong
- Home business supported through low fees
- Affordable housing abundant
- Revenue/rental stock not lost to market housing
- Social housing units increased and dispersed throughout Lethbridge in single family home model (avoid congregating people with similar issues into large complexes)
- Mixed socioeconomic neighbourhoods abound—designed for diversity
  - Big box stores either are multiple stories with residences above and subsidize/support downtown or are not permitted at all in Lethbridge
- Small and local businesses are supported by residents and the City

In Lethbridge, we are building the future together!

Home businesses contribute to the economic strength of Lethbridge. Music teachers raise the next generation of aspiring artists.
City Circle on Diversity: Celebrating Diversity Group
City Circle on Diversity

A series of interviews were conducted among different city groups. The summaries of the results by question are:

1. **Do you think Lethbridge is a Multicultural city?**
   Lethbridge is not as multicultural as bigger cities such as Vancouver and Toronto; however, in recent years residents have noticed more people with diverse backgrounds living in our city.

2. **Are there any benefits to having different cultures represented in our city? Why?**
   According to those working directly with immigrants, the benefits of being a multicultural city are many, such as:
   - Immigrants are hard working individuals that come to Canada looking for better opportunities for them and their families.
   - Many immigrants are highly educated individuals that bring experience and professionalism to the workplace.
   - Having people from different backgrounds represented in our city brings awareness of global issues, as well as understanding of other cultures; this, in turn, enriches the life of all citizens.

For the community in general, there is not much awareness of the benefits of having different cultures in our city aside from the fact that it brings “perks” like having ethnic food available. A few residents expressed that multiculturalism decreases narrow-mindedness and makes society more understanding and tolerant.

3. **What do you think needs to be done to make Lethbridge a more attractive destination for new immigrants to Canada?**

   For those individuals working with immigrants, the needs identified are:
   - Have a more diverse-sensitive police force and other law enforcement organizations.
   - Have minorities represented in Government offices / council.
   - More diverse counselors and more culturally aware. There seems to be resistance to hiring immigrants for these positions.
   - Interpretation services available at the Hospital and other government institutions. Hotline available 24/7 if no one is available in person. 911 available in different languages.
   - More efficient public transport, busses available every 15 minutes and more routes.
   - City services brochures available in different languages (city maps, bus routes, city services / emergency phones, family violence, etc.).
   - Increased number of rental / low income housing.
- Information for new immigrants on the City of Lethbridge website. Link to immigrant services’ agencies.
- Have the City of Lethbridge promote and/or host events that celebrate diversity, such as World Refugee Day, Multicultural Day, Heritage Day (bigger, more representation, no cost), etc. City should take the lead.
- Make schools and public institutions more culturally-sensitive (more ESL funding, train doctors to treat visible minorities).
- Make English as a Second Language available to working immigrants (evening / weekend classes).
- Emergency services need to be adequate to meet immigrant demand (Harbour house, shelter, etc.). Larger facilities, culturally sensitive staff, interpreter services, etc. Consider promoting the creation of a shelter for men.

The community in general mentioned the following:
- Public transportation is a major problem across the board. Short running schedules don’t allow for night-shifts, busses don’t run often enough (specially rough in the winter time), shelters in poor condition.
- Downtown area needs to be cleaned up; many buildings are unoccupied and represent an “eye sore”.
- Build a multi-faceted leisure centre and provide more attractions for families.
- Lethbridge is very “clicky”, there needs to be more involvement from the community in ethnic events.
- Ethnic groups need to reach out to the community.
- More ethnic restaurants, since people experience culture through food.
- Get rid of prejudice / racism. Make Lethbridge a more “welcoming” place.
- More employment opportunities.
- Better certification process for new immigrants. (“Not because they come with a degree from their home country means they should be allowed to get work without being certified”).

4. Define in one sentence what you think Lethbridge lacks to be considered a final destination for potential immigrants?
   - Good jobs
   - Higher wages
   - More attractive activities for young families. City too focused on retirees.
   - More services for young adults.
- Scholarships / grants to promote children's well-being (sports).
- More day care spots
- Fun events throughout the year, especially during wintertime.

**SUMMARY**
A clear need to conduct ongoing research (focus groups, round tables) with visible minorities to discover their needs was identified. There seems to be a disconnection between the needs of new immigrants and what the community in general perceives those to be.

There should be a closer relationship between the City of Lethbridge and organizations that serve immigrants so that once needs are identified they can be communicated to City Council and addressed appropriately.

Lethbridge should have public institutions that truly represent the diversity of the community. More opportunities have to be given to new citizens to work in public service.

The City of Lethbridge should promote and create opportunities to increase cultural awareness among public servers and the community in general. These can take the form of events, public forums and workshops that encourage cultural competency.

If Lethbridge wants to become a more attractive destination for newcomers, more (and more efficient) services have to be developed, such as:
- Leisure centre and other attractions for families
- Better public transit
- More rental / low income housing
- Incentives for high profile organizations and corporations to relocate / establish in Lethbridge.
- Promote events that bring the community together

*In summary, this City Circle identified a clear need for awareness from the community towards the benefits of embracing diversity as a means of making Lethbridge a better place to live.*
Youth Advisory Council City Circle
Youth Advisory Council City Circle

The Future, Envisioning Our Future Community
The Youth involved in YAC have highlighted 5 Important sections that affect the entire city:

1. Arts & Culture
2. Environment
3. Community
4. Transportation
5. Sports
1 Arts & Culture

Reason:
To build an inclusive and well rounded community we must promote, create and allow opportunities for all kinds of the performing arts and various forms of culture. The youth on YAC thought of the following ways:

- More spaces for performances and creation of the arts
- Vibrant and colourfully designed downtown spaces; murals, architecture, etc.
- More parades, cultural festivals, music festivals, and similar cultural events
- Improved centres for the arts and remodelled cultural centres belonging to specific nationalities
- Greater connection on city’s website to relevant news events; i.e. CBC etc.
2 Environment

Reason:
If we do not recognize the uttermost importance of caring for and properly utilizing our environment then there won’t be a community left to improve. It is for this reason that the youth of YAC have come up with so many ideas regarding how the city can be more green in the future.

- YIMBY or Yes in My Backyard; adoption of this policy promotes an effective use of land and resources and differs much from our current use of space
- Green power sources for the whole city; geothermal, solar, wind, water and etc.
- Curb side recycling to be mandatory along with composting, low water use plumbing/technology and an outlaw of landfills
- Natural environment styled green spaces within and around the city, large trees and rooftop gardens
- A focus on green cemeteries and more practical methods of burials
- Community gardens
3 Community

Reason:
Building a community is only possible if numerous social and physical infrastructures exist to support all other areas of development. The youth of YAC recognize that better than anyone and suggest the following:

- More public activities that can involve all of the city or even just block parties in neighbourhood’s
- Various forms of public relaxation including gardens, centres and town squares
- Be a community more welcoming to our rotating student population from the university and college
- Provide more industry, business, amenities and greater density building plan, to encourage growth and how many students remain after education
- Better system of social safety nets; hospitals, a medical detox, ending homelessness, affordable housing
- A youth centre; safe hangout for youth.
4 Transportation

Reason:
How persons and things are moved around within our city helps keep it running and gives citizens a degree of freedom to go anywhere to do anything. Therefore it's important that our transportation system be perfected in the future.

- The beginnings of either an aboveground or belowground train system which would grow as the city does
- Elimination of aboveground parking lots; replaced by underground parking basements or multiple story parking garages
- For the existing transit system a more inclusive route running at more times and using smaller busses during non-peak times will cut down on environmental damage
- Both the train system and existing transit system would want to be moved to entirely energy efficient power sources
5 Sports

Reason:
A healthy and fit city is important, especially to youth. While numerous existing sports facilities and opportunities exist we at YAC believe improvements can be made, benefiting everyone in the community.

- There needs to be leisure centre(s) on the west side of town. It is one of the fastest growing areas and has only school playgrounds/fields for sports and recreation.
- All of the city's ice rinks should have more scheduled time for public skating. The same is true of swimming pools and public swims.
- Existing and new sport centres should be available to be rented by anyone for little to no fee.
- A facility able to accommodate numerous activities going on at the same time and for just as many uses.
Hey Lethbridge Plan Your City
Facebook Group
Hey Lethbridge Plan Your City- Facebook Group.
This city circle started with a very broad view and many topics that came up on the facebook group discussion boards. As the group progressed it did not take the focus we had hoped, nor did the online forum generate the level of discussion we had hoped for. This is not to say that our city circle did not end up generating some good discussion. By holding in person meetings we drew out the already informed individuals to spend some time talking and thinking about these questions. This document is an outline of what was discussed at these meetings.

**Downtown**

There is a need for more development in the downtown, but downtown shouldn’t just mean the old downtown.

- The problem with downtowns in cities is that over time they lack development because the buildings get old and upkeep is expensive. With current land use policies it is usually cheaper for a business/developer to move to a new area, and build an entirely new building, instead of revamping old ones. In order to get more development *policies should encourage both businesses and residential developers to “rebuild” old areas. Perhaps the land could be very inexpensive to make up for the increased building cost of working on old foundations. *Taxing structures that would allow the cost of the development to be paid back with dollars the city would normally collect on the new space. This would constitute a loss in tax revenue for the short term, but once the project debt was paid off, formerly useless space would begin generating revenue. * In our opinion downtowns create a hub for the city in which business and residential can practically be constructed on top of each other. Traditionally families do not live in downtown spaces but a viable downtown might help hold onto young professionals (graduates of post secondary). At the same time a (for lack of a better concept) “trendy” down town, with plenty of businesses, would be a good space within the city for students and a close bus trip to either institution. Encouraging this kind of residential development might also move students out of the older surrounding suburbs, allowing those spaces to be populated by lower income families.

- More than one downtown area might also be worth developing. Creative zoning policy (excuse the lack of knowledge to define exactly what that would mean) would allow residences built in, on, and around businesses here on the west side. A re-visioning of the area from University Dr to MacMaster, between Whoop-up and McGill, could create a second downtown. Apartment buildings and condo housing already fill much of this area, and an increase in density through a projection upward would be a reasonable step. The proximity to the university would provide obvious student housing, again drawing them out from the other areas of the west side where more suburban housing should be available to families. Theoretically this would also create an area for younger working people as well, and encourage graduates to stay in Lethbridge. An ideal outcome of this development would place Nicolas Sherian Park as an interactive zone between single and family (younger and older) citizens, while also creating a kind of buffer. * We have outlined this area with the understanding that on first read it may seem short sighted or misrepresentative of how different groups are dispersed throughout the city. However, we present the idea as an example of how development should be focused. The idea is that as cities become denser differences in lifestyle between demographics can cause conflict, causing people to seek “moving out of the city”. For this reason it might help to develop more demographic specific areas, that center around points of interaction such as parks. Development along this line should also create more walking traffic because people are closer to the services they need.
Suburbanization
In the opinion of this city circle the bottom line on suburbanization is that it is not sustainable. Cities like Lethbridge could expand outward for a very long time but at what cost. The development of new infrastructure outward often seems more efficient at the time but is simply unrealistic in the long term. The cost of materials to move up vs. out is debatable, what is not debatable is the effect of transportation on people. The overall social cost of single passenger cars is extensive and crushing for lower earning brackets, effectively removing their access to involvement in the city (it also pushes affluent people further out as they seek the latest quiet neighborhood, this happens partly because, and in part causes the pushing of lower income people inward, which devalues inner city areas and eventually creates ghettos. In this case you want to encourage gentrification and vibrate density so no part of the city is avoided or seen to “house the poor”). Much of the inner city development this group has discussed would require incentive to produce. Incentive would be necessary from both ends; which means not only encouraging inner development but also discouraging outward development. *Tax policy that encourages people to seek housing that is not in new outlying developments seems harsh to the consumer (home buyer) but evaporating demand (for new suburbs) is a sure fire disincentive to developers. *Though we admittedly lack information on it there are also shifts in some cites to demand that developers planning new subdivisions move to more space friendly designs. This can be regulated by demanding a move away from the very sprawling design of current developments. Moving away from entirely private back yards and overly cul-de-sac dependent areas in favor of small grids with green belts containing small back alleys is one suggestion (the old area of the west side around McGill blvd is a good example, the change would be no back yards, only the green belt areas with bike paths).

Campus housing
As a final note to this city circle we have discussed the need for more students housing on the campuses. These projects will likely need help from the city but are more likely to be undertaken by the Institutions if municipal property taxes are waived for residence spaces. Housing on campus is a benefit to the availability of affordable housing throughout the city, as well as retention issues at the institutions themselves. One thing we would like to add about student housing is a mandate on the type of student housing. For example, the “New Village” project at the U of L provides a standard of living for residence that, although desirable by today’s suburban standards, is a move in the wrong direction. This area of residence does not represent an effective use of space or an efficient use of building materials. The smaller conjoined town home units are preferable as are condo style apartments that go up more than out.

Un-housing related
This group would also like to suggest some kind of startup grant incentive to small grocery stores that can bring produce and essentials into inner city areas. Encouraging smaller venue stores that house essentials is a must for many areas within the city. The availability of produce and quality groceries within walking distance of most areas within the city and will be instrumental is creating a healthy city by increasing the quality of life (and health) for those you don’t drive and/or living in the heart(s) of the city.
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lethbridge
Introduction

The following principles from the Canadian Unitarian Council guided our discussion.

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence....
Areas of Focus

- Environmental Issues and Sustainability
- Social Issues
- Transportation
- Community Engagement
Environment

- Adhere to “Cautionary Principle”: *above all do no harm*
  
  Review current herbicide and pesticide use policies. Many cities have gone pesticide free with no ill effects

- Encourage low maintenance landscaping
- Potable water should not be used for watering lawns
- Promote clean energy use through solar and wind
Transportation

- Make walking and cycling easier. Clean sidewalks in winter.
- Promote city transit use by making it more accessible and affordable.
- Use the village model when planning neighbourhoods – walkable access to services – i.e. neighbourhood grocery stores
- When planning future growth, consider energy consumption – “peak oil”.
- Plan future developments before planning a new bridge. We don’t want a bridge to nowhere.
- Actively promote walking and bicycling.
Social Needs / Community Engagement

- Continue to develop affordable housing
- Do not create ghettos for the rich – mixed neighbourhoods promote social inclusion
- Celebrate diversity
- Strong neighbourhoods create a sense of security, safety and inclusiveness
- Promoting acceptance and tolerance of all citizens regardless of race, religion, disabilities, sexual orientation should be a high priority
- Strengthen community associations
- Provide opportunities for citizens to engage in open discussion regarding community issues.
GEOG 2535
### Interest/Issue: Mass Transit & Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Reality</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Trip Time                                            | Sensors on traffic lights
|                                                     | Increase speed limits
|                                                     | More Direct Bus Routes                                                   |
| Coverage                                             | Dial-a-Bus                                                                |
| Easier Access                                        | Flex Routes                                                               |
|                                                     | Rent a Bus: Old People Wagons or Party Buses                             |
|                                                     | Late night routes                                                        |
| Big Empty Buses                                      | Smaller Buses                                                            |
|                                                     | More Frequent Routes to increase ridership                               |
| Walkability                                          | Increase Density/ Mixed-use Developments                                 |
|                                                     | Stop approving supercentres on the edge of the City                      |
|                                                     | Make a level bridge across the coulees                                   |
| Lethbridge is a good size for innovative             | Remove road controls and signage, (make drivers think for themselves)    |
| transportation options                               | Hydrogen Gas Stations                                                    |
|                                                     | Tram/Trolley system                                                      |

City Circle: GEOG 2535
### City Circle: GEOG 2535

**Interest/Issue: West Side Commerce**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Reality</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only One Grocery Store</td>
<td>Create incentives to bring back a store in the Super Sam location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Westside residential development is far from existing commercial</td>
<td>Develop a commercial node on the Westside (The Crossings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entice/Attract Commercial Enterprises</td>
<td>Weekly summer market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City initiated entrepreneurial fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Temporary Servicing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business can’t survive only 8 months of the year</td>
<td>Incentives/discounts to keep stores profitable during student lull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smaller Retail Opportunities</td>
<td>Promote smaller business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allow food wagons (mobile food) to locate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overhaul existing regulations and bylaws to encourage common markets (free them up!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Reality</td>
<td>Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 lane super-collector on western edge of campus</td>
<td>Pedestrian subway or bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University lacks senior's courses</td>
<td>Senior gym memberships or coulees walks would promote integration between students and seniors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Feeling of Isolation “Two-Worlds”                    | Tie into family events @ the Sportsplex  
Students meet the community events                                                                     |
| Hard for visitors to find their way around           | More signage on campus would help visitors and first years                                                                                  |
| Bring people in and get students out into the community | Affordable High Quality food to bring in visitors  
Satellite/Downtown campus to get more students in the core  
Better transit connections to Eastside of Lethbridge |

Interest/Issue: U of L Campus’ Isolation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Reality</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No door-to-door Recycling</td>
<td>Door-to-door recycling will increase accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educate people to the benefits of the program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing our footprint can be expensive</td>
<td>Municipal green incentive programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Restrictions (we use too much)</td>
<td>Free up bylaws to allow for Grey Water Recycling (it's not a health hazard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Swap out for low-flow toilets and fixtures (incentive program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We need to live simpler lives</td>
<td>“stuff” gets accumulated (we’re all packrats); promote simpler living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>buy local and reduced packaging</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hamilton Neighbourhood
Play Your City: City Circle

Hamilton Neighbourhood

Hamilton neighbourhood as defined in this City Circle is comprised of a group of 80 to 100 year old homes (delimited by 13th and 15th Streets and 3rd and 6th Avenues).

This neighbourhood shares many of the same concerns and pressures as London Road, including the redevelopment of existing institutional buildings for other uses; the conversion of homes to accommodate businesses with customers; and the removal of old trees.

There are two documents developed by the City of Lethbridge that support our results. The Heart of Our City Master Plan supports the preservation of central neighbourhoods as a population base to make the downtown core more vibrant. And the Central Neighbourhoods Survey provided the following results:

Development
- 57% of residents are concerned about homes being converted to businesses, over 90% greater than the average of central neighbourhoods.
- 70% of Hamilton residents give the preservation of historical homes a priority, 50% more than the average of other central neighbourhoods.
- 42% are concerned about the loss of historical buildings and homes, 27% more than average.
- 40% of residents are concerned about redeveloping schools and churches for commercial use, almost 50% more than average.
- Some of the comments regarding development specifically note the “unplanned nature of redevelopment” and that “these neighbourhoods cannot be recreated”.

Aesthetics
- 70% of Hamilton residents give architectural style a priority, 50% more than average.
- 87% of Hamilton residents value tree-lined boulevards, 18% more than average.
- 62% of Hamilton residents are concerned about boulevard tree removal, 20% greater than average, and 47% are concerned about removal of mature trees from private property, 25% more than average.

Traffic
- 71% have noted an increase in vehicle traffic on local streets, 18% more than average. Speed, cutting-through, and running stop signs all exceed central neighbourhood averages.

Quality of Life
- 96% of the residents are very satisfied or satisfied by the quality of life afforded by the neighbourhood, neighbourhood and community relations is a common reason making the neighbourhood better.
Issues that are more specific to our neighbourhood include the protection of mature trees, the preservation of historical and architectural character, and the promotion of community. Most notably, the Hamilton neighbourhood has significant concerns about the conversion of institutional buildings and homes to commercial businesses. As this irreversible process has already commenced, there is some urgency for the creation of a long-term plan for this neighbourhood. The neighbourhood wants development by design, not by default.

John Lorinc, in his book *The New City*, notes the importance of ‘historic character’ as an aspect of civic advantage in the global competition for recognition, and that “muscular heritage protection laws play a crucial role in reminding us that cities are aesthetic objects and that their appearance is an integral part of our quality of life.” Overwhelmingly, residents value the quality of life cultivated within by the Hamilton neighbourhood community – it should be our goal to perpetuate this sentiment.

The following City Circle represents an informal survey independent of the Central Neighbourhoods Survey. The comments reflect the results summarized above, and provide a clear understanding of the values placed on preserving a vibrant neighbourhood community. In the long-term Municipal Development Plan, the Hamilton neighbourhood advocates for policies that recognize the specific needs of different areas of the City, and the importance of taking more (pro-active) control of redevelopment.
SURVEY RESULTS

80 Surveys distributed, 23 returned
General Information

Age of home:

Based on the information provided by the respondents, the age of homes in this neighbourhood ranges from 1905 to 1944.

Length of time living in the home:

Respondents have lived in their homes between 1 and 44 years. On average, people have lived in their homes for 19 years.

Neighbourhood demographics:

Within the neighbourhood, roughly 20% are children, 20% are seniors, and 60% are aged 17 to 65.

![Demographics Chart](chart.png)
7. What do you most value about your home?

- Mouldings, doors, windows, location.
- The character of the home. Although we have done some upgrading, we try to keep it still in the character it has.
- The fact that all the rooms are on the ground floor. The spaciousness; the wood panelling and the ‘lincrustia’ on the hall walls. The ‘sun-room’.
- Style, location
- Close proximity to downtown, close to schools, close to shopping, theatres. Mature trees.
- Location within the city, yard size, mature neighbourhood.
- Historic character, unique features, treed yard, sense of connection to the past, and supporting to preserve for future.
- Character, proximity to city center.
- Great location.
- Our home is in a great family-oriented, quiet neighbourhood. All of the homes are old, but well maintained. I love our original floors and mouldings and our huge yard.
- Large lot, large house, porch, old original features (it’s everything I dreamed of when I was a child).
- Its uniqueness. The library with its wood panelling and most floors are original wood. The spaces.
- Our house is unique with its old world architecture and Victorian interior. We also enjoy the large yard and privacy of being next to an alley.
- Three-bedroom house on a double lot. Elm trees provide park like exterior. Interior remains as architect designed.
- Location, mature landscaping, boulevard with mature trees, lane, neighbourhood character.
- ‘Character’ features – sun porch, hardwood floors, private yard, etc.
- The character of an older home, the mature trees, closeness of downtown and all amenities, paved back alley.
- Older style family bungalow – fits the neighbourhood – comfortable – well built – lawn, flower beds, fruit trees.
- Architecture (doors, windows, mouldings), size and character of rooms, well preserved by previous owners, large yard, mature trees and flower gardens.
- Old house feels like a member of the family, not just wood and nails. Shady backyard sanctuary. Historical feeling inside and out.
- Its unique pseudo-Tudor architecture; its interior design, layout, and construction, and our 34 years of raising children here in this home – a home that they continue to love and desire to come ‘home’ to as often as possible. We also value the generous size of our lot (50 x 125’) and the manner in which we have been able to landscape it to our liking.
- My home was built by Dr. & Mrs. Fowler. It is an ArtDeco home – a wonderful family home. The space for so many people to stay with me: Family and friends from all over the country. The beautiful elms and my lovely back garden and wonderful neighbours.
8. What do you most value about the neighbourhood?

- Lot size, trees, variety of home styles.
- The character which includes the landscaping and trees.
- The tree-lined boulevards and its quite atmosphere.
- Close to downtown, bus route near, schools, corner store, road clearance (winter),
  neighbourhood keeps homes in good condition.
- A lot of our neighbours have lived here for a long time (including us) so everyone
  knows each other pretty well.
- Healthy mature trees, low traffic.
- Sense of community, proximity to amenities (walking distance), green spaces
  (school yards), mature trees, quiet streets (evenings, weekends and holidays),
  terrific neighbours.
- Quiet neighbourhood, older homes.
- Close enough to walk to all amenities.
- Friendly, mixed make-up including bigger and smaller homes, people from
  different backgrounds, not too busy, nor too quiet.
- Its diverseness in architecture that seems to meld together so well. The
  neighbours. The trees and the width of the streets.
- We enjoy the family atmosphere and that each house has its own style which is
  maintained. We cannot stand modern suburbia.
- Quiet, residential. Friendly neighbours. Varying character of the houses in the
  neighbourhood.
- Closeness to downtown, grid system, part of ‘core’ neighbourhoods of original
  Lethbridge. Schools, churches, shopping nearby – hospitals and clinics adjacent.
- Trees, old homes being renewed.
- The friendliness, the character and diversity of homes and people who live here.
- Conveniently central, walking distance to amenities. Very close to school.
- Friendly and close community of neighbours. Wide streets and boulevards with
  mature trees. Quiet. Close to downtown amenities.
- Quiet residential area. Green and leafy. Boulevards that give character to the
  streets. No commercial feeling. For the most part, well-kept houses and yards.
- We feel a great deal of interest and respect for each other, and there is a real sense
  of pride in the neighbourhood.
- Almost everyone does his/her best to maintain their homes to the best of their
  ability.
- There is genuine friendliness and concern for neighbours here.
- Such a wonderful mix of seniors, young families, students.
9. Home Occupation (Small businesses that do not have customers to the home).

General: 35% indicated that home occupation was acceptable,
55% indicated that it depends on the type of business, and
10% were against any home occupation.

Comments:

- If it is unobtrusive it may be fine.
- I would prefer to keep this neighbourhood strictly residential, free from commerce.
- This [Home Occupation] would probably be okay, but it would depend on the business, i.e., noise during the hours of business (late at night). Depends on what it is.
- How often are we going to have to fight the same fight?!?
- These have operated without intrusion.
- If there were no deliveries, no traffic, or parking, no physical changes to the neighbourhood and no permanent change from residential to commercial. Also, if it was the primary residence of the business owner.
- We should be careful about this one. [Note on concern over unlicensed businesses operating in the neighbourhood]
- Must be a business that is ‘invisible’ in terms of sights and sounds.
- When such businesses do not infringe on the rest of the neighbourhood in any way, we would not find them unacceptable. Perhaps there should be some control over the total number of such businesses in the neighbourhood, however.
10. Commercial Business (defined as small businesses that do have customers regularly coming to the home)

General: 0% indicated that commercial business was acceptable. 25% indicated that it depended on the type of business, and 75% were against any type of commercial business.

Comments:

- Increased traffic both vehicles and pedestrian at all times. Big gaudy signs. Depending on business, maybe, but I don’t want their customers wandering through my neighbourhood.
- Due to the fact we have our share and the parking plus traffic.
- There is limited parking in the area so this poses a problem. As well, traffic coming and going from the Salvation Army Church seems to have increased more traffic may pose a problem.
- This neighbourhood is too near commercial areas and too fragile. Once started, where will it end? Downtown is struggling as it is, it makes no sense to develop outside of the downtown core.
- Not a lot of people coming and going. There’s too much traffic already.
- Business that do not make noise or create pollution or significantly increase traffic and parking.
- If there is a lot of traffic the streets get too busy and the neighbourhood looks like a parking lot.
- Expansion is not necessary. Downtown has space for small business.
- Services such as convenience store, drycleaners, postal service fine.
- Extra traffic is undesirable as it is further erosion of the neighbourhood to commercial ventures.
- We are close enough to Third Avenue.
- Foremost, there is no need for the commercial development of residential neighbourhoods. This neighbourhood is already stressed by businesses on third avenue and thirteenth street – further stress is not desired. Additional traffic (pedestrian and vehicular) is not desired. Finally, the erosion of the neighbourhood community is a risk with commercial development.
- We have commercial and industrial areas zoned for this. Don’t take advantage of the residential property prices.
- Such businesses would be in violation of our neighbourhood’s present zoning bylaws, and we would not want to see the bylaws changed or challenged.
11. Preserved or protected by City.

General: 95% desired some efforts by the City to preserve and protect the
neighbourhood, and
5% did not.

Comments:
- I am not sure about City support. If there would be involved, does that mean that
the City can do what they want? But if not the City, who would help support
preservation? You can’t always depend on the owners. I’m undecided.
- Because of its historical significance and its architecture.
- We must work together, as we have our share of businesses, churches, schools,
etc.
- I believe this neighbourhood should be a residential area and there have been
several people applying for business licenses in the last couple of years.
- Because it is a beautiful neighbourhood, with some unique homes. It is usually
quiet and family friendly.
- There are few historic neighbourhoods in Lethbridge. A vibrant residential
community near downtown is essential to the survival of a vibrant downtown
core. Should development be allowed in this neighbourhood, how and where will
it end?
- In order that we do not become part of the downtown commercialism (read: Rot).
- Old, well developed, quiet residential area.
- This part of the south end of Lethbridge is by far one of the best maintained older
neighbourhoods. The houses, trees, and family-focused life are worth keeping.
- It depends on what preservation means. We are not in favour of rigorous rules that
will enforce everyone to live in a cookie-cutter home. General measures to
prevent increased parking, and things such as traffic-calming devices and rules
about large business are good.
- We should like the city both to preserve and protect because it is worth it, quite
simply.
- Many of the houses are very old and this creates a characteristic neighbourhood
that is become rare in the west.
- This is an ‘original core’ neighbourhood representing the taste of people at a
certain time. It is therefore a treasure that should be preserved.
- To preserve one of the last remaining links to the past and to prevent the area
becoming another ‘cookie-cutter’ neighbourhood (i.e., infill or renovating housing
not considering the existing streetscape).
- Preserve sense of ‘community’ – neighbours who know each other, etc.
- The older homes and neighbourhoods a character and charm. The city should take
pride in these older areas which represent part of the history and heritage of
Lethbridge.
- Tendency for residential bylaws to change and ‘home’ businesses to expand to
much more than ‘home & office’ types – a kind of creeping larger development
beyond expectations of a fully residential area.
- It is important for the health of the City to preserve its character and heritage. Losing a neighbourhood to commercial business is a loss for the City. There is a mutual relationship between community and commerce – the idea of community must be preserved, and this is best done in our neighbourhoods.
- This is a very special neighbourhood that must be preserved.
12. What should be controlled or regulated by the City?
13. Any other comments?

- Rental property owners should be held accountable for the condition of these properties, and in some ways, their tenants. I don’t like being ‘held hostage’ in my home because of unsavoury people who rent in the area and make me uneasy when I walk or have no consideration for my home and privacy.

- I think certain renovations should be regulated, i.e., someone extending structure upward (2nd story) where it would block someone’s view. Also, multi-family homes would mean more vehicles in our area where parking is already a problem.

- This neighbourhood has been revitalizing in the past 12 years we’ve live here. Many families have invested in homes here, renovated them, and raised families – turning this small neighbourhood into a strong vibrant community. A shared pride in preserving a significant part of Lethbridge’s history has brought many of us together and formed lasting friendships. Commercialization in this historic neighbourhood is unnecessarily inappropriate.

- Business should stay downtown. Parking is a problem already an narrow lots and lots of vehicles.

- Our vision for our neighbourhood is a quiet community for single-family residential housing where the occupants take pride and keep up their character homes.

- What would in our opinion improve our neighbourhood and increase its coherence are: a local public grade school that children can walk to, a neighbourhood grocery store, some small parks / playgrounds, traffic calming to avoid cars cutting through 4th Ave/ 14th St to avoid the 13th St/3rd Ave intersection, better control of overflow parking from First Choice Bank and Salvation Army Church, closing off of back lanes to through-traffic, control of dogs (the dangerous and loud ones only, of course).

- Communities such as ours have wonderful histories and people have pride in that. Usually it is only when threatened that residents come together and express their views. We have problems/concerns at the moment with aggressive dogs.

- Improvement permits should consider the nearby homes and not occlude windows. Permits for extra-large garages should be given if they are indeed garages – lot sizes should be correct.

- The establishment of a board to reference, review, and appeal development applications in conjunction with the existing planning and development appeal structures should be established. The intent of this board is not to stifle development, but to ensure that future development reflects the historic character of the city core. We feel the Hamilton Neighbourhood boundaries should be revised and expanded to include the 3rd Ave to 8th Ave and from 13 St. to 17 St. South.

- Would love to have alley paved to cut down on dust. Would like to see the derelict properties in the area cleaned up.

- The area between 13th to 16th St. South of the east/west alley behind the business of 3rd Ave South should be protected from commercial development. If we lived in Fairmont Park, Ridgewood, Heritage, etc., we would not have to worry about our next door neighbour having their home rezoned commercial property and opening a business in their homes. It is discriminatory for us to live under this
threat just because of the location of our property in relation to existing commercial ventures and the downtown core.
- Seemingly interminable meetings at School District 51 office frequently plugs parking space on 5th Ave South. [Complaint about noise from unlicensed business]
- Previous rezoning (i.e., Salvation Army Citadel) has caused substantive changes in traffic, parking, noise. All changes should be more strictly monitored and regulated.
Hamilton Neighbourhood Association
(13th Street to 15th Street, 3rd Avenue to 6th Avenue South)

Vision Survey

The City of Lethbridge has initiated a process to develop a Municipal Development Plan. The Plan Your City process will likely establish the guidelines the City will use for the next number of years to direct both residential expansion, and the protection or redevelopment of established neighbourhoods.

As part of this process, we would like to be proactive with the City and provide a vision of our neighbourhood for the future – so ask yourself: “What do I want my neighbourhood to look like in 10 years? 30 years?” We will compile all of the comments in a document, and summarize them as a vision statement to be presented to the City of Lethbridge as a City Circle. We will not attach any names to your comments – please be candid.

We hope that you will take a few moments to share your vision. Please do not hesitate to attach other comments you might have that are not included in this informal survey.

1. Name: ____________________________
2. Address: ____________________________
3. Age of home: ____________________________
4. How long have you lived in this home? ____________________________
5. Owner occupied ___________ or Rental property ___________
6. Number of people in each age group living in the home:
   Children (up to 12 years old) ___________
   Youth (13 to 16 years old) ___________
   Adults (17 to 65) ___________
   Seniors (over 65) ___________
7. What do you most value about your home (features, etc.)?
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

8. What do you most value about the neighbourhood?
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

9. What is your opinion about Home Occupations operating in the neighbourhood (small businesses that do not have customers to the home)?
   Acceptable  Depends on the business  Not acceptable
   Comments? ____________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________

10. What is your opinion about commercial businesses operating in the neighbourhood (small businesses that do have customers regularly coming to the home)?
    Acceptable  Depends on the business  Not acceptable
    Comments? ____________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________

11. Do you think this neighbourhood should be preserved or protected by the City of Lethbridge?
    Yes       No
    Why? ____________________________
    ______________________________________________________________
    ______________________________________________________________
12. What (if anything) should be regulated?

- Architectural changes to homes (outside)
- Landscaping
- Removal of mature trees
- Amount of through-traffic
- Noise and light pollution
- Types and architecture of infill housing
- Density of multi-family homes (i.e. the number of multifamily dwellings)
- Type of multi-family homes (i.e. duplex, threeplex, row housing)
- Number of institutions (churches, schools)
- Other types of institutions (senior homes, day care homes)
- Rezoning for direct control or commercial use.
- Other(s) ________________________________

13. Any other comments?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Seniors Community Forum
Seniors Community Forum
Shaping Our Community
Seniors Community Forum

Started in 2000 by Lethbridge agencies dedicated to advocating for the needs of seniors in order to continually improve their quality of life.
What we do

- Create resources to assist people in making the right decisions in choosing a facility that meets their needs (ex. Supportive Housing Guide).
What we do

- Work closely with LA transit to improve the accessibility of transit through route consultation and the purchase of low ride vehicles.
What we do

- Host community conferences to provide education and awareness for seniors, caregivers and service providers.
What we do

- Develop partnerships and enhance communication with the community in order to coordinate services.
What we do

- Work closely with Community LINKS Information Referral Source to provide up-to-date information regarding available senior’s services.
What we see for the future of our city
Transportation/Accessibility

- An accessible city core for seniors by monitoring transit routes and providing concrete pads, benches and shelters for transit users.
- Improve Access a Ride services.
- Provide wider parking stalls to create ease of mobility in and out of vehicles.
Transportation/Accessibility cont.

- Create a drop-off lane at department stores for seniors and those with reduced mobility.
- Develop a Transportation Hub that will allow more direct route transportation to key locations.
Transportation/Accessibility cont.

- Work with AMA and other groups to develop alternate transportation models for seniors no longer able to drive.
- Increase building accessibility for people with disabilities (ex. uncluttered shopping aisles, seating areas, railings, automatic doors and ramps).
Transportation/Accessibility cont.

- A convenient proximity of services in all neighbourhoods and the development of small retail areas in transit areas.
- Improved public transit to recreation facilities (ex. Indian Battle Park, sports and cultural facilities)
Inclusiveness

- Embrace diversity by building a strong city core – vibrant and inviting to all age groups and cultures.
Inclusiveness cont.

- Encourage volunteerism to provide support in the aid of seniors and caregivers.
Inclusiveness cont.

- Develop ongoing partnerships with schools to further enhance youth and senior interaction.
Inclusiveness cont.

- Utilize facilities after hours for community events (ex. Schools, community centres)
- Abundant green spaces and gathering areas
- Plan square grid community developments to promote pedestrian friendly neighbourhoods.
Inclusiveness cont.

- Build multi-functional facilities that cater to all ages (ex. Talisman Centre, Calgary)
- Combine senior facilities and daycares to promote interaction among different age groups.
Housing

- Provide a wide variety of choice in housing options so individuals can maintain their independence in a way that best suits their needs (ex. cottages, condos, houses).
- Redevelop buildings within the city rather than expanding to the outskirts.
Education

- Provide alternate forms of learning and learning opportunities (ex. computers, webinars, etc).
Education

- Interaction between age groups to promote learning (ex. computers, cell phones, knitting and woodworking).
Wellness

- A holistic wellness approach that facilitates quality of life in later years through:
  - Opportunities to keep active and healthy.
  - Partnership with community agencies to promote healthier living (ex. Building Healthy Lifestyles program)
  - Innovative sport and leisure programs to engage individuals with a wide range of abilities.
Conclusion

The Senior Community Forum sees a continuing need for adjustments in society, both in the way we live and how our City is planned. It is important that each neighbourhood contains services that all generations require.
The Seniors Community Forum advocates strongly as a voice for seniors but future planning for the City based on the needs of seniors is beneficial for everyone in the Lethbridge community.
Seniors Community Forum
Shaping Our Community
SADAT City Circle
City Circle Name: SADAT City Circle

City Circle Topic of Interest: Community Inclusion

What is the current situation regarding your topic?

- Would like to see people with disabilities be welcomed and included in communities. Address issues of NIMBY and the stereotypes that present. The City is trying to address NIMBY but the community is not changing.
- Need ongoing support to assist those in low income housing to move out of the low income housing and to assist them in addressing the issues that arise.
- Citizen engagement – can learn from rural communities as they are a good example of how community rises to help each other out. Would like to see that kind of mentality within the community.
- Accessibility and getting around the community – curbs and wheelchair ramps, road construction and accessibility to all aspects of the community.
- Concerned that this initiative is giving “lip service” to those citizens that provide input when decisions and directions have already been made or set. Want to ensure voices are heard and given serious consideration.
- Ensure residents feel safe and secure within the community.
- Believe Lethbridge has a lot to offer and would like the city to succeed in whatever all residents do. Would like to see what others in the community to be positive influences in the community.
- Foster community identity and pride, promote the positive aspects of the community and hope that given the anticipated growth the positive perception of the community is maintained.
- Strengthen and revitalize the Downtown – the beautification of the downtown is a start and is promoting the reclamation of the Downtown.
- Need to ensure the transit is affordable – currently seniors, students, youth have access to discounted fairs however adults with developmental disabilities or those living with low income do not get the same consideration and most if not all adults with developmental disabilities are on a fixed income.
- Who monitors this or polices the results of the Plan Your City engagement processes?
- Transportation is a big issue for persons with disabilities – access to hockey games, concerts.
- Health care is a glaring issue for persons with developmental disabilities.
- People with disabilities are seen as de-valued within the population. The general public doesn’t see the individual but the disability. Need to start valuing people as people and appreciate all of their abilities – it’s alright to be different!
- Racism within the housing industry – landlords who are corrupt and take advantage of those in the community who do not have a voice. Can the City do anything with landlords – tenant relationships? Landlords are abusive, aggressive and sometimes threatening.
- That the field of disability services be recognized and that the community values the work that the service providers do and the support provided to the individuals is valued and recognized. Support the initiative to make the disabilities service sector to become more of a recognized profession. Community supporting the frontline staff to feel valued for the work they do to support persons with disabilities.
- When promoting inclusiveness everyone has a role. How many of us know our neighbours and encourage the neighbourly connection – we don’t have the neighbourhood support system or culture of connecting individuals within the neighbourhoods. A neighbourhood connector system that promotes block parties, neighbourhood parties etc.
What is the current situation regarding your topic? (Cont.)

• when neighbours look out for each other.
• Accessibility and availability of housing for those on fixed incomes.
• Need to address the elitism that is becoming prevalent in the housing sector of this community.
• Concerned that the decisions about the future plan of the city have already been made and this process is just lip service.
• What is the quality of life for individuals living with low income in this community when all activities within the community have significant costs associated in terms of transportation, access to the event etc?
• That the success of Lethbridge is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable and disenfranchised.

Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest?

What one thing do persons with developmental disabilities need?
All citizens are valued and respected. That the community is educated, gains knowledge, accepts, values and respects those who are different. When you talk about inclusion those outside of this sector don’t understand because they live it regularly.

Key messages
• A community without labels… Want to live without labels
• Transportation, accessibility and affordability
• Accessible streets, sidewalks etc
• Affordable Housing
Lethbridge Public Library City Circle
The Lethbridge Public Library Board and Administration met to review key proposals to target over the next 30 years. The Board and Administration reviewed the City Circles plan with City Members and created some broad approaches to the needs of the Library. Library Administration also spent an afternoon looking at the Library’s current situation, what we do well, what we need to improve on, what our key priorities are and how the City can assist the Library in meeting some of its goals.

Below are the issues identified and the needs of the library which the City can support moving forward. The library has many items on its agenda including its 25 year strategic plan. Only items where the City can assist are outlined:

**Topic 1 - Services to the Community**

- Teen demographic/economic development
  - City wide free library cards - Library administration felt that the library could attract more teenagers and public in general if library cards were free to the community.

- Hard to find physically
  - Signage – access to library – Signage to the library is poor and far too close to be of any benefit. The building is not obvious and hidden in its design. Signs located along main arteries and along city boulevards would be of greater benefit.
  - The library is not included in the Tourist Information Centre information and brochures. Many tourists visiting new cities like to visit the local libraries to find out local information and in particular for computer access along with many other services the library offers which could benefit visitors.

- Centre of Community
  - Library needs to be part of the Downtown redevelopment and city square concepts and included in a downtown project presence – access to the library, its services, and facilities for businesses, organizations as well as individuals.

**Topic 2 - Strategically Locating Library Services**

- Future growth and the location of library services is key to the Library’s ongoing strategic development

- Current library services are short of per capita targets of 0.9 persons/ft²
  - There is a need for a new library on the North side (possibly Uplands)
  - As well as the far south of the City, (be aware of future 3rd river crossing bus linkages)

- The Library Bookmobile is 24 years old and needs replacement or alternative services to meet the needs of its customers.
Funding for a replacement in the near term

• Current Library is a solid concrete building (built in 1974 and upgraded in ‘92), meaning that wireless technology is difficult to maintain and service
  o Potential to sell the current building and build a new central library
  o New central library could be integrated into a new multiplex or city centre concept

• Timeline to modernization/adaptability
  o 1st-Bookmobile
  o 2nd north side branch
  o 3rd south side branch
  o 4th new central (2030)

**Topic 3 - Transportation to and from Library Services**

• Access to current (downtown) and future (Westside) library services is vital if these services are to be utilized fully

• There will be severely limited access to the new west side library
  o Densification, walkability and new roads need to be taken into account
  o Sidewalks, bicycle paths, and direct access are important
  o City support for book delivery programs (not only volunteers) would be an asset

• Existing bus routes do not provide proper access to the downtown library
  o The reorganization of routes will increase accessibility

• Parking lot is full at peak times
  o Increased bicycle parking would be helpful,
  o Potential to create a bicycle locker at the library would be an asset
  o Underground/overflow parking for staff would free up space

• Too many service points
  o Reducing service points would make the building more secure and would allow for better use of staff resources
  o City would need to fund a major redevelopment of the current main library building including structural as well as technology changes.
Heart of Our City Revitalization Committee

Part 1 Submission 1
Part 2 Submission 2
MINUTES of a Meeting of the HEART OF OUR CITY REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE, held on Wednesday, July 22, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall of the City of Lethbridge with the following in attendance:

CHAIRMAN: 

MEMBERS: 
- Citizen-at-large
  - Chamber of Commerce
- Allied Arts Council
- Downtown Business Revitalization Zone
- Lethbridge Historical Society

OTHERS: 
- City Manager Designate
- Senior Community Planner
- Downtown Revitalization Manager
- City Clerk's Office

REGRETS: 
- EDL
  - Downtown Business Revitalization Zone
  - Business Revitalization Zone Managing Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER:

called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

CITY CIRCLES:

Brian Conger, AECOM, and Robert McKay, Senior Planner led the Committee through the City Circles exercise. The purpose was to provide input in the Plan Your City Municipal Development Plan and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (MDP/ICSP).

Four steps were outlined:
- Identify Issues/Topics
- Prioritize Issues
- Current Reality
- Solutions
The following issues were identified by the Committee:

- Parking
- Accessibility
- Safety
- Culture
- Retail
- Residential
- Cleanliness
- Inclusivity
- Infill and Occupancy
- Incorporating Heart of Our City Master Plan
- Preserving History and Heritage
- Sustainable Economics
- Amenities

The Committee reviewed those issues which were of highest priority in terms of the perception, the reality, and possible solutions:

**Safety**

- Perception – not safe
- Conclusion is perception is most of the issue, rather than reality
- Risk Avoidance
- Intimidation is a factor
- Media hyperbole may create the perception

**Solutions**

- Bring more people downtown
- What is the reality – get the facts on crime
- Marketing campaign
- Beat patrols
- Street cleanup
- Eliminate high risk areas
- Cultural awareness
- Need a diversity of entertainment opportunities
- Avoid large rowdy establishments in the downtown area
- Study areas that work
- Eyes on the street
- Design of the environment is critical (second generation – CPTED)

**Incorporating Heart of Our City Master Plan**

- Dealing with interconnections outside of downtown
- Centrality of downtown
- Reason to come downtown (banking, county office, entertainment)
- Downtown is not a transportation corridor; it is a destination
- Synchronicity of Plan and timelines with Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, and Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan
- Need to develop policy with teeth that incorporates the pillars of the Heart of Our City Master Plan
- Provide incentives for multi-family developers to build downtown
- Downtown is the primary hub for Lethbridge (“Downtown Primacy”)
Infill and Occupancy
- Holes in the downtown core
- 85% occupancy in existing buildings
- Empty lots could be used for complimentary interim uses
  - For instance turn 1st Avenue lots into community garden
- Vacant stores – Art Gallery using Singers
- Streetscaping such as murals
- Encouraging urban design guidelines
- Storage sites (poor use of space)
  - Grandfathering allows continuation of use
- Low lease rates
- Out of town or absentee landlords
- “Hammer or big stick” zoning to penalize landlords that do not maintain their property
- minimum maintenance bylaw
- financial incentives to develop vacant lots and/or buildings

Parking
- currently conducting a parking strategy
- sufficient parking in total, but not distributed
- existing parkades being used by surrounding businesses
- requirement to pay for parking may dissuade some customers
- question if parking is an issue because individuals will park a fair distance from big box stores
- employees take up prime parking spaces
- transit connectivity
- every ground level parking lot is a potential site for development
- future developments may require underground parking
- should it be a private or public responsibility to provide parking

Culture
- importance of having the Performing Arts Centre downtown
- Downtown is the logical spot
- Cultural hub needs to be located in the downtown as it will spur retail and other development
- Artistic community prefers the downtown
- Public realm component is key
- Targeting infrastructure investment in the downtown
- Sports complex may be too large for downtown because insufficient land space
  - Can be a disincentive for retail and residential development to be nearby
- Existing facilities such as museum, art gallery, community art centre, and library are critical to the success of the downtown
- Native cultural centre that is an attraction may be an appropriate downtown use
  - A native activity centre may require open space and therefore not appropriate
  - Should be tourism oriented to be in the downtown area
  - Possibility of bringing the Friendship Centre downtown
- Public art needs to be downtown
  - New kinetic piece
  - Encouraged in community services bylaw
  - Sites for public art that is designed for a specific site
  - Private developers stipulated to provide public art (bonusing)
• Bring artists into civic projects at the beginning

Brian Conger described the process for the City Circles. The deadline for submissions is September 8, 2009. There will be a Plan Your City Idea Fair to be held October 17, 2009 in City Hall. It was questioned if the Heart of Our City would be able to set up an exhibit at the Fair.

The Committee decided to have another City Circle meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 to continue with review of the following issues: residential, retail, mixed uses, and sustainable economics. Members were asked to read the Market Analysis Overview contained in the Heart of Our City Master Plan (Part 2, Section 4.0, pages 21 – 31).

Comments for the two meetings will then be forwarded.

| ACTION: | Committee Members to review marketing study contained in the Heart of Our City Master Plan (Part 2, Section 4.0, pages 21-31) Committee to discuss residential, retail, mixed uses, and sustainable economics at August 19th Meeting to forward comments from the meetings |

ADJOURNMENT:

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

________________________________________
CHAIRMAN

________________________________________
CLERK
NOTES of a Meeting of the HEART OF OUR CITY REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE, held on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall of the City of Lethbridge with the following in attendance:

CHAIRMAN: [Name]

MEMBERS: [Name]
Citizen-at-large
Chamber of Commerce

OTHERS: [Name]
City Manager Designate
Downtown Revitalization Manager
Business Revitalization Zone Managing Coordinator

REGRETS: [Name]
EDL
Downtown Business Revitalization Zone
Allied Arts Council
Downtown Business Revitalization Zone
Lethbridge Historical Society

CALL TO ORDER:
Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Quorum was not established.

CITY CIRCLES:

Brian Conger and Phil Dack, AECOM, and Robert McKay, Senior Planner, continued to lead the Committee through the City Circles exercise. The purpose was to provide input in the Plan Your City Municipal Development Plan and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (MDP/ICSP).

The Committee continued to consider the high priority issues in terms of the perception, the reality, and possible solutions:

Residential
- Currently 800 to 1,000 55 plus contained on the west side of downtown
  - Scenic Drive is a pedestrian barrier
  - Provide shuttle throughout downtown
  - Pedestrian subway or overpass
- Currently 250 residents contained in Assisted Living accommodation
- Currently less than 50 non-seniors located in second floor conversions
  - Market strategy is a “complete” environment
  - Concentrate high density around Galt Gardens
- Currently approximately 40 to 50 people in affordable housing
  - Anyone downtown is a bonus
- Currently approximately 100 to 150 mixed (including students)
  - How do we get more students downtown
- Opportunity to develop more second and third floor uses – “adaptive reuse” for vacant buildings
  - Discussion about who and how to get people to live downtown
- Need downtown supermarket
  - Threshold number needs to be established
• Need a mix of housing and income types
  o NIMBY issues
  o Find out what it would take from developer’s perspective to build housing downtown
• Need downtown to be busy after the banks close
  o Viability threshold
• Public support of adaptive reuse
  o Upgrading of existing non-retail space
  o Paramount is a good idea
  o ‘empty nester’ cohort
  o City-owned empty sites and competing uses
  o Who can we attract – Medican
• Need to develop complementary services (such as doctors)
• Should City be more facilitative for condominium developers

Retail
• Hotels
  o Boutique hotels
  o New development outside core
• Land is changing hands at an accelerating rate in the past 4 to 5 years
  o Higher percentage of business owners now own the land (generational change)
    ▪ Great because it creates a commitment
    ▪ Low storefront vacancy
• City open to facilitate ownership
  o Strata title
• Back Alley concept
  o Open up the lanes to intensify retail
• No Big Box downtown
• May have too many Shopping Malls downtown (2 in 3 blocks)
  o Downtown has gotten stronger since WalMart came to Town
    ▪ Downtown shopping malls do compete with WalMart
  o Important role
  o Public/private dialogue
    ▪ Establish dialogue on how the City interacts with the mall
      ▪ How can the City support the Downtown malls
  o What is the long-term vision of the malls
• Toys “R” Us – adaptive reuse
• Retail spaces in disrepair
  o Unsightly premises
  o No minimum maintenance bylaw
  o Tax incremental financing bylaw
• Work with strategic partners as part of communication strategy
  o Create a new, exciting downtown group
  o Our MLAs
    ▪ Provincial building opportunities
  o Our municipal politicians talk to MLAs annually regarding new infrastructure investment
  o Our senior staff (Bary Beck) follow up
• Performing Arts Centre
  o Professional lobbying
• Target specific retail
• Conference Centre
• Parking strategy
  o Reduced parking as an incentive
• Mixed Use

**ACTION:** [ ] to forward comments from the meetings

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

__________________________
CHAIRMAN

__________________________
CLERK
Developing Lethbridge Using Ecological Principles: An Ecosystems Approach
Developing Lethbridge Using Ecological Principles: An Ecosystems Approach
City Circle Summary
2-4 pm, June 23, 2009 at Helen Schuler Nature Centre

Attendees: Lori Goater, Coreen Putman, Tom Hopkins, Linda Cerney, Cheryl Bradley, Laura Piersol, Shannon Frank, Andrea Vaxvick, Heather Gowland, Dana Blouin, John Nightingale, Reg Ernst, Rob McKay
Facilitator: Brian Conger

INTRODUCTION
As the City’s population grows, we recognize that development is important and necessary. How will this development happen? How will our natural areas be valued and managed in the strategic directions that will guide future development? Settled landscapes can either enhance and contribute to, or have a significantly detrimental effect on biodiversity. The City of Lethbridge, like most cities, is concentrated near a waterbody, the Oldman River. As a result, our city includes one of the richest ecosystems, in terms of biodiversity, in our region. It is the hope of this city circle to see integration and celebration of our unique, local, natural environment into city policy and city council decisions at all levels. Such ecological consideration requires long term thinking and a visionary approach.

BACKGROUND
The desire to create an environmental policy and plan was articulated in the 2007-2010 city council strategic plan: “Towards A Sustainable Future”. As part of the “Plan Your City” process, a city circle was formed to explore environmental issues and opportunities related to the natural areas within the river valley. As the City of Lethbridge does not currently have a management plan specific to the river valley, there is a desire to seek clarity on the current situation as well as the possible implications of population growth on ecological integrity, biodiversity, and connectivity.

Lethbridge is home to various ecologically significant features including large strands of cottonwood forest, coulees and natural wetlands, all within an urban setting. These provide critical habitat for hundreds of bird, plant and other species, including populations that are “sensitive” or may be “at risk” if human impact on the river valley is improperly managed. These natural areas also provide a unique, rich wilderness experience for residents and visitors alike. The benefits of these parks can be experienced daily; a rare opportunity for many people living within urban areas. The Lethbridge river valley has and will continue to play a significant role in this city’s development.

CURRENT STRENGTHS
A small population coupled with the large parks footprint (much of which includes a large floodplain and steep sloped coulees) has so far resulted in limited development within the river valley. That being said, high impact, recreational use parks (which provide opportunities such as golfing, biking, camping and manicured park space) are included in the river valley. In contrast, there are also natural areas which have limited
infrastructure and provide space for low impact opportunities (such as hiking, bird watching, photography, and outdoor classrooms). A group of committed and visionary individuals has championed the strategic development of this river valley park system. As a result, the river valley boasts a wide range of parks, pathways and cultural centres which are used daily. Other strengths listed by city circle participants include: a strong regional scientific community, a city staff and city council who are seen as cooperative and receptive to sustainability, consistent park visitation, and an increasing culture of environmental awareness.

CURRENT WEAKNESSES
However, a lack of environmental policy to guide the process of future planning and development within the City has led to the weakening of the ecological integrity of the river valley. Specific policies, for example wetland policy and floodplain policy have been adopted by other Alberta communities which provide clear and transparent expectations for future growth and development. Within Lethbridge there has been a lack of clear and well defined guiding principles to assess and monitor the ecological integrity of the river valley. As a result, there is insufficient data to guide city planners and developers in making ecologically considerate decisions. A lack of accountability and coordination within the City of Lethbridge has compounded this problem. Some of the resulting issues that were discussed in the city circle include:

- increased housing development which has encroached on sensitive natural areas and species
- the suppression of natural disturbances and processes (such as fire and grazing) which have resulted in a loss of biodiversity
- the lack of a system to define critical natural areas which has resulted in the fragmentation of habitat
- outdated management practices which have led to the degradation of natural areas by invasive plant species
- inadequate by-law enforcement within natural areas
- the lack of implementation of past environmental plans
- none of the river valley parks are classified as “Preservation Areas” within the current Parks Master Plan
- the lack of protected space for prairie species

RECOMMENDATIONS
To build on past strengths, and to emphasize the important role that these natural areas (and the biodiversity contained within them) play in the overall quality of life within the city, we wish to make the following recommendations:

1. **Development strategies and planning policy should include biodiversity in their stated objectives.** A broad vision or aim of the plan would state that planning, construction, development and regeneration should have minimal impacts on biodiversity and enhance it where ever possible. Objectives that fit with this vision may include:
• To promote sustainable development by ensuring that biological diversity is conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development.
• To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of Lethbridge and area’s wildlife by sustaining and where possible improving the quality and extent of natural habitat and natural physical processes.
• To contribute to urban renewal by enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and in development so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people, recognizing that healthy functioning ecosystems contribute to a better quality of life and to people’s sense of well-being.

2. The ecological integrity of the river valley and natural areas are recognized as an important part of a healthy and vibrant City of Lethbridge.
   i. REQUIRED ACTIVITIES
   • Develop an ecological inventory
   • Identify and map boundaries of critical areas for preservation.
   • Define thresholds, subsequent monitoring programs and the creation of action plans for when thresholds (regarding ecological integrity) are comprised
   • Create a baseline for performance measures and indicators of success.
   • Identify clear roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for the city.
   • Identify opportunities for the city to set precedent and demonstrate, for example North-side Regional Park could be a demonstration project.
   • Promote and demonstrate water conservation through drought resistant landscaping practices (planting of native species), incentives and continued public education.
   • Draw on best practices from other communities.
   • Development of formal policy that addresses the building of new parkland infrastructure.

3. The dedication of resources to a City administrator accountable to sustainability.
   • Assist the community in working within the newly created conservation plan and policy.
   • Cross collaboration of the City of Lethbridge, nature organizations and advocacy groups is essential to address environmental concerns.
   • To celebrate and communicate success in terms of environmental initiatives.
   • To create more opportunities for groups to advise and address city council on issues related to biodiversity and the environment.
Lethbridge Living Circle
Put in a bridge path in the coulees. It got blown out during a flood about 15 years ago and they never replaced it. Now, hikers, bikers, joggers can no longer go from the path near Tudor with the stairway up the coulee to the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre paths. You just hit a dead end.

Indoor Tennis. All major cities and many cities our size have an indoor tennis court facility. We used to have 1 court behind the skating rink at the Enmax centre. We now have nothing. There are many tennis players in all age brackets who would steadily use and contribute to the facility. You could purchase or rent an empty building such as the empty "Linen and Things" building and put in a carpet/tile flooring. It would allow the seniors to keep playing all year. It would allow the Junior players to compete with Edmonton and Calgary kids.

Parking downtown is terrible. There needs to be more free parking, more meter parking, and more parking lot space - either that or less ferocious parking service attendants. Plus, with all the businesses for sale or rent downtown, a new apartment building downtown might not be all that's needed to revitalize the core.

An alternate road from the West side of town, over to the Costco area - is still needed. It's been talked about for years, but we need it now more than ever.

Come wintertime, the city should really do something about its street plowing services - at the very least, close down certain roads for a period, in order to clear the snow, so that residents of this city can actually park within metres of their own homes.

Speaking of roads, it seems that the same stretch of highway gets repaired every year, causing inconvenience and bottleneck traffic for everybody. Why not fix other roads too? Or other parts of the highway at least. Or at the very least, make it well-publicized and clearly marked that construction will be ongoing for _____ period of time - marked clearly before turning on to the highway.

The Sanitation services seem to have a policy that garbage truck drivers do not get out of their trucks for any reason. This means, and I have witnessed this recently again, that if trash falls out of the dumpster onto the ground while being picked up, or if there is overflowing garbage around the dumpster beforehand, it all remains left behind around the dumpster as the truck rolls away. Can't we supply some gloves and ask for 60 seconds of consideration to pick up the mess?

The loitering habits of certain street kids on a certain downtown street corner is a concern.

A recycling initiative like in Calgary would be nice.

Transit service stopping at 6 pm on Sundays can be incredibly inconvenient.

There should be some investing into the youth of our city with brand new recreation facilities that house double ice facilities with attached pool, gymnasium, etc. that most other areas, even those smaller than Lethbridge seem to have. This can also bring tourism into the city by enabling these venues to host varied tournaments, provincials, and national level competitions.
For a city with a university that has a Fine Arts program, Lethbridge has a lackluster arts community. Good venues need to be made available to artists for theatre, dance, music, etc. If they are available, they need to be advertised more. Bring back Shakespeare in the Park or look to create a festival (fringe, busker, or even a large, Southern Alberta Arts Festival which could include visual and performance-based) in order to support and nurture the local community and also draw in tourists.

I would like to see Lethbridge operate more as part of the 'region' in terms of economic development, tourism and education. I think that the tourist initiatives in the region would benefit enormously from building on our place in confederation (only place in Canada founded by a Father of Confederation) and our relationship to both the Red Coat Trail (Macleod etc.) I would like to see errors on the city website and tourist literature corrected. For example: Sir Alexander Galt did not buy "Nicholas Sheran's mine". He and Elliott made a trip out here (Elliott met his father on the way as he was already stationed here by the federal government in his work with the Indian Commissioner. This work incidentally is a great way of introducing the region's links to the original treaties. Elliott's job was to meet with First Nations and he travelled extensively with the NWMP..) Back to the founding of Lethbridge. The two Galt's toured the Northwest Territories District of Alberta and staked out five claims, which were granted over the winter by Macdonald's government. The next year, they chose to set up on a claim near the east side of the River. (Nicholas Sheran and Elliott knew each other, but Sheran downed the year before the Galt mine set up.) I really think getting rid of the myths would help the region develop a marketing plan that would bring researchers, tourists and historians to the regions from all parts of the Commonwealth. The founding of Lethbridge was very much part of the original vision Sir Alexander had for the both British North American and the transformation of the British Empire into the a federation of Nations. In essence, foreshadowed the creation of the Commonwealth a good 80 years before it happened. If Macleod gets tourists from the UK, Australia, Europe, Japan -- all seeking to gobble up their history of the British Empire, why can't Lethbridge? (Why don't we embrace our heritage? Francophone Canadians would be thrilled to know that the MP from Sherbrooke founded Lethbridge and that in the 1880s, the city had several Quebec families (French and English speaking) running businesses. The founding of towns like Raymond, Magrath, Cardston all tie in to this. Charles Magrath was a major figure in the creation of Water treaties between Canada and the US. (He also became Elliott's brother in law). Forgot to mention that Guelph (Wellington and Dufferin counties) in Ontario are directly tied to the settlement of Lethbridge. Lots of potential visitors from both Guelph and Ayrshire, Scotland. Guelph, founded by the poet John Galt, father of Sir Alexander Galt, of Ayrshire (Town of Irving) Scotland. Galt was a great friend of Mohawk Chief, John Brant (son of Joseph). He helped both white and First Nations Canadians get their promised lands and money from the British Treasury after the War of 1812. (Sir Alexander was a published writer at fourteen.) Lethbridge and Sherbrooke streetplans are modelled on Guelph. Many colonial settlers (including my ancestors) of Wellington and Dufferin Counties, came from Ayrshire to Guelph (probably through family contacts.) And many pioneers in Lethbridge, including J.D, Higgenbotham, came from Guelph and Wellington Counties. (My Galt book was recently reviewed in two Wellington County newspapers and since then I've noticed a teeny spike in sales.) I noticed a great deal of interest in Alberta history.
Lethbridge would be wise to gain ground in the 'green' evolution for our health and that of the planet: encourage wildflower growth in the boulevards, incentives for xeriscaping, innovative control of water consumption...most especially that used for watering lawns (perhaps this needs to be banned), incentives for household composting. And Lethbridge needs to hang on to its 'small town(city)' appeal through more downtown events and gatherings. Wouldn't it be great to see the Galt Gardens used each weekend of the warm season for outdoor plays, music, etc. And I want to congratulate the city for placing the water park there as it is a delight to sit under a tree and watch as generational and cross cultural mixes enjoy it.

Our city really lacks in the ‘green’ area. The recycling centres around the city are ridiculously over-used. Why not embrace a program such as that in Kelowna. They pay lower taxes than we do and still seem to have better services. They have three bins – black for regular garbage, blue for recycling and green for yard waste. This would eliminate people from having to drive gas-guzzling trucks to the recycling centres to unload. And it might encourage people to recycle more. Kelowna also provides its citizens with a yearly wall-type calendar listing area garbage pick-up days and other city service information including what can/cannot be recycled, listings for local bottle depots, and city service phone numbers.

Sometimes it feels like the city planners have forgotten how hard others in the older communities have worked for and on their homes and neighbourhoods. I’ve seen a few instances where a well-taken care of low-density neighbourhood has had a duplex or fourplex dropped right into the middle of it and that property stops being taken care of because it’s now become a rental property, but the city has approved the zoning for it. This lowers the property values for all the homes in the neighbourhood. If the city feels it can do this, then they also need to reassess all the taxes for the homes in that area and lower those taxes. I also question the city’s gung-ho push on low-income/rental properties in Lethbridge. One look at the Herald shows you tones of rental properties are available!
Bikebridge Cycle City Circle
Bikebridge Cycle City Circle

Recommendations to Encourage Bicycle Use in Lethbridge

For: submission to the City of Lethbridge, City Circles

Topic of Interest: planning considerations for encouraging cycling as a relevant urban transportation choice in Lethbridge. The identification of what are perceived to be barriers to the expanded use of bicycles as a means of transportation; and some suggestions for inclusion in a Lethbridge Municipal Development Plan that might aid in removing those barriers.

By: The Bikebridge Cycle City Circle

bikebridge@shaw.ca

Submitted: August 23, 2009

This report is also available on the internet, comments and suggestions are welcomed there:

http://sites.google.com/site/bikebridgecc/
**Introduction**

The primary purpose of the Bikebridge Cycle City Circle\(^1\) (Bikebridge) is to encourage more use of bicycles in Lethbridge. To do this, Bikebridge has identified what are believed to be at least some of the reasons why bicycles are not more in use within our city. With these reasons in mind, we captured some ideas that might aid in countering these barriers and encourage more citizens to become cyclists. Bikebridge has combined many of these ideas into a set of recommendations. This review is undertaken with the hope that the recommendations, in some form, might be included in a Lethbridge Municipal Development Plan.\(^2\)

It should be noted that, although Bikebridge would not discourage any bicycle use, our view is focused on the bicycle as a means of urban transportation, a vehicular alternative to the automobile. This would include the use of a bicycle for utilitarian purposes as a supplement to the private automobile or to public transit. It is the use of a bicycle, at least some of the time, for commuting to and from one's place of employment or learning, running errands, attending events, or visiting with friends and family.

Within the context of this review a bicycle is defined as: a self powered ridden vehicle including two-wheeled cycles, tricycles, quad-wheeled cycles and trailers attachable to any of these. Issues and recommendations may also be relevant for E-bikes\(^3\) and even inline skate users but Bikebridge has not looked specifically at issues or offered recommendations for these.

Within the *Barriers to Cycling* section (Part 2), Bikebridge provides a list or a "brainstorm"\(^4\) of what are considered barriers to bicycle use in Lethbridge. This list is provided within the context of what are believed to be the primary barriers at issue: safety, security and physical.

Within the *Removing Barriers to Cycling* section (Part 3), Bikebridge provides a list of ideas that form the basis for its recommendations the essence of which might, in some form, be incorporated into a longer-term Municipal Plan. As with the barriers, these ideas (and resulting recommendations) may well address a combination of issues: from safety, to security to the physical.

The *Summary Report* (Part 1) which follows is Bikebridge Cycle City Circle recommendations for potentially lessening barriers to cycling and encouraging bicycle use. These are actions we believe, if adopted, can facilitate the use of bicycles for utilitarian purposes in Lethbridge.
Part 1: Summary Report

The Bikebridge Cycle City Circle wants to encourage more bicycle use in Lethbridge. Why? Simply put, the bicycle offers us all opportunities at improved wellbeing. Riding a bike can be exhilarating; it slows us down and awakes our awareness to our connection to the earth and each other. From a bicycle’s more human scale we see, smell, hear and feel the neighbourhood’s real beauty. Cycling builds and maintains fitness, for the cyclist and the community.

Bikebridge holds the premise that if, as a community, we can reduce or remove barriers that keep us from first exploring the use of a bicycle and then actually using one, we can improve our lives and those of our neighbours. We think that is what community is all about.

The Bikebridge Cycle City Circle has identified what are considered barriers to bicycle use and a list of ideas that might serve to remove or at least reduce those barriers. Based on our list of ideas we have created recommendations that we hope, at least in their essence, can be integrated into a City of Lethbridge Municipal Development Plan.

We believe the barriers to using bicycles in Lethbridge have mostly to do with our safety, our security and demands on fitness. When we consider making a trip on a bike our first consideration might be whether or not there is a safe route to and from our destination. Our attention might then shift to our ability to physically make the trip, the difficulty of the route. And we wonder, once we arrive, will there be a place to secure our bike and the things we will take with us or acquire en route. How will I feel, how will I look when I get there?

At the outset, Bikebridge recognizes that the community has limited ability to apply resources to any public activity, whether for infrastructure or services, but we also believe that significant investments are almost always necessary if real improvement, actual change can be expected. Put another way, Bikebridge believes once the essence of our recommendations are given consideration, their merits will be evident.

Here are our recommendations:

1. Create a Bicycle Advisory Group

*Facilitate the creation and ongoing operation of a community bicycling advisory group that would provide input and advice to City administrators, City Council, businesses and individuals.* The primary roll of the group would be to provide the cyclist’s perspective on City infrastructure projects including bikeway, bike route, bike lane location and standards. It would have input into the development and maintenance of bicycling security standards, and cycling related bylaws. Input provided by the group would be on an advisory basis only. The group could provide suggestions to businesses wishing to offer better services to cyclists as well as directly to cyclists.
Bikebridge believes that the need to reduce barriers to cycling in Lethbridge will be ongoing. New ideas to mitigate barriers will evolve both as a result of changes to the way the community approaches developments and by the growth in the number of people cycling as a transportation alternative. The bicycle users’ perspective is essential to the elimination of barriers to cycling and the growth of bicycle use in our community. More thoughts on a Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG) are explored in the notes.  

In the context of Municipal Planning, the Bicycle Advisory Group could provide a key link between planners and cyclists ensuring that municipal projects and programs contain the elements that will continue the growth of bicycle use in Lethbridge.

2. Establish Cycling Route criteria

*Establish criteria for selecting a network of recommended cycling routes throughout the city.* Criteria would be developed and maintained in the context of established safety, security and physical standards and would provide a means for the selection of the best overall routes for cyclists to get about the city. Considerable input from cyclists would be required on an ongoing basis to ensure the network of routes provides city wide coverage.

In the context of Municipal Planning, the cycling route criteria should be an important element in planning roadways, development areas and the placement of public facilities. Routing criteria would form the basis for determining the location of bikeways and bike lanes.

3. Establish Bicycle Security Standards

*Establish a set of requirements for providing parking facilities for bicycles and minimum standards for bike racks.* Undertake to establish both by-law requirements for the provision of adequate parking for cyclists and an ongoing public awareness initiative emphasizing the need to provide and use bike racks. A program of replacing all existing sub-standard bike rack installations at all public facilities should be undertaken with immediacy.  

In the context of Municipal Planning, the security of bicycles, cyclists and their possessions should be included as an important element of any new public facility and should form part of the approval mechanism for private developments.

4. Establish Cycling Information Program

*Implement ongoing public awareness programs explaining the rights and responsibilities of both cyclists and motorists as vehicle operators.* The program should include periodic campaigns on the value of using a bicycle, using bicycle routes and bicycle security. Programs could be extended to include in-school education and public workshops on bicycle operating and maintenance skills.
In the context of Municipal Planning, the impact on the value to cyclists should be included when soliciting public input for proposed developments or projects. Announcements and public information (websites, mail-outs) with respect to new developments should include reference to considerations included to encourage use of bicycles.

5. **Build an East-West Connector Bikeway**

*Construct a minimum grade bikeway providing a direct cycling link between the University of Lethbridge and Downtown Lethbridge.* The bikeway could make use of the existing bike-pedestrian causeway and make the climb on either side of the valley based on either switchback construction or a long gradual accent to the east side of the University and to downtown access point west of Galt Gardens.

Existing grades on all routes through the river valley offer the cyclist a considerable challenge in terms of the overall grade and there are some very steep sections which are a direct barrier to making full use of a bicycle in Lethbridge.\(^9\)

In the context of Municipal Planning, the East-West Connector should be addressed early on, as a high priority. A close second priority would be for a North Lethbridge-Downtown bikeway connector and a North Lethbridge-Southeast Lethbridge connector.

Bikebridge believes that this project would serve to assemble and bring to light all the elements necessary to bring about a reduction to the barriers keeping us from making the bicycle a serious transportation choice in Lethbridge.\(^9\)

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\(^1\) David Cieslewicz, Mayor, Madison, Wisconsin

“A city that’s good to bike in
is a city that’s good to live in”\(^1\)
Part 2: Barriers to Cycling

For this review, the reasons individuals do not choose the bicycle for at least some of their transportation requirements are referred to as barriers to cycling.

Of course the primary barrier to cycling, for most citizens of Lethbridge, is simply that the private automobile is synonymous with transportation. Lethbridge has abundant efficient roadways, "free" parking and until recently cheap fuel, making the car the obvious choice. And relative to other urban areas, Lethbridge is widely dispersed making services, recreation facilities, shopping and employment areas, for the most part, far removed from where we live. Frequent daily auto trips are the prevailing strategy of many if not most.

It is not the intent of this review to discredit the automobile, but it is important to recognize that there is an emerging awareness of the negatives of the overuse of the car, both for individuals and the community. These negatives include reduced overall personal health and obesity, traffic congestion, noise, reduced personal safety, air and water pollution, greenhouse gases, and a spiralling personal and community indebtedness. An awareness of these externalities points to a need to find the means to reduce car use.

The negatives of automobile use will eventually become a reality for many. That is, more and more we will seek alternatives for at least some of our transportation requirements. But even in that reality, what might continue to keep people from choosing the bicycle?

Assuming that use of a bicycle is an option (sufficient physical and mental capacity) Bikebridge believes there are three main reasons why Lethbridge citizens would not (or do not now) choose a bicycle for at least some of their typical transportation requirements. Safety (cycling in this city is unsafe), security (bikes are always being stolen), and physical fitness (it is just too demanding to use a bicycle). More experienced cyclists might consider some of the issues expressed around these main barriers more "urban legends" then actual barriers, but Bikebridge believes they are nevertheless substantial enough to discourage bicycle use. That is to say, once an individual becomes a "cyclist" some of what was previously considered barriers dissipates--some does not.

A. Safety Barriers

In the context of this review, safety refers to the perception (or reality) that riding a bicycle is a more dangerous way to get about in the city then the alternatives: the private auto, public transportation, or walking. In the extreme, use of a bicycle is believed dangerous. Bikebridge agrees that there are aspects of cycling within Lethbridge considered unsafe, but all that made our list result from either a lack of understanding about bicycle use or inadequate roadway and bikeway design and maintenance.
1. Awareness of traffic rules as they relate to the bicycle

Bikebridge believes much of what may be considered unsafe stems largely from a lack of awareness of how the bicycle fits within the context of our transportation infrastructure. This lack of awareness is evident both by cyclists and other roadway users.

**a. Bicycle as Vehicle** - Many cyclists seem to be unaware that the bicycle is considered a vehicle under the Alberta Traffic Safety Act\(^\text{12}\) or if aware, choose to operate outside the established rules. Cyclists are often observed riding on walkways\(^\text{13}\) or, if on the roadway, against the traffic on the wrong side.

**b. Cyclists at Intersections** - Roadway cyclists appear most at odds with the correct (legal) procedures at roadway intersections including where to position the bicycle when turning or proceeding through the intersection. This is likely equally true of motorists (relative to the bicycle).

**c. Motorists equate cyclists with pedestrians** - Motorists also appear unaware of the status of the bicycle operator. Bikebridge has observed many instances of motorists yielding to cyclists waiting to cross at controlled intersections (as if they were pedestrians).\(^\text{22}\)

**d. Bikeway intersection with roadway** - Perhaps an area least understood by both cyclists and motorists, is the rules and roles of each at points where designated bikeways intersect with or converge into roadways.\(^\text{14}\)

**e. Off Limits to Cyclist Roadways** - Bikebridge believes that designating some specific roadways as off-limits to bicycle may serve to reinforce the view that the bicycle and automobiles do not mix - creating unsafe conditions (mainly for the cyclist) and encouraging cyclists to ride sidewalks elsewhere.\(^\text{15}\)

2. Roadway and Bikeway design

Much of what contributes to safety as a barrier to bicycle use is a direct result of roadway and bikeway design. All major or arterial roadways and indeed most new residential areas in Lethbridge are designed to accommodate motorized vehicles. From turning lanes, to parking, to traffic signals, the use of a bicycle as a vehicle has received little consideration.\(^\text{16}\)

**a. Traffic Signal Activation** - Many signalized intersections in Lethbridge are activated by the presence of a vehicle through roadway sensors. Many of these sensors do not detect the presence of a bicycle which leaves the cyclists to: wait for a larger vehicle to approach and activate the signal, dismount and attempt to activate a pedestrian signal (if one is provided), ride on the sidewalk in order to access the pedestrian signal or ride through the red light. The later two result in potentially unsafe solutions.
b. Traffic Signal Timing - Many traffic signals, particularly for crossings at major roadways, once activated provide insufficient time for many cyclists to clear the intersection before traffic resumes.

c. Stop signs - On many roadways which could be considered desirable cycling routes, stop signs are often placed such that cyclists must make frequent stops. From the perspective of many cyclists, momentum is valued and many are tempted to either avoid using the otherwise desirable route or not always adhering to the required complete stop.

d. Narrow or non-existent cycling space - Roadways without sufficient cycling space (right shoulder area remaining after space for parked vehicles) which are otherwise the better or effectively the only cycling route, are a considerable safety challenge to the bicycle rider. This unsafe condition is worsened where an otherwise sufficient shoulder disappears as a result of the placement of a right turn lane, traffic island, construction barrier, surface damage or parked vehicles.

eh. Speed limits - Vehicle maximum speed limits on many desirable non-arterial road cycling routes, particularly where the roadway is narrow, can result in an unsafe cycling condition. Narrow residential roadways require the cyclist to take more to the road's centre in order to avoid the car "door zone" which can result in conflicts with motorists traveling at or over 50 kilometres per hour.

i. Bikeway intersections - Most, if not all, provided bikeways run parallel to major or arterial roadways and are therefore frequently intersected with access roads. Neither the cyclist nor the motorist is advised of their responsibility at these crossings resulting in a guessing game as to who has the right of way. Also, location of bikeways so as to intersect at major roadway intersections often requires the cyclist to cross right and left turn lanes as well as through lanes. A particularly unsafe condition results from right turn lanes when the cyclist is traveling in the same direction as a turning vehicle.

j. Bikeway curb cuts – On most bikeways, concrete curb cuts (bikeway crossing roadways) with a 2 to 5 cm concrete lip can be slippery for bicycles with narrower tires, particular when ice forms in the low spots resulting from this type of contraction. An example of this can be found all along Mayor Magrath Drive South.

k. Bikeway ending (convergence) - Virtually all bikeways terminate in ways that encourage cyclists to make unsafe choices. The cyclist often finds herself on the opposite side of a major roadway or at a major signalized intersection with no continuation of the bikeway beyond that point. Upon reaching the top of Whoop Up Drive at Scenic Drive, the cyclist is first ushered onto a sidewalk and then left at the signalized intersection at 5th Avenue South.

l. Motor vehicle parking - Bikebridge recognizes the requirement for vehicle parking but the type of parking provided can greatly increase (or decrease) risks for cyclists. Angle parking provides an unsafe condition in locations where roadway width does not afford the cyclist a
view of backing vehicles (or the motorist a view of an approaching cyclist). Cyclist safety is also jeopardized where parallel parking on narrow roads results in inadequate space to avoid car doors (door zone). Parking of any type where there are also driveways, such as residential areas with front facing garages, can result in particularly unsafe cycling conditions.

3. Roadway and Bikeway Maintenance
Irrespective of road or bikeway design, the surface condition of the area available to the cyclist has a considerable impact on safety particularly when combined with rider inexperience with obstacle avoidance. These surface conditions, on roadways (shoulders) and bikeways, results in unsafe conditions mostly because the cyclist’s attention is diverted from traffic considerations.

   a. Debris - The presence of broken glass, sand, gravel from adjacent laneways, oil and auto parts within the cycling zone.

   b. Surface conditions - Pavement breaks, potholes, storm catch basins, water valves and manhole covers within cycling zones.

   c. Ice and snow - Ice and snow result in unsafe cycling conditions when left unplowed and an even more unsafe condition where snow is plowed into the available cycling zone.

4. Other
There are likely many more situations and conditions that can result in unsafe (apparent or real) conditions for cyclists including those directly related to the cyclist.

   a. Cycling equipment - Many cyclists choose not to use equipment that may improve the cycling safety experience including: mirrors, bells, reflectors, lights, fenders and an adequate means to carry items (baskets, panniers, carriers or backpacks).

   b. Mechanical condition - The condition of the cyclist’s vehicle can have a significant bearing on the degree of safety. Adequate brakes, sound tires, secure and unworn components are essential.

   c. Physical conditioning - Having a level of conditioning adequate to maintain a reasonable cycling pace can have considerable bearing on creating safe cycling experiences. A cyclist's ability to navigate within traffic situations is at times the greatest safety asset. Reaction and avoidance are key.

B. Security Barriers
Security in the context of this review refers to the view that using a bicycle does not afford an acceptable level of defence against theft or safeguards to wellbeing. “Security Barriers”,

primarily relate to issues of theft (and vandalism) of the bicycle itself and the cyclist's possessions, as well as issues of personal security.

1. Security of the Bicycle and Possessions

Bikebridge believes that the threat of theft and vandalism of the bicycle (and possessions) presents a considerable barrier to cycling in Lethbridge. This is believed so because there are very few adequate security facilities. The absence of these facilities also misses an opportunity to signal that using a bicycle to come "here" is an option.

a. Absence of Adequate Bike Racks - Perhaps the most obvious security issue is the almost complete lack of bicycle racks (for relatively short term lockup) throughout the city. This is the case at most businesses but there is an almost complete absence of adequate lockup security at public facilities including: the library, police station, city hall, pools, arenas, parks, concert halls, court house, provincial and federal buildings, hospital and public schools.

b. Absence of security at events - The provision of secure bicycle parking, such as "coat check" compounds, at major public events including: annual fairs, farmers' markets, concerts, air shows is rare to none-existent.

c. No Backpack Policy - There are several, particularly retail, Lethbridge businesses that do not allow their customers to carry a bag, bike panniers or backpacks within their store. This is a considerable issue for the cyclist with no viably secure alternative but to carry possessions (including items purchased elsewhere) with them. Leaving possessions with a clerk does not, in most cases, improve the cyclist’s perception of security.

d. Bicycle Recovery Program - Bikebridge believes the City of Lethbridge (Police) does not offer an adequate program for reporting and tracking bicycle theft, or for the return of recovered bicycles.

2. Security of Self (personal wellbeing)

Bikebridge believes that one of the major attractions of the private automobile is that it offers an enclosed, climate controlled space. Occupants of the car tend to extend this to include security from other externalities including the unwanted advances of others. As the bicycle by design is an "open" vehicle, this type of security is not possible; but there are other barriers to cycling security that could be at least partially mitigated.

a. Bikeway locations and lighting - There are bikeway sections located within fairly heavily wooded and relative remote locations. Other sections are located where there is a significant exposure to wind gusts and drifted snow. There are also sections of bikeways that are inadequately illuminated.
C. Physical (Fitness) Barriers

The Bikebridge review of the physical barriers to cycling focuses on the perception that there is a relatively high level of personal fitness necessary to use a bicycle. For some this translates into any bicycle use while for others it is related to more specific cycling routes. There is also a prevailing view that using a bicycle lends one less attractive, sometimes referred to as the "helmet hair" syndrome, but extends to perceptions about required dress and gear.

1. Physical fitness barriers

While it is accurate to suggest riding a bicycle does require a degree of fitness, and although the level of that fitness is generally overestimated particularly by non-cyclists, there is geography in Lethbridge that can require a significant effort.

a. River Valley grades - Traversing the river valley by bicycle requires a relatively high degree of fitness, particularly for the occasional cyclist. The river valley likely represents the single most relevant direct barrier to accommodate cycling universally throughout the city.

b. Chinook winds - Gusting west winds, particular from late fall through spring can create a barrier for cycling east to west anywhere within the city but in combination with the river valley can be a deterrent to all but the best conditioned cyclist.

2. Personal appearance barriers

The physical requirements of some cycling routes, and the desire to improve ones security by wearing a bike helmet, have the potential to affect perceptions around physical appearance and result in barriers to cycling.

a. Change facilities - Most employers do not offer employees, who may commute by bicycle, sufficient facilities in which to change clothing or shower. Most public buildings do not offer the cyclist sufficient facilities to change from weather-protective clothing or to tidy up after riding to the facility.
Part 3: Removing Barriers to Cycling

Bikebridge Cycle City Circle has developed some ideas we believe may contribute toward offsetting or even eliminating barriers to increased bicycle use in Lethbridge. Bikebridge has formed this "list of ideas" relative to what we developed in Part 2, Barriers to Cycling. This list of ideas is the grounding or basis for the formation of the recommendations offered by Bikebridge as outlined in the Summary Report, Part 1.

A. Safety Ideas

1. Awareness of traffic rules as relative to the bicycle

Reducing barriers to cycling through improved awareness and understanding of the bicycle as a rightful and legal vehicle on community roadways is an essential and ongoing process. Bikebridge has some ideas on how this might be undertaken:

a. Implement an ongoing public awareness (advertising) campaign that communicates that bicycles (operated by adults) are valid roadway vehicles both from a legal and pragmatic perspective. This could include messaging aimed specifically at cyclists and messaging aimed specifically at motorists.

b. Installation of roadway signs in key locations reminding cyclists to use the road (also reminding motorists that cyclists use the road). Some communities have implemented "share the road" signage in key locations. Apply bike icon markings on turn lanes (and through lanes) indicating the correct position for cyclists at various key intersections.

c. Encourage the inclusion of bicycle traffic rule education within Lethbridge schools.

d. Develop and offer bicycle riding and roadway operating courses or camps for both children and adults.

e. Develop a series of Lethbridge unique and recognizable bikeway signs. Erecting signs where bikeways intersect with roadways would serve to both designate the location of bikeways and highlight the rules and responsibilities of both cyclists and motorists. Further improvements would include the addition of bicycle icons within crossing points to develop and maintain an awareness of the purpose of these crossings.

f. Review the rationale for designating specific roadways as off-limits to cyclists. Consider adding bike lanes; share the road signs and roadway markings instead of separated bikeways particularly where cyclists also require access to businesses and services along both sides of that roadway.
2. Roadway and Bikeway design

The provision of adequate infrastructure for cycling is likely the single most effective way of removing barriers and encouraging the use of bicycles. Improvements to existing roadways and bikeways as well as the creation and maintenance of high standards will improve safety for both motorists and cyclists and encourage many more citizens to use a bicycle.

a. Ensure that all road surface traffic signal activation systems are sufficiently sensitive to be activated by a bicycle and/or add specific activation loops or push buttons for cyclists. Add bicycle icons in locations where the cyclist should place her bike in order to activate the signal.22

b. Ensure that the crossing phase at signalized intersections provide a sufficient interval to allow a cyclist to cross from a stopped position.

c. At locations where bikeways terminate or cross at major roadways, install a specific bike crossing phase initiated by the cyclist (similar to pedestrian crossing phase).

d. Where designated bike routes and bike lanes cross major roadways at un-signalized locations, install cyclist activated crossing lights (similar to pedestrian crossing corridors). Include appropriate signage to warn motorists of the designated bicycle crossing.23

e. Limit the number of stop and yield signs along designated bike routes and roadways with bike lanes.

f. On roadways that provide the best or the only route for cyclists, ensure there is adequate roadway shoulder space (bike lanes). Reduce motor vehicle lane widths, expand total road width or remove vehicle parking as necessary. In conjunction, develop a standard for new roadways that includes a specified cycling travel area.

g. Relocate traffic islands (right and left turn bays) to provide sufficient space for through cyclists or design (reconstruct existing) islands such that they do not form a cycling barrier.

h. Where temporary traffic barriers are installed for purposes of roadway maintenance and repair and motorized traffic is still permitted, provision should also be made to allow cyclists to traverse the area without conflicting with motorized traffic.

i. On non-arterial roadways designated as bike routes, particularly where the roadway is narrow, reduce the speed limit to 30 kilometres per hour or less.

f. Develop criteria for establishing a series of designated bike routes throughout the city. Develop maps, brochures and websites informing cyclists of these routes.
g. Develop criteria for establishing a series of bike lanes along main or arterial roads throughout the city. Develop maps, brochures and websites informing cyclists of the location of these lanes.

h. Designate school zones also as children bicycle zones with interesting signs and roadway markings.

3. Roadway and Bikeway maintenance

Improved standards for the maintenance of both bikeways and the cycling areas on roadways could have a considerable impact both on improving safety and on removing barriers to bicycle use.

a. Develop and implement a standard for sweeping, cleaning, removing snow and repairing the surfaces of bikeways and roadway shoulders on designated bike routes and bike lanes.

b. Consider the location of manholes, water valves and storm grates within the criteria for selecting designated bike routes and bike lanes.

c. Include within design standards for new roadways, a cycling zone that is free of utility access points and storm drainage devices.

d. Update roadway snow ploughing and removal procedures to ensure that snow is not ploughed onto designated bike route shoulders or bike lanes.

4. Other Ideas

Some other ideas for reducing the cycling safety barriers are:

a. Implement a campaign and programs aimed at creating awareness on the proper use of bicycle equipment.

b. In conjunction with local bicycle shops, develop a City of Lethbridge Safe Cycling Pack which could include a bike bell, mirror and reflectors as well as route maps, cycling rules book, etc. The pack could sell at a nominal price or be part of a sponsor/city partnership give-away.

c. Encourage the development of bicycle maintenance and repair workshops through local High Schools, Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge. Students could be encouraged to volunteer their skills to teach others basic bicycle maintenance.

d. Encourage and support development of a bike maintenance and repair cooperative where members can rent shop space, bike repair stands and tools, as well as receive onsite guidance from co-op volunteers. The co-op could also help young people gain bicycle repairs skills
and experience by reconditioning older donated bicycles for redistribution in the city or overseas.

B. Security Ideas

1. Security of Bicycle and Possessions

Bikebridge ideas for reducing security risks to the cyclist in terms of their bicycle and possessions are:

a. Establish a bylaw outlining a minimum standard for bicycle parking devices (bike racks). This bylaw should apply whether or not a business or facility is required to provide parking for cyclists. That is, if a business provides bicycle parking, whether or not it is required to do so under bylaw, it must be to the minimum standard.

b. Establish a recommended standard, including build ready specifications, for bicycle parking (bike racks) that could be installed by a business wishing to attract customers on bicycles.

c. Require the removal and replacement of any currently installed bike rack (public and private) that does not meet the minimum standard.

d. Establish a minimum bicycle parking provision standard applicable to all public facilities and private businesses licensed within the City. Where a business or facility is required to provide a minimum number of motor vehicle parking stalls, that business should also be required to provide a minimum number of bicycle rack stalls based on a determined formula (for example, one bicycle parking rack for every ten car stalls, or at lease one bicycle rack if any other parking is required). This same standard could apply to all businesses and public facilities that provide car parking regardless of whether or not that parking is a requirement.

e. Encourage organizations holding major events within the city, typically in temporary locations, to provide secure compounds for patrons who cycle to that event. Where the event requires a permit or license from the City of Lethbridge, provision of bicycle security should be an included condition.

f. Require, under a bylaw, that any business or establishment that maintains a policy disallowing patrons from carrying bags, panniers, backpacks or similar containers on their premises, must provide suitable lockers to secure carried possessions.

g. Establish a bicycle registration system or participate in a national bike registration program.

h. Establish a fine for damaging a bike rack or a bicycle or for taking a bicycle unlawfully that is at least as substantial as the City of Lethbridge fine for applying graffiti. Post signs on or near publicly provided bike racks warning of the fine. Possibly provide a portion of the
proceeds of fines to citizens observing and reporting bike damage or theft. Possibly create a fund to help defer the cost of replacing stolen and damaged bicycles and damaged bike racks.

2. Security of Self
Ideas for lessening barriers resulting from remote or dark cycling locations are:

a. As part of broader bike lane and bike route standards and initiatives, provide adequate (safe and direct) alternatives to bikeways that are less secure due to their remoteness or exposure to wind and drifting.

b. Establish bike route, bikeway and bike lane lighting standards relative to their location to existing roadway lighting (or the lack thereof). Where the illumination of a cycling area falls below the established standard, additional or separate lighting should be added.

C. Physical Barrier Ideas

1. Physical fitness
Ideas for managing fitness barriers to cycling are essentially the elimination of other barriers to using a bicycle. Improved fitness is one of primary benefits of cycling.

a. Promote cycling fitness by encouraging citizens to make use of a bicycle instead of a car as often as possible.

b. Encourage cycling fitness by undertaking to eliminate barriers to using a bicycle in Lethbridge.

c. Partner with schools to actively encourage children to ride a bicycle to school.28

d. Create bikeway, bike route and bike lane standards that include utilizing the existing shelter from west winds provided from trees and structures. Develop a program of planting windbreaks adjacent to exposed bikeways.

e. Create bikeway, bike route and bike lane standards that include maximum allowable total and short-run grades.29

f. Establish public transit access at the low points of the river valley to allow cyclists to utilize bus racks for the uphill portion of a river valley traverse.

2. Personal appearance
Some ideas that may diminish barriers to cycling resulting from concerns about one’s personal appearance are:
a. Encourage employers to consider providing their employees with a change room and showering facilities.

b. Establish within standards for new public buildings (and recreation facilities) locations for cyclists to change from and to cycling apparel. Consider including lockers as a part of this standard.

c. Consider adding cyclist change and locker locations in existing public buildings and recreation facilities.
Notes

1 One means to involve Lethbridge citizens in creation of a Municipal Development Plan /Integrated Community Sustainability Plan is for citizens to create an ad hoc group or a "City Circle". Bikebridge Cycle City Circle is one such group formed to provide some insight into the barriers to using bicycles as utilitarian vehicles within Lethbridge along with some suggestions that might ultimately be incorporated into the Municipal Development Plan.

2 The City of Lethbridge, Alberta is undertaking the creation of the ‘Plan Your City’ Municipal Development Plan /Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (MDP/ICSP) which will become the primary planning document that maps out the future of our city. The final Plan will address such things as: How and where should the City grow, environmental issues and sustainability, new development – height, density, architecture, social issues and needs, economic development, transportation, parks and recreation and culture.

3 An E-bike in the review refers to a 2 or 3 wheeled vehicle manufactured to operate only on electric power and does not refer to a bicycle with a supplemental electric assist device.

4 Brainstorming refers to a group creativity technique designed to generate a number of ideas toward the solution of a problem. Bikebridge has also used this technique to generate a list of issues (barriers).

5 Bikeways are taken to mean designated paved pathways that are physically separated from roadways and do not necessarily run parallel to a roadway. Although typically shared with pedestrians, bikeways are constructed to standards that allow use by cyclists of average fitness primarily in terms of grades and exposure to weather elements. Bikeways have control and warning signage and surface markings for cyclists as well as considerations to facilitate road crossings.

6 Bike Routes refers to established desirable routes providing the cyclist relatively direct access from one point in the city to another. Routes are desirable in terms of offering the cyclist directness with emphasis on and consideration for safety, security and fitness requirements. Bike routes would include considerations in terms of the placement of stop signs, traffic lights, vehicle parking and speed limits. Bike routes would incorporate existing (residential and arterial) roadways, bikeways and bike lanes. Bike routes would be designated by signs, pavement markings or both and would be identified in published maps and on websites.

7 Bike Lanes refers to areas on roadways reserved for use by cyclists. Bike lanes would be identified by pavement lane markings, cycling icons and signage. Bike lanes would typically be included on major and arterial roadways (higher vehicle speeds and traffic volumes) where use of these roadways is necessary in order to provide an adequate bike route. Traffic signal activation by cyclists, left turn requirements and placement of traffic islands would be included in bike lane design requirements. Bikebridge believes that, good bike route standards and the development and use of quality and direct bikeways could limit the number of roadways with bike lanes.

8 Bicycle Advisory Group (BAG) might have the following aspects:
   - A complement of between 8 and 12 members with finite and staggered terms
   - A chairperson and, or spokesperson elected by groups members
   - Group would be independent of City (select its own members)
- City would provide financial assistance (budget) to conduct meetings and maintain a website
- City would provide logistics for such activities as placing advertisements (recruiting members)
- Group would provide written suggestions on any (all) infrastructure projects
- Group would provide written reviews on bicycle related standards (could be asked to initiate some aspects)

9 Bikebridge believes that establishing a high quality bikeway with minimized grades (under 2 – 3 %) on both sides of the river would serve to greatly enhance use of the bicycle in Lethbridge. It would connect West Lethbridge Citizens to downtown services by bicycle. It would serve to improve access to the University from East Lethbridge for students and provide access by all citizens to shared recreational and cultural facilities (University field house, sports field, theatre, art galleries, and guest lecturers). It would build on the Heart of Our City ideals.

10 According to Wikipedia, Lethbridge has a population to area density of 607 people per square kilometre. For comparison Calgary has a density of 1,360, Red Deer 1,196, Great Falls, MT 2,909, Vancouver 5,335, Victoria 4,197, and Manhattan, NY 71,201.

11 The direct cost of automobile ownership and operation will continue to be a relatively large portion of the family budget. Direct public costs for providing and maintaining roadway infrastructure will likely increase exponentially as infrastructure ages and the demands for concrete, asphalt and other primary materials rise. Indirect costs including noise abatement, loss of productive land, added expenditures to deal with air and water contamination, reduced public transit revenues are all expected without some corresponding reduction in auto use.

12 Alberta Traffic Safety Act: Generally, a person operating a bicycle on a highway has all the rights and is subject to all the duties that any vehicle operator has.

**Regulation 322/20002**

“bicycle” means a cycle propelled solely by human power on which a person may ride that has 2 wheels, and includes a bicycle with training wheels;

No person who is less than 18 years old shall operate or ride as a passenger on a bicycle unless that person is properly wearing a safety helmet.

A person shall not ride a bicycle at night time unless the bicycle has the following:

(a) at least one headlamp but not more than 2 headlamps;
(b) at least one red tail lamp;
(c) at least one red reflector mounted on the rear.

A person shall not ride a bicycle unless the bicycle has a brake

**Regulation 304/2002**

Cyclists are required to keep both hands on the handlebars of the cycle, except when making a signal.

Cyclists are not to use the cycle to carry more persons at one time than the number for which the cycle is designed and equipped.

Cyclists are required to ride as near as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway unless that person is in the process of making a left turn with the cycle. On a one-way highway in an
urban area ride as near as practicable to either curb or edge of the roadway unless crossing from one curb or edge of the roadway to the other.

On a highway that has paved shoulders cyclists are to ride on the right shoulder, or if there is no paved shoulders ride as far to the right of the roadway as practicable unless making a left turn.

Cyclists are not to ride adjacent to another cycle traveling in the same direction except when overtaking and passing another cycle.

When a cyclist is travelling in the near vicinity of and in the same direction as another cycle, he or she is to ride directly in line with and to the rear or front of the other cycle.

13 The current City of Lethbridge Bicycle By-law is #3515 (1986)

Part 4: No person shall ride or use a bicycle:

(1) on any sidewalk or boulevard unless signs permit its use;
(2) in a cemetery;
(3) on a roadway, park or other public place where signs prohibit its use;
(4) on the main roadway of Mayor Magrath Drive between 3rd and 24th Avenues South
(5) on a highway or public place when the roadway is icy, slippery or dangerous for travel
(6) on the Crowsnest Trail from 28th Street South to a point 400 metres West of Scenic Drive.

14 An example of this can be seen at the end of the Scenic Drive South bikeway at 4th Street South.

15 Cyclists are barred from using Mayor Magrath Drive South from around 3rd Avenue South to 24th Avenue South.

16 The inclusion of a separated pathway for pedestrians and cyclists with the reconstruction of Mayor Magrath Drive, South of Scenic Drive was part of the roadway design. Given that the pathway is located on just one side of the roadway and that each intersection presents safety challenges, it offers the cyclist (and the pedestrian) little in the way of value or convenience.

17 Desirable cycling routes would be those that provided the cyclist a relatively direct, safe and secure means to travel from one location in the city to another within at least a reasonable level of fitness.

18 Stafford Drive North on the north end of the Stafford Drive overpass is a good example of the roadway becoming narrow and increasing the risks to cyclists. The south bound side is particularly risky as cyclists are also required to cycle up a relatively steep incline. Many cyclists have been observed reverting to the sidewalk on both sides of the overpass. The Stafford Drive overpass is a required route for many cyclists (unless they choose to take a much longer route by using the 13th Street underpass, which is not a particularly better cycling experience).

19 Examples of bikeways with frequent intersecting access roads include Scenic Drive South, Mayor Magrath Drive South, University Drive West, and if it could be considered a bikeway, the pathway adjacent to 28th Street North.

20 Although the adequacy of bike racks is somewhat arbitrary, at a minimum a rack should allow the cyclist to lock the frame of the bicycle not just one wheel, which is the most common style of rack provided locally. A bicycle is easily stolen from such a rack by simple removing the wheel, made even
easier with the more modern “quick-release” hub. Some other basic minimums for bike racks include: anchoring the rack to a hard surface, locating the rack where it is in public view and providing sufficient clearance (from building and motor vehicles) on all sides to allow access by cyclists.

21 An example is the trail system through the river valley that is used extensively by cyclists as a route between Southeast Lethbridge and West Lethbridge.

22 The location of traffic activation loops is not always visible and the cyclists may inadvertently not be located in the correct position to activate.

23 There is a prevailing view that cyclists should dismount and walk the bicycle across at controlled intersections (some would argue at any intersection). And although this might be considered a reasonable suggestion in some circumstances, doing so generally reduces the value of using a bicycle and is therefore a barrier to its use.

24 Higher standards for bicycle parking facilities might include locating bike racks in an area where the bicycles are protected from rain and snow, racks are located close to building accesses, where the bike rack is included as part of any video surveillance systems or security guard routes, and there is direct lighting. Providing quality facilities to cyclists could give a business a significant advantage over those that do not, particularly as more people look for ways to use their bicycle to do at least some of their shopping.

25 Poorly installed or designed bike racks may provide less security then providing no bike rack as it may leave a bicycle virtually unsecured. The cyclist could have gained better security from locking their bicycle to some other permanent object.

26 Bike Registry Canada and the National Bike Registry (US based) both offer bicycle registration services for a small fee. These services offer access to policing services to trace the owner of registered bicycles and a national location for a bicycle owner to report their bike as stolen.

27 City of Lethbridge bylaw 5529 establishes a fine of $2,500 for applying graffiti to a premises without the consent of the owner.

28 A ride to school campaign could be combined with teaching proper bicycle use and rules. It could also include installation of adequate bike racks and even the provision of locks to students. Children could be helped in selecting a good biking route from home to the school.

29 Grades on existing bikeways through the river valley can exceed 15% and regularly exceed 5%. The grade that a bicyclist can be expected to negotiate depends on the length of the grade, wind velocity, and surface condition. Generally speaking, the amount of energy required to use a bicycle route will affect the usage of the route, and bicyclists will tend to avoid routes that have steep hills. Some bicyclists will find themselves walking on long, steep uphill grades. On downhill grades, bicyclists may exceed the speed at which they can safely control their bicycles. Therefore, grades should be kept to a minimum, even at the expense of providing added curvature or travel distance, within the practical limits for the site. The maximum grade recommended** for shared-use paths is 5 percent and sustained grades should be limited to a maximum of 3 percent.

**Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (1999), In the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Recommend that grades on shared use paths should be kept to a minimum,
especially on long inclines. Grades greater than 5 percent are undesirable because the ascents are difficult for many bicyclists to climb and the descents cause some bicyclists to exceed the speeds at which they are competent or comfortable. On some shared use paths, where terrain dictates, designers may need to exceed the 5 percent grade recommended for bicycles for some short sections and that distance should not exceed 240 meters.

General References:


Momentum Magazine, Suite 214-425 Carrall Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6E3

Bicycle Times, Dirt Rag LTD, 3483 Saxonburg Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Affordable Housing Committee
AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

CITY CIRCLE FOR PLAN YOUR CITY

SUBMITTED BY

SOCIAL HOUSING IN ACTION

October 17th, 2009
Our Vision

*Bringing Lethbridge Home....Permanent Housing for all people living in Lethbridge*
The Current Reality

- Shortage of Affordable Housing (rental and home ownership)
- Low vacancy Rates
- Difficult to find Affordable Housing to purchase (Getting into the housing market)
- Condo conversion is becoming more prevalent. Results in higher rental rates
- Development of large sub-communities start out to not be affordable by the way they are designed
- Neighborhoods seem to be Developer Driven
- Gentrification is resulting in a negative Impact and reduces availability of affordable housing stock
- Extremely low density in Lethbridge (Affordability Impeded)
- Difficult/long waits in the process to get permits and rezoning etc. (Viewed as Red tape)
- It is difficult to create affordable housing in a short period of time
The Current Reality

- Current .08% Vacancy Rate
- Shortage of rentals around University and College (rent costs high).
- Tendency to segregate people based on a commonality (Age, Race, Income Levels)
- Where is NIMBY coming from; Why is it still around?
Recommendations for the Future
Solutions

- Affordable Housing Committee of Council (AHCC) (Overcome “Red Tape”)
- SHIA Affordable Housing and Affordable Housing Committee of Council come together to meet more often
- Build trust and open communication surrounding community issues
- There can be too much consultation with many committees
- Increasing Affordable Housing must be goal driven with responsibilities
- People given more authority to act: simplification of processes and identification of the barriers
- Clearly define Policy, Rules and Processes for affordable housing (what can and cannot be done)
- Policies need to be continually reviewed to streamline system for developers
- Have designated land ready for building when developers are ready to build
- Communicate the vision for affordable housing in Lethbridge with citizens and City Council members to create a “Shared Vision”
- People need to trust that their best interests will be looked after
- Create higher density dwellings near university and college may reduce cost and increase living space that is more affordable
Affordable Home Ownership

- Requires different options to move towards homeownership (lending options)
- Higher density housing creates affordability for rental and affordable home ownership
- Need to develop housing for a mixture of incomes in a neighborhood
Neighbourhoods

- Paths and walkways to promote pedestrian traffic
- Community gathering areas to promote inclusion
- Corner stores to promote interaction with neighbors
Welcoming Neighborhoods

- More Neighborhood Associations can create improved neighborhood relations and involvement
- Neighborhood/Community Association influence
- Neighborhoods working together to create a sense of bringing people together and develop stronger community
- Neighborhood Tea Wagon – to discuss neighborhood issues and create conversation
Education & awareness (cultural differences & similarities, living with lower incomes, working poor and everyone’s need to participate in community life)

Empowering people to feel important and have the ability to change

Integration of high and low income housing throughout communities: Inclusionary zoning

Education and Research through SHIA should continue (U of L Research project)

Help and support one another: Build positive neighborhood relations

Build alternative high density housing i.e. Housing Cooperatives and educating investors (integration of all income levels)

Identify opportunities and options (information sessions)
Condo Conversion

- Condo conversion policies (e.g. Ontario): No condo conversion if the vacancy rate is less than 5%
- Large permit price for Condo Conversions
- Incentive programs to keep rental properties
- Incentives for up-keep of rental properties
- Exceptions for heritage buildings
- Incentives for builders to build affordable units
Gentrification

- Trendy
- Individual led change
- More expensive development Permits for projects that are deemed gentrification issues
Increased Density Housing

- Redevelopment of downtown core for increased density & affordable housing
- Incentives/subsidies for people to invest in bringing buildings up to code for housing
- Flexible/creative housing Ideas – Housing above strip malls
- Inclusionary Zoning and mixed use policies
- Takes more money to maintain low density housing (Property taxes)
- Encourage higher density options in all neighborhoods
Thank you
Sports Council Circle
Sports Council Circle

- Involvement
- Barrier to entry for Sport opportunities
- Sport Facilities
- Athlete Development (Long Term)
- Sports Delivery Model
- Sport Recognition
- The “Place of Sport” in our culture
- Lack of Political clout
Barriers/Involvement

Education precedence over sport

- Promotion through grade school
- Long term athletic development
- Sport is a continuum

Participation in Sport takes away from education

- ibit

Communicating Sport

- Right messaging
- Sport Council
- Unified voice
- Marketing the benefits of sports
- Marketing impact of sport tourism

Money – Time costs

- Adequate number of facilities
- Multi-sport

Transportation

- Discount/free for kids in sport

Religion (Sunday sport)

- Solutions marketing around Sunday
- Population growth will influence this
- Address coaches approach

Parent’s Commitment

- Physical
- literacy

Coaching

- Bring coaching courses to Lethbridge
- Level of accreditation
Facilities

Multifunctional

- How we can integrate other activities in existing facilities
- “Service place”
- Talisman Centre
- Promote potential of development
- Winter Games

Agglomerating Activity

- Security to know
- Identifying compatible sports
- Impact of emerging sports

Pools

- YMCA, Fritz, Civic, Sheran, University

Aging Facilities/Population

- Senior Recreation
- All ages recreation – multi use
- Updating the facility – Master Plan – every 5 years

Population Threshold

Needs Assessment

- Identify what is lacking
- Age
- What is coming on line

Green Building Leed

- All weather fields
Long-term Athlete Development (LTAD)

Hit and Miss

- We do have phys ed
- Promote LTAD through phys ed
- Phys ed to identify strengths
- Identify sports groups to provide opportunities for kids

Each sport encourages development (for some it’s easier)

- Sports are fun!!
- Sport Council needs to get this message out
- Active at all ages
- Accessibility
- Opportunities in all sports until kids hit a certain age
- Support 2 sport organizations

Enrollment numbers dependant on sport

- Getting more kids involved
- Demonstrations

Multi Sport Athletes

- Multisport registration
- Multisport camps
- Increase education
- Complementary sports
Sports Culture

Visibility of Sport

- Sports is recognized as important
- Lack of presence for sport
- Sport is neglected today
- A civic sport – Lethbridge to encourage a sport
- Advocacy
- Accolades
- Recognition
- “Sport Day”

Fragmentation of Sport Groups

- Sports Council
- Inclusion
- Organization

Sports Council is the first step.
AECOM City Circle
Topic 1 – Leisure Centre

- There isn’t one!
- Waterslide at the Ramada
- University facilities isolated
- Scale = Go Big
- Examples of successful Leisure Centres:
  - Regina – Sandra Schmirler Leisure Centre
  - Medicine Hat – Family Leisure Centre
  - Red Deer – GH Dawn / Collicutt Centre
- Amenities a new Leisure Centre should incorporate:
  - Wave pool, Waterslide, Courts, Tracks, Ice rink, Lounge, Canteen
- Location:
  - Anywhere is 20 minutes away – Sherring Park/ North Side/County

Topic 2 – Pathways

- There is no continuity in the current system, new connections could include:
  - L.C. to west of Country Club (bypass)
  - North-South route
  - Downtown along 4th street
- There are no cycling lanes
- Wider pathways / demarcation
  - A dedicated pathway along Stafford Drive Bridge is needed
- Existing bike routes are poorly identified (e.g. 7th ave)
  - Advertise the routes
  - Painted laneways
  - Signage
  - Community map
- 13th Street is dangerous for cyclists
  - We need a crossing at 7th
- The intersection of Whoop-up Drive & University Drive is still dangerous
  - move the button back
- Bicycle storage would promote cycling
  - Bike racks (good ones)
  - At all major nodes
  - Storefront racks should be mandatory
- More frequent coulee path maintenance would be great
Topic 3 – Transit

- Our Transit system is currently underutilized/not utilized, we understand that this is partially cultural (people want cars), however a more effective system would boost ridership
  - Student program with direct high school routes to get students comfortable with transit
  - Routes that run later in the day

- Many routes are convoluted
  - Make routes more direct
  - Centralize routes so that they move to and from a hub – less routes that circle around the City before heading downtown

- There is no bus Terminal – a centralized and secure terminal would boost ridership and tackle perceptions over safety
  - 6st in-between 4th and 5th ave.

- Encourage other forms of transportation
  - SOV’s convenient – make it less so
  - Better mix of uses on west side so that people no longer drive the “great horseshoe” (i.e. from the south part of the west side up to Whoop-up and down to the retail in the South of the City)

Topic 4 – Development Patterns

- Sprawl is endemic in this City
  - 6 persons/Acre
  - Promote Brownfield/Infill Development through incentives
  - Promote home occupations (review bylaws)

- There is an acute lack of residential housing in the downtown
  - Mitigate the NIMBYism from downtown shops that are stopping development
  - Combat the image that downtown is only good for affordable housing (i.e. promote the establishment of quality downtown condominiums)
  - Foster the development of a better night life (might help with keeping students after graduation)
  - We need more people downtown

- The impact of Big Boxes impact:
  - Killing small business
  - Peripheral location killing downtown

- Establish Constraints to curb Big Boxes:
  - E.g. Big Boxes have to be an anchor to pedestrian mall

- Promote mixed-use commercial within policy (over Big Box format)
Community Inclusion City Circle
Dear City Council, Community Advisory Group, City Planners, and Lethbridge residents,

Individuals with disabilities are an active and vibrant part of this city. Understanding the importance of an accessible and inclusive community, where everyone's values are heard and valued, the Community Inclusion City Circles were organized.

The Community Inclusion City Circles were composed of 48 community members, comprised of individuals with disabilities, their staff, and their family members. The city circles were held through a combination of questionnaire, in home visits and group meetings. The largest meeting took place at the Ability Resource Center (formerly the Rehabilitation Society of Southwestern Alberta), and was hosted by the Toastmasters group.

Participants were asked two main questions:

1. What do you like about living in Lethbridge?

   Among the aspects that participants liked about life in Lethbridge were:
   - Dragon boat festival
   - The size of Lethbridge is just right, Lethbridge has all the amenities of a larger city but without the long drive times
   - Lethbridge has a small town feeling with lots of friendly people
   - Going for walks in the nice parks
   - We have a safe community
   - History, buildings with character
   - Lethbridge is quiet
   - There are lots of recreation activities such as golfing, bowling, and hockey games
   - Lots of volunteers and volunteer opportunities
   - Lethbridge is an inclusive community
   - We are close to other large cities
   - We have clean air

2. How could Lethbridge be better?
There needs to be better access to buildings, especially older buildings, which are currently inaccessible to wheelchairs or people with walkers.

The Lethbridge transit system has introduced several wheelchair accessible buses, however, many individuals with disabilities cannot secure their own wheelchairs safely and drivers are sometimes unable to help (do not have the knowledge of how to help).

Lethbridge requires much more frequent bus service. Many individuals are quite limited to how they can access the community based on the transit service, which is often their only means of transportation.

The network of bus stops needs expansion. Many individuals in wheelchair or with limited mobility must travel farther than they are able to access transit service.

Encourage the development of more routes that do not require a trip downtown.

Improvements to Access-a-ride could include...
   1. Better coordination of access-a-ride to be more efficient in making trips to pick up individuals. As of right now individuals who leave the same destination at the same time and who are going to the same place, are picked up by different busses. A husband and wife, one of whom was in attendance, gave this personal example.
   2. An access-a-ride taxi for after hours service. Individuals with disabilities go on living past 6pm, however, those who require this service cannot access their community after 6pm as the Access-a-ride service ends at this time. This is a huge hindrance to community inclusion and to them enjoying a normal quality of life in Lethbridge.
   3. Better training for access-a-ride drivers. Proper training for helping individuals is essential to the safety of the users of this service.

More playgrounds on the south side.

We need community meeting places around Lethbridge. These community meeting places could facilitate greater community inclusion. Community centers and neighbourhood associations can promote a sense of community.

Encourage block parties and community fairs

Develop more housing closer to amenities (not as spread out) so that individuals who cannot drive can access necessary services and amenities.

More new apartments in all parts of town. Affordable housing is limiting factor for individuals with a fixed income. Housing is hard to find and is often substandard.

The downtown residents need a grocery store. Likewise the west side of town requires another grocery store.

Better snow removal in the winter. For individuals with limited mobility at the best of times, snow removal for transportation access is very important.

More / better connected pathways throughout town.

Better and more seniors housing and services. With an aging population, meeting the needs of seniors is very important. Having meeting places and affordable/quality housing options is very important.
Enhanced Seniors Transit Service
Enhanced Seniors Transit Service

Presented by: Seniors Transportation Task Force 2009

Steering Committee, Plan Your City
Board Member, Nord-Bridge Seniors Association

Executive Director, Nord-Bridge Seniors Association

Staff, Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization

President, Nord-Bridge Seniors Association

President, Go Seniors Society of Southern Alberta

Vice President, Nord-Bridge Seniors Association

Board Member, Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization

Board Member, Nord-Bridge Seniors Association

Member, Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization

Board Member, Nord-Bridge Seniors Association
The Goal of This City Circle

- To encourage the City to expand our successful *Go Friendly Shuttle Service* to also deliver senior citizens to and from medical appointments using our tried and true current in-place system.

- To encourage the City to continue its partnership with Nord-Bridge Senior Citizens Association and Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization in this shuttle service.

The Rationale

- The next decade will see an enormous growth of 65+ seniors in Alberta, especially here in Lethbridge.

- The province is predicting a growth rate of 40% in the 65+ senior population and expects this population demographic to grow to 15% of the total provincial population by the year 2019. As per the 2009 Lethbridge census, that percentage will be even higher in Lethbridge.
Lethbridge Census 2009

Total Population 85,492 1.82% growth rate

+65 seniors 2009
Males 5,159
Females 6,764

Total 65+ 11,923 13.9% of population
2009 census

The growth bubble that will be joining the 65+ population during the next 10 years:

55 to 64 per 2009 census
Males 4,273
Females 4,612

Total 55 to 64 8,885

Projected Growth to Year 2019

Based on a 1.82% growth rate through to 2019, Lethbridge’s population should reach 100,367 in 2019.

The 55 to 64 age group when added to existing seniors will total approximately 20,000; 20% of total population.

This significant portion of our population will require senior services. This proposal may go a long way in providing targeted transit service.
List of Medical Clinics

Lethbridge Medical 300 - 3rd Street South
Haig Clinic 601 - 6th Avenue South
Bigelow Fowler 1605 - 9th Avenue South
Bigelow Fowler Real Canadian Superstore South Mayor Magrath Drive
Northside Medical 414 - 13th Street North
Campbell Clinic 430 Mayor Magrath Drive South
Bigelow Fowler 30 Jerry Potts Blvd. West
Campbell Clinic 160 Columbia Blvd. West
Family Medical 2931 - 20th Ave South

Also: Many specialists now have in home offices throughout the City.

Sustainability Factors

Social: This will enhance Lethbridge’s reputation as a safe, caring community; where seniors help seniors; and is a wonderful place to live and to retire.

Economic: These shuttle busses are cheaper to purchase, to operate, to insure and ease traffic in congested areas. Most clinic parking areas are overflowing.

Environment: Shuttles are a much reduced carbon footprint, are energy efficient and will assist the province in meeting its goal of being carbon neutral in the public sector by the year 2012.
For Future Consideration

We would like to be able to offer this shuttle service to ALL seniors in the City as our population grows. Nord-Bridge and Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization would serve as collection points for seniors to catch the *Go Friendly Shuttle* to move on to their appointments. Both Centres have good access to Lethbridge Transit routes and they would welcome the opportunity to be a service to all seniors.
City Circle for Business
September 8, 2009

Robert McKay, Senior Planner
Development Services, City of Lethbridge
910 4th Ave S, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 0P6

RE: City Circles for Business

Dear Robert;

Please find enclosed a summary of our ideas as generated by our City Circle for Business held on August 27, 2009, facilitated jointly by the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Lethbridge.

We have prepared this summary of the event as well as a transcript of the notes from the meeting, attached as Appendix 1. The input from the Lethbridge business community was centered around the discussion topics of infrastructure, policy and services and included ideas on how Lethbridge businesses feel the city should grow and operate over the next forty years.

We look forward to seeing all the ideas published in the “Plan Your City Ideas Book”.

If you have any questions on the report or the process used, please contact at 403.331.0022.

Thank you for providing the Lethbridge business community an opportunity to participate in the planning of the city’s future.

Sincerely;

(Signed Copy on File)
(Signed Copy on File)
City Circles for Business – Summary Report

Meeting Information and Participants

The City Circles for Business, facilitated jointly by the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Lethbridge, was held on August 27, 2009 as a “Lunch & Learn” session at the Lethbridge Centre Conference Facilities from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Sixteen business representatives participated including the discussion facilitators, with Bruce West, Vice President, Business Development and Operations, Economic Development Lethbridge (EDL), facilitating the event. Participants were members of the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce and represented a cross-section of the Lethbridge business community, with participants from both the public and private sector. Industry representation included Lethbridge professionals in the health & wellness, education, hospitality, property management, financial services, professional services, broadcasting, and construction sectors.

Event Details

- Bruce welcomed the attendees and introduced himself along with the organizers and sponsors of the event. The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce representatives were
- Jody Nilsson, General Manager, Grace Duff, Governmental Affairs Committee Member, Paul Pharo, President, Tom Ackerman, Chairperson Governmental Affairs Committee, and Heather Scotland, Administrative Assistant.
- Bruce outlined the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) as encompassed under the City of Lethbridge “Plan Your City” Project, as well as reviewing the timeline of the MDP/ICSP and the process for gathering public input.
- The process and the format for the collection of ideas from the discussion were explained and the working groups were asked to choose a recorder and reporter to assist with the information collection and dissemination. Discussion topics for business were introduced and explained as follows: “Infrastructure” (including the transportation network, lands, utilities, and communications), “Policy” (City policy direction and impact on business) and “Services” (City services that should be provided to the business community as well as the level, or type, of service).
- Participants were asked to provide realistic comments using a “solution based” approach and to focus ideas and comments on how the business environment in Lethbridge could be improved in the future. After forty-five minutes each group reported their ideas which provided the attendees an opportunity to connect with other like-minded business professionals to further discuss an idea, and possibly form another city circle on that specific item.
- Attendees were thanked for their attendance and advised to contact Brian Conger, the City Circles primary contact at the City of Lethbridge.
Summary of Ideas Presented

Ideas on Infrastructure

**Transportation Specific Elements**

- A complete bypass of the City, as proposed with the Canamex Trade Corridor, may be detrimental to commercial activity as well as impacting emergency services. A more in-depth evaluation of the potential economic impact on the City of Lethbridge and the surrounding area is recommended.
- Businesses and residents would benefit from the completion of 43rd Street loop (as previously proposed) to alleviate traffic concerns and to allow for expanded commercial operations. Creating an overpass/underpass to allow for uninhibited rail traffic would be beneficial for the larger transport vehicles exiting from the Industrial Park.
- Widen the junction of Highway 25 and the Highway 3 overpass to allow for enhanced on/off ramps from Highway 3 to University Drive to address traffic congestions and traffic safety.
- Mayor Magrath Drive requires a comprehensive review of all signage as there are areas where signage and road markings are unclear, inconsistent and inaccurate. There are areas of inaccessibility from the main thoroughfare, such as the vehicular access to the Fairmont area, which need to be addressed and updated. Commercial operations will continue to grow in this area and a proactive traffic management plan would be beneficial to all businesses and residents in the area.
- The development of a third bridge connecting West Lethbridge to the other portions of the city would better benefit the city by choosing a design which utilizes unique elements and multi-levels that allow for vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic, as well as retail outlets (i.e. the Provencher Bridge in Winnipeg with suspended restaurant). This type of bridge, not only alleviates traffic congestion, but also becomes another unique feature which is an added attraction to our city and also provided a unique experience for conference and event visitors.
- The Airport would benefit from the City of Lethbridge having a more participatory role in its operations and assisting with enhancement which would facilitate expansion of services to better meet users’ needs.
- Standardize traffic flow, speed limits and signage throughout the city, as well as enhanced exits and entrances from downtown parking areas, would allow for easier driving and shopping. A downtown parkade with easy vehicular access and multiple user time-options would allow for expanded retail and commercial opportunities in the downtown core.
- The creation of monthly/annual parking permit, which would allow commercial purchasers the benefit of multi-use meter parking, would assist businesses that require multiple short-stops city-wide on a daily or weekly basis.
Health & Wellness Elements

- The citizens of the city would benefit from a multi-sport recreational facility designed to meet the needs of the growing population using a “Lethbridge YMCA” model with the addition of a flexible space design.
- The geographical feature of the coulees, the bridge and the river bottom provide a unique development opportunity to create an attractive and interesting destination for locals and tourists alike.
- Bicycle paths, with storage facilities, connecting all regions and areas of the city, would enhance the fitness level of cyclists in Lethbridge by providing them more opportunities to ride-to-work and would better meet recreational and functional needs of the population. “Ribbon parks” facilitate the connecting bike paths very well and would be preferred in the new housing developments in replacement of the single “park-with-pond” design which is being currently created in new developments.

Lethbridge Enhancement Elements

- Promote renewable power use by businesses and create and/or leverage possible incentives to business for solar panel installation and/or other sources of renewable energy such as wind or geothermal power.
- There is a need for a convention centre and conference facility of a larger capacity to draw larger external events as well as facilitate local business needs.
- The entrance to the City of Lethbridge from the West needs some esthetic enhancements to the area surrounding Highway 3. More professional signage and landscaping to cover unsightly elements such as the landfill site would help to foster a clean city image and potentially entice travelers to stop for a closer look.
- A long-term development plan is needed of the South East side of the city around the 43rd Street area.
- Construct a performing arts centre.
- Affordable and Social housing developments need to be distributed across multiple areas of the city to not overburden businesses in one particular area or create an environment which is potentially detrimental to individual’s future prospects.
- Use innovative solutions to all areas of design and implementation of infrastructure to keep Lethbridge on the “cutting edge”.
Ideas on Policy

Development & Zoning Elements
- Land use and land development policy needs to be reviewed and revised to assist and encourage growth in all sectors.
- Encourage downtown developments with an open, approachable and innovative outlook, focus on revitalization and expansion, along with incentives for downtown high-density housing development projects.
- The City of Lethbridge is a land developer, as well as a regulator of land developers, which causes conflict of interest concerns and leads to the questions of, “Are they in business to do business?”
- There is a need for the City and County of Lethbridge to cooperate in a significant and meaningful way in planning land use and development of the lands adjacent to, or even farther South than, the current airport site.
- All the current procedures for zoning, inspection and renovation of secondary (illegal) suites, building inspection procedures, zoning codes, and deviation from approved development plans require a close review and updating.

Facilities & Utilities Elements
- The designation of an industrial committee to have input into the distribution of water to businesses and industrial parks outside of city limits and consultation with city businesses to project and manage future water needs

Doing Business Elements
- Be open and transparent about policies and their justification and review policies in a timely manner.
- Review and update out-of-date restrictive by-laws that are not economic development friendly.
- Review the breakdown and classifications of business license types and the fees associated with each. Review the higher licensing costs for home based business and provide incentives for those businesses which may lead to future store-front operations, provide job opportunities or which have other elements that foster local economic growth.

Sustainability Elements
- Create and publish a sustainability action plan for the city of Lethbridge.
- Adopt policies and procedures which encourage new concepts and innovation as it applies to the City of Lethbridge.
- Encourage a vision for the City of Lethbridge without weighing it down through over-regulation.
- Encourage policies which support and encourage good business and new business opportunities, which in turn create Lethbridge employment opportunities.
- Create specifications for reserve funds with parameters and explicit restrictions on fund usage; with the funds to be managed and/or audited by a third party.
Ideas on Services

**Web Based Elements**
- A comprehensive and current web based listing of licensed businesses needs to be available to the public to assist with new business planning and surveys.
- The City of Lethbridge requires a cohesive communication strategy with positive city branding and marketing opportunities utilizing inter-departmental and public information sharing with a strong focus on web based communication.
- Create Web based access to development permitting, licensing processes and forms.
- Apply innovation and enhanced use of the available technology to all services provided by the City of Lethbridge.
- Provide parking and recreational passes and parking permits for online purchase.
- Create and maintain a virtual payment centre for all City of Lethbridge invoices.

**Hands-on Elements**
- Improve inspection services.
- Improve the long-term planning and strategy for snow removal, street cleaning and vegetation management.

**Community Specific Elements**
- Provide a true recycling program comparable, or more advanced than, other centers, to help Lethbridge become a “Green City” and provide businesses with an opportunity to operate more environmentally friendly.
- Security presence in downtown parks needs to be reviewed and enhanced to encourage the use of parks and the retail establishments around them.
Appendix 1: City Circle for Business Ideas (Transcript)

Discussion Topic: Policy

- Airport – more coordination and cooperation between the City and the County on issues/development of the airport
- Consultation with businesses on needs/volumes of water for future needs (before providing to other communities)
- Policy for land use/development
- Create a multi facility to use for various government facilities (fitness centers) e.g. College, U of L, etc.
- Make restrictions on the use of reserved funds
- Annual parking pass for meters (available on-line)
- Online payment for parking tickets
- Stick to development plans – too often, changes made after people purchase land/property based on original plan
- Have a plan specifying individual areas i.e. residential, business, and commercial – clarify boundaries i.e. What area is considered “downtown”?
- Encourage a program in partnership with the Federal & Provincial Governments (funding) to facilitate solar panels, etc.
- Consider the City looking at communications strategy, branding, etc. with an eye for cohesive image that presents the City in a good light and appropriate for the times
- Look at City signage – particularly at the entrance points of the City
- Consistent speed zones for City to Highway access – e.g. Airport Trail, Westside to Highway 3
- Improved policy on 2nd suites (cost prohibitive)
- Improved inspection process
- Zoning codes for multi-use (2nd suites)
- City should not compete with private sector
- City should not control water use to hinder growth
- Rules need to apply to all developers not just City owned land
- Rules to encourage new concepts/ideas (zoning)
- Innovation
- Don’t let policy get in the way of doing good business
- Downtown area needs to be approachable for new business/development ideas
- Encourage vision but don’t discourage thru regulations
- Business license fees (out of town business in local trading areas) – keeping open focus on trading area (Mayors/Reeves partner area)
- Cost of home business license too high (restrictions are not realistic)
- Encourage business/employment in the City
- As businesses move out of downtown area to other areas (South/West), implement policies to keep businesses in the downtown area/news businesses more housing
- Be “open” about policies
- Conflict of interest on the City’s part they are the developer and they compete with the private sector is this right?
- Lots of “restrictive” by-law policies that are old and should be reviewed
- Concrete Sustainability Policy & Action Plan
- Downtown Revitalization & High Density Housing Plan
Discussion Topic: Infrastructure

- Bike paths and storage (at location) – Functional & recreation use
- Downtown parkade (needed for residents, businesses and visitors)
- Downtown Convention Centre
- Annual parking pass for parking meters
- Use/development of land in the coulees for recreation, etc. – tourism attraction
- Promotion of solar i.e., solar panels on buildings
- “Eyesore” property on rural just outside city limits entering Westside
- Policy for land use/development
- Full completion of projects i.e., “Back Alley Project” complete, not just plan
- Walking/bike trails connection all of City (i.e. North/South)
- Ribbon Parks
- 3rd Bridge Westside
- Multi Level Bridge (walking, traffic, businesses)
- Coulee recreation/destination
- Multi-sport recreation facility (ice rink, pool, basketball, etc) and/or part of Convention Centre; flexible space to convert to different activities
- Convention Centre needed for the City
- Mayor Magrath Drive/ Fairmount traffic issues
- Area structure plan for Southside of City
- Finish 43rd then continue with self development
- Province bypass of City (highway should go thru City)
- Highway ramp from Picture Butte to Highway 3
- Highway between City and Coalhurst/Coaldale – no water to business/industrial development (open process) Committee members should include industry as well as City
- Performing Arts Centre
- Be open to innovation and new ways of doing things
- Airport development and expansion of services
- Overpass/underpass for trains on 43rd
- Good/better flow of traffic out parking areas throughout the City
- Location of “social” housing – tends to be grouped in one area – signs should be placed in a better location
- Bigger conference facilities/tied in with other programs
- Look at airport services/ better transportation to our City. Why do we only fly in and out with 8 – 12 seater planes?
Discussion Topic: **Services**

- Comprehensive list of businesses available for no charge
- Increased communications and better coordination of communications for all departments (should be more transparent then they are)
- Performing Arts Centre
- On-line permit process and service needs improvement i.e. development approvals
- Improved inspection process
- Be open to “innovation” and new ways of doing things
- Downtown housing
- Recycling program
- What essential services should the City provide “Conflict of interest”
- More security in parks (Henderson/Galt)
- Budget for snow removal; don’t rely on Chinooks
- Budget for spraying weeds
- Cleaning of the City streets – not very coordinated
Allied Arts Council Board City Circle

Part 1 Submission 1
Part 2 Submission 2
City Circles Meeting June 22, 2009

The Heart of our City, Master Plan should be used as a reference during this whole City Circle exercise. The Heart of our City, Master Plan Report and process has been successful and should not be shelved. Some ideas from the Heart of our City document (ie. Best Practises) should be maintained. This City Circle is slightly repetition as there was really good creative thinking from that. Don’t re-do it. It was a concrete plan.

Positive points towards improving the Arts in Lethbridge:

- Art is an integral part of most people’s lives.

- The Arts brings the community together and has core importance.

- If you create things that are attractive to people, then eventually it will be a great place to live.

General points to improve the Arts in Lethbridge:

- Bringing the arts in to a close proximity (downtown). Then that dynamic will spread throughout the rest of the city.

- Consciously building our community so it attracts people that support the arts.

- Building the city’s Arts scene so that it is recognized far beyond the town limits and would become identified as a premier arts centre. It not only has the facilities but also the people (artists, performers, patrons and audience).

- Continuing to bring about a consciousness towards arts, a sense of value for the arts.

- Making it a priority to retain and attract arts people? Eventually others will want to move in.

- Raising the aesthetic sensibility of the city. Improving the community through small meaningful projects

Specific idea to improve the Arts in Lethbridge:
- Work with the University to secure a facility for the U of L Art Collection so that average citizens can have access to it.

- Urban gardens. Lots of green and natural areas full of public art, sculpture parks.

- Cultural corridors that encourage walking and biking rather than vehicles.

- Vibrant cities tend to have Downtown campuses(UofL or College).

Problems/Solutions regarding Arts Facilities in Lethbridge:

- The Allied Arts Council's Arts Re:Building standard should be met. That being the retrofit of the SAAG, creation of a new community arts centre and the building of a new performing arts centre.

- There is not enough adequate Arts Facilities. Lethbridge needs facilities and spaces that easily accommodate the arts, facilities that allow for artistic growth and creativity.

- Alleviate or allow flexibility with some requirements to open a space (parking, bathrooms)

- Manage access to spaces. Unused buildings used by the Arts Community. The existing regulations don't push for that activity. The Community should be aesthetically pleasing. If there is no incentive to beautify than it won't happen.

- If you don't allow for buildings to become unsightly than you allow for the public to help in beautifying it.

- Linking/connecting buildings of different purposes. The more you can bring and build pieces into the downtown, a better city it will be.

- Developing main facilities will encourage smaller businesses to grow.

- Provide a City of Lethbridge tax break to businesses that maintain spaces for artists. Whether its rehearsal, studio, display space.

- Dedicate a certain amount designated to low cost housing as work/live space for artists and compelling private businesses to do the same.

- Regulations to penalize Downtown building owners whose buildings sit empty.
Identifying the Cities role in the Arts in Lethbridge:

- Artists should be included on all city planning committees. From the get go! This is something that has been used in the past with other cities.

- The Attitudes within the leadership in the city needs to open up. They try to see the importance of the arts, but some aren’t quite there. If it isn’t within the city, you have to pull in the creative thinking to balance that thinking.

- The City has to take a leadership role and invest and manipulate the regulatory framework for success.

- More vision in the way that projects unfold in the city. See them as they unfold, not hidden.

- The city needs to become more flexible, offering creative solutions, when it comes to bylaws regarding artists.

Other:

- Density. Lethbridge is a nice size. Vibrant cities tend to be denser. The City should concentrate on the core area (downtown), preferred density, curbing the urban sprawl.

- The city needs to start planning for mass transit. Street car lines, tie the city together. Buses will never do it. Street Cars will. We have wide enough streets to do it.

- Gondola connecting downtown to the U of L apart of the transit system. Having room for bikes and adequate parking so people could drive to that spot.

- Monorail connecting West to East.
AAC Board City Circle #2

1. In 40 years the City of Lethbridge should be a gateway to arts in Southern Alberta. Right now Lethbridge is lacking an identity and reputation. Think of Vulcan, they had nothing and created something. What can culture be built on when the vibrancy of our arts community is not recognized? The existing culture doesn’t allow for experimentation or uniqueness. The City has to improve their marketing and communication, as well as develop a philosophy of accommodation and creativity. Once that communication is established the public will become more aware and understand the importance of the arts. It boils down to the will of the people (at the city) to work with arts people. Policies need to be implemented that facilitate and encourage creative activity and participation. Tidy, neat, organized cities are boring. More Arts and culture persons should be hired in community services and courses on how to deal with people should be implemented. The Arts should be a part of all planning for the city. Often some elements that go along with entertainment are overlooked. Everyone should be welcome.

2. City Facilities & venues should be full and used all the time. There needs to be better access to City facilities and venues for arts events. If an individual/group wants to hold an event in Galt Gardens it is difficult to execute. There is too much Bureaucracy and red tape, middle management is not easy to deal with. The city needs to be more cooperative in assisting those that would like to hold an art event. Young people don’t know how to put on an event, they need help facilitating. This information should be published and accessible. (How do you book something? Where do you go?)

3. The Arts facilities in Lethbridge need improvement. When the city builds buildings they need to go out of their way to make it strong structurally. Architecture matters. We must maintain history while developing the contemporary. The exterior of the Cigar Store is Pho-historic and doesn’t match the rest of downtown historically. Buildings should be evaluated and declared a historic site. The City controls the development and permits and can control the number of big boxes allowed in our city. This kind of decision attracts a certain kind of person to our city. There needs to be standards around legislation on empty spaces. Certain older buildings that are sitting empty should be dealt with; there should be a policy to stop this from occurring. Low cost housing should include artist work spaces.

4. Early engagement and exposure of the arts to children is vital to their development. The city should deliberately earmark funds for arts related activities in institutions like schools. Education cutbacks are a hindrance. Because each school’s arts programming varies, outside arts activities should be
made more available. Arts Alive and Well in the schools is a great example of engaging a broader demographic in the arts by getting school age children involved.

5. The Heart of our City plan remains relevant still. The Arts in Lethbridge need to be centralized at the moment its spread out and difficult to access.

6. The regulations on sidewalk patios need to be loosened up, these encourage more public interaction on the sidewalk level. (Ie. Esquires only has a couple of seats on the sidewalk and they are always full.) If you want people to sit down and enjoy you need places to sit. Benches should not be removed, but added. There is not enough downtown pedestrian traffic. By keeping the downtown alive with choice, variety and more support for independent businesses this problem could be solved. Policies need to be created that encourage creative independent businesses in the downtown core.

Specific recommendations:

- Ticket centre should run out of the old paramount coffee show, more of a downtown presence.

- Do not pave over the track on 6th ave. at the civic centre

- Make a community like Mackenzie Town in Calgary - Westside by new schoo

- Satellite cities - avoid this kind of development

- Public restrooms in more green spaces

- A tree should be on every lot.

- Roof top gardens/ Green Roof programs encouraged.

- Draw the mayor contest; city helps coordinate kids and arts activities
Allied Arts Council Staff City Circle
AAC Staff City Circle, July 29, 2009

Issues:

1. Lack of production space for artists of all disciplines.
2. Lethbridge has no acoustically sound performing arts centre that adequately represents our population currently and in the future.
3. Not enough exhibition space for local artists
4. Business licenses for the arts community. Artists and visiting artists should not be lumped in with commercial business licenses.
5. Not enough support and opportunity for University/College arts students during the off season and upon completion of programs. Losing an age group of artists that could invest back into the community and the arts.
6. Living spaces for artists within the downtown core.
7. Adequate space for arts organizations to grow.
8. Continue to promote the arts so that the generations coming up are exposed to a more diverse art experience. There is a lack of understanding within the general public in regards to the needs of the arts.
10. The arts don't have high visibility within the centre of the city.

Solutions:

1. More affordable/accessible studio space for artists.
2. Build a performing arts centre that provides adequate capacity and functionality for all performing arts.
3. Build a big new gallery specifically for local artists.
4. Artist licensing regulations encouraging local and external artists to practise and instruct their art. Many artists live under ground because of inconsistent licensing. Artists practising license should be charged zero. The license gives them credibility.
5. Something to allow spaces for the students when University is out. This would encourage the retention of people.
6. All public housing projects should have dedicated appropriate live/work spaces for artists. If space is provided they will continue to produce things that will continue to build audiences. Programs need to be established to simplify access to empty buildings. Tax incentives for landlords to rent 2nd storey spaces to artists should be implemented. Also those landlords that have empty street level spaces for long periods of time should be penalized.
7. We need a community arts centre for all Medias to have adequate space to share, create and learn.
8. Schools are losing their art programs. The city should step in to show what is available by communicating to the students. The City needs to demonstrate
leadership in stating the value of the arts then the community will follow. More information sharing and community links so that all of the community knows the opportunities for art learning out there. There should be Civic recognition of arts and artists. (ie. Key to the City) The city should also encourage more fiscal incentive between business and arts.

9. Dedicated civic funding available for arts programming. Ie. Festivals, artists in residents

10. The city needs to designate an arts corridor in the downtown core, a pedestrian street or pedestrian mall outside. Make Lethbridge an arts destination by providing more public art in more green spaces.

The AAC still needs to be recognized as the leader of the arts community and still promoting and enhancing the arts and provided with sustainable funding.
UDI City Circle
Current Situation

Solutions/Comments

**Topic 1 – Dialogue with the City and Approvals**

- It is difficult to innovate based on current guidelines
  - Allow professional consultants to innovate
  - Consultant design could be based on servicing constraints
  - These are guidelines not rules, allowing innovation will create a better built environment
- Talent/Skill at private firms is not utilized as the City disregards professional private work
  - Developers often scale back innovation to satisfy City
  - A change of mindset is needed – acknowledge quality private work
  - Design by Approver vs. Design by Designer
- Current focus on details as opposed to big picture, as a result many projects are stalled at Approvals Stage
  - Acknowledge that detailed design occurs after Approvals
  - Developers hire consultant to provide details within the site
- Top Heavy Prescriptive
  - Dialogue not Dictating would be more constructive for everybody
  - “Download” responsibility to the developer/ focus on the big picture
  - Provide performance objectives
- UDI wants meaningful review and consideration of issues raised to City
  - Council set example – try to get raw info to City
  - City should be steward of master plan for City

**Topic 2 – Infill Development**

- Vacant Sites Downtown and within the Industrial Area
  - Stimulus to compensate additional costs would promote the densification of the core beyond parking lots
- Industrial lots – city controls supply
  - City inventory of available lots and post the database online
- City is supportive of infill in talk but action is not effective or adequate
  - Existing incentives are more paperwork than they’re worth
- City should take a look at Medicine Hat re. infill development downtown
  - Building at zero cost
  - City leaving 2 floors
Topic 3 – Community Development

- Cookie Cutter Communities
  - An Approval Authority that is more receptive to innovation would allow for increasingly creative design
- Different Ideas/Concepts are currently stifled or ignored by Approval Authority
  - Allow: One Way Streets, Green Communities, Stormwater Reuse, Tree Box Filters
  - Look around to other jurisdictions that have successfully innovated e.g. Garrison Woods
- Currently a lack of Choice
  - Give developers the flexibility to create different products for different markets
- There are different views on Affordable Housing
  - Approve Flag Lots
- Stormwater storage requirements continue to increase yet they are still seen as a utility
  - Credit for ponds as community amenity and not just utility
- Difficult to bring new stormwater management strategies to fruition
  - Allow non-conventional approaches e.g. watering your lawn with reused stormwater

Topic 4 – Growth

- New constraints are arising on the West Side
  - Establish a commercial node – create Westside jobs
  - City should show leadership to sponsor an ASP for a commercial node (identified in current MDP)
  - City needs to be clear where development can proceed -
- Infrastructure/Utilities Constraints Directing Growth
  - City needs to focus on constraints and fix them rather than develop around them
  - Available funding not being used for required infrastructure
  - We need a coordinated approach to infrastructure development
- City should be focused on assessing and fixing bigger problems rather than putting constraints on developments
  - Not all major infrastructure investments can be subsidized by new lot development - $300,000 lots

Topic 5 – Sustainable Communities

- Heavy reliance on automobiles creates disconnected neighborhoods
  - Improved transit to get people out of their cars: Park and ride, Shorter routes, Network of hubs / focus higher frequency routes
  - Create mandatory transit passes for UofL and LC students (covered in tuition) – if they have it they will use may use – Same for City Employees
- Poor use of Stormwater as a resource
  - Support adaptive reuse of stormwater
• Water barrel Giveaway
  • Generating business from local resources
    o Adding value locally
    o Development of specialized knowledge base
    o Developing minds at College and University – self perpetuated continual source for an educated workforce
  • Low impact development
    o Think about big picture for process
    o Integrate commercial / business and retail land uses in neighborhood
  • Lack of a Performing Arts Centre
    o A Performing arts centre would greatly contribute to Cultural Sustainability as well as prevent entertainment money from flowing out of town
  • Lack of an active transportation strategy
    o Maintain area to encourage active transportation
    o Integrate trail system / network
  • NIMBYism is stifling development
    o Council mandate to listen to all but only accommodate reasonable requests
    o Council needs to “stick with the plan”

**Topic 6 – Cost Effective Development**

• Developers are paying to fix City problems through offsite levies, master planning, and developing solutions for problems as a result the cost of lots has doubled in 10 years
• Many City Construction Standards are unnecessary and expensive: Road Design, Stormwater, Lane width. Gravel Under Sidewalks alone costs more to build and replace in 20 years
  o Rationalize these standards

**Topic 7 – Mixed-Use (Multi-layered) Development**

• Little mixed-use currently
  o City should embrace and promote the adoption of mixed-use “Town Squares” in new developments
• There is a recognized need for mixed-use in more locations
  o 40th and 20th, 24th on south side
• Promote mixed use development especially downtown
  o Performing arts centre
  o Heart of our city – revive
  o Can’t respond to all NIMBY
• Mixed-use is a good platform for Affordable Housing
  o Freeing up levies will promote affordable housing
**Topic 7 – The Role of the City as a Developer**

- City portrayal of creating a different product
  - SunRidge is Environmentally Innovative – however no longer affordable
  - RiverStone is indistinguishable from other developments – in direct competition with developers
  - Private developers could compete if there were incentives in place
- Water and electric utilities are currently lumped together
  - Separation would boost confidence in costs/management of services
- Lack of fiscal accountability to public
  - Increased transparency/disclosure as this is taxpayers money
Natural Horsemanship and the Coulees in Lethbridge Circle
Plan Your City: Lethbridge City Circle, 2009

**Topic:** Natural Horsemanship and the Coulees, IN Lethbridge

**Contact:** Sherri Umeris Bohnert, sherri@sayee.ca, (403) 381-0805

**Topic of Interest Current Situation:**
Currently in North Lethbridge, Serenity Equestrian provides an unique opportunity to Better Know Our Place and Ourselves, Building Respectful Relationship through the practice of Natural Horsemanship being in the Coulees. Twenty-two people, with a seventy year age range between them participated in the City Circle on June 14, in conjunction with a clean-up and pot-luck fire roast.

The participants voiced that Serenity Equestrian provides an unique opportunity for people in Lethbridge and area, of various ages and ability, enjoy within our City (on route) the benefits of building respectful relationship through experiences in the coulees and with the horses, individually and in groups: including family gatherings; youth in-service; boarding horses; children's and youth lessons and camps; new immigrants, kindergarten, preschool and other school group educational visits; mental health and other health and wellness services, including special needs, ladies, ‘mom and daughter’ classes; alternate forms of payment... A nine year participant of a recent horse and nature camp commented that being at Serenity Equestrian ‘feels like being with family’.

Currently, the area that Serenity Equestrian leases will be developed for houses, as early as summer 2010, pending on the housing market. Please refer to the three letters of support below.

Serenity Equestrian has evolved over the past five years to meet the needs of a wide variety of people in Lethbridge, and since 2008 has successfully introduced a nature-stewardship component to the horse classes and camps, and educational visits by various groups. Please refer to the three sample letters of support below.

**Ideas to Improve or Implement our Topic:**
We hope that the information shared through our City Circle efforts will help increase the awareness and appreciation of valuable community building opportunity that Serenity Equestrian affords. We hope that the experience to Better Know Our Place and Ourselves, Building Respectful Relationship through the unique combination of Natural Horsemanship and the Coulees, IN Lethbridge will continue to be available, in Lethbridge. Please refer to three sample support letters included below.

Hi
I wanted to thank you for another wonderful fieldtrip experience. The children talked about that day until the end of the school year. It is such a unique opportunity for our students. For most of them it is the first time they have ever come in to contact with such beautiful creatures. Our urban students need programs like yours. Because of the close proximity they can have a rural experience not otherwise accessible to them and their families. Our students come away from the experience with an empathy and excitement for nature and animals. We hope that we will be
able to come and have such a great time, year after year. Many thanks to you and your team.
Sincerely [Name] Jumpstart Preschool Program Manager, July 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

“When we first moved to Lethbridge two years ago I was surprised to see that with all the beautiful landscape there is such a small amount utilized and maintained as natural public recreation area. It wasn’t until this summer that I found Serenity Equestrian, a landscape whose views are indescribably beautiful and within city limits!! What an amazing place and a great location. Our family, along with many others, enjoy the area and the people who are on the property for not only the horse riding lessons that are offered there, but the life lessons of empathy and understanding. [Name], the owner of Serenity, has made a huge and positive impact on the lives of children and their families. She not only provides children with the opportunity to interact with nature but encourages them to express themselves freely. In today’s, hustle and bustle society this safe and therapeutic atmosphere is something to be treasured and protected. She not only provides this opportunity for those who can afford it but also makes exceptions for those who can not. It’s not about the money for her, it’s about humanity. A safe place for both humans and animals. I would even go so far to say that funding for the area is well deserved!

From an economic City’s perspective, keeping the Serenity area as a natural landscape would be a great benefit. The north side of Lethbridge has had at times a less than positive reputation. Perhaps keeping this natural area on that side of town might help draw people into the area, releasing some of that negative stigmatism. If all else it will off set the unsightly power area immediately before the Serenity location!

Letter submitted, August 2009, by [Name] involved with Ladies classes at Serenity Equestrian

August 13, 2009

City Council
Lethbridge, AB

Dear Sir or Madam;

Situated at the top of the coulees near the entrance to Alexander Wilderness Park, therein lies a hidden jewel of Northern Lethbridge. Serenity Equestrian is a place where horse people gather, and is in danger of needing to move.
I was appalled when I heard that their lease is nearing its end, without the possibility of renewal. The property is to be put up for sale, rezoned to residential, and redeveloped to build 30 houses. While the property has an amazing view, and I could understand living there, this is not an ideal solution for use of the land.
Serenity Equestrian offers lessons in horseback riding and horsemanship. The employees on the ranch are amazing, knowledgeable people who help people understand horses, and through understanding horses, understand themselves. The ranch is home to horses, llamas, cats and dogs. They offer horseback riding lessons to children, run camps for children, and help adults get in touch with themselves.
The fact that the ranch gives something for kids to do besides watch TV or play video games is proof enough that it shouldn’t be relocated. The Enmax centre recently received funding from the City of Lethbridge in the amount of $4.3 million to finish its renovations and create a twin ice arena. This is good news, especially for the kids out there who play ice hockey or skate. The city dumps all kinds of money into recreation, ostensibly to combat the lack of outdoor activity that children are involved in nowadays. I can attest to this – being a Brownie and Beaver leader, I know firsthand that our numbers have dropped substantially in the last four years. Serenity Equestrian offers kids another choice – they can go horseback riding, which have been proven time and time again to give a great workout. The therapeutic benefits of horseback riding (or even just being with a horse) are well documented, and it seems a shame to deprive kids of these benefits. The ranch is located within city limits, which offers ease of accessibility to those who can’t leave the city for whatever reason. Additionally, given the reputation of the North side of the city, the location is perfect. It’s nice to have a sanctuary in the part of town that is known mostly for its crime and drug abuse problems. Once you enter Serenity, you are pretty much safe from the outside world.

The ranch is located directly beside a set of transformers. The buzzing is audible from the gates of the ranch, which I noticed on my last visit there. Potential residents will notice this. Additionally, they aren’t the prettiest things to look at, which is a stark contrast to the twilight view over the coulees.

Given the reasons I have outlined above, I implore you to act in the best interests of the ranch. Development for 30 houses can take place anywhere in the city; but Serenity Equestrian is at its home. It offers recreation for children who would otherwise not be able to enjoy what the ranch has to offer, and its benefits far outweigh any of its downfalls. Please take these reasons into consideration, and reconsider your past decisions.

Sincerely,

Tanis Driedger

Better Knowing Our Place and Ourselves: an Opportunity to Build Respectful Relationship through the unique combination of Natural Horsemanship and the Coulees, IN Lethbridge

Serenity Equestrian and SACEE (Southern Alberta Community of Environmental Educators)

We started with an initial 'circle' June 14 with potluck, and continue to gather information to share.

The opportunity for people in Lethbridge and area, of various ages and ability,
within our City (on route) the benefits of building respectful relationship through experiences in the coulees and with the horses, individually and in groups: including family gatherings, youth in-service, children's and youth lessons and camps, new immigrants, kindergarten, preschool and other school group visits, mental health and other health and wellness services, including and special needs, ladies, mom and daughter, alternate forms of payment...

Written with pictures
Working and Playing in Beautiful Neighbourhoods, Building Meaningful Relationships
City Circle:

Working and Playing in Beautiful Neighbourhoods,
Building Meaningful Relationship

Westminster Community Center

Wednesday, September, 2, 2009, 7:15 - 9 pm

Welcome and Introduction:

We are thankful for the opportunity to have gathered, and to be able to share our thoughts with the City of Lethbridge through the City Circle, Plan Your City Initiative.

Participants (13) present, representing various communities:

- Natalie Ashbee, student of Lethbridge College;
- Sherri and Paul Bohnert, (Paradise) Canyon, Nature Club;
- Brian Conger, Resident;
- Rohan Crown, Westminster Community, Pastor;
- Alvin Fritz, Architect for Free Grace church (2nd A Ave. N.);
- Shelly Ryan Gray, Ten Thousand Villages;
- Julie Klok, Ten Thousand Villages;
- Rita Medve, Westminster Teacher, Taiko Drummer of Lethbridge Community Taiko Association;
- Kevin Powell, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Pastor;
- Audrey Procee, Coaldale;
- Mary and Kim Seiver, London Road;
- Bill Zwartbol, Pastor of Free Grace

NOTE: Rohan and Sherri co-hosted our City Circle; Sherri compiled report.

Community Renewal International of Shreveport, Louisiana shared information via email.
SUMMARY

Name: Working and Playing IN Beautiful Neighbourhoods, Building Meaningful Relationships

Contact: Sherri Umeris Bohnert, sherri@sayee.ca

Current Situation: Thirteen people, representing various communities in and around Lethbridge, were invited to share what they know, from experience, on the topic of “Working and playing IN our neighbourhoods, building meaningful relationships”: first defining a beautiful neighbourhood, and then sharing success stories, challenges and hopes for Lethbridge in the future. As the understanding of “What a beautiful neighbourhood is?” was being voiced, we noticed that each person added an unique piece to create the picture, and there seemed unanimous agreement and support from the group as a whole on all parts. The opportunity to build meaningful relationships while interacting in our neighbourhood, where all people feel safe and respected summarizes the comments shared. For more detail please see notes below, and Appendix B.

Our ideas for City Administration to use to improve and implement our topic: The stories, challenges and hopes for Lethbridge in the future, as recorded in our City Circle and outlined below we hope provide a good reference for City planning and policy making. Please ask with each decision/policy made: Are we supporting or taking away from the opportunity for neighbours to live IN their neighbourhoods, and build meaningful, respectful relationship? We recommend working toward having in neighbourhoods: a central gathering place(s), ways/reasons to walk within the neighbourhood, as well as increased time and various reasons to gather with neighbours regularly. Having grocery stores, with local food options, throughout the city, will afford more opportunity to build relationship, walk, save energy and reduce
pollution. We hope there are plans to have community gardens, and native plants and ecosystem areas throughout the city, in addition to sheltered areas in ‘parks’ and developing family friendly niche’s for each neighbourhood, for example Westminster Pool and Centre and Spray Parks of Galt and Nicolas Sheran. Supporting home/neighbourhood businesses, and ways for children/youth to enjoy gathering cooperatively, learning good citizenship, where the adults are involved as witnesses and assistants, mentoring, sharing talents, for example Neighbourhood Stewardship ‘Clubs’; sports and activity day camps; potlucks with music or other artistic-educational focus. Please consider the importance of being environmentally responsible in restoring old buildings beautifully to best meet the needs of the people, neighbourhood. The more we can live IN our neighbourhoods, greater is the opportunity to better know each other, interact, and better understand each other’s needs and strengths. Schools, shopping, sports, and other activities that keep us driving OUT of our neighbourhoods, may be decreasing the potential to build meaningful relationship with our neighbours. Could we work towards having self-sufficient areas in Lethbridge, 7000 people or less, which are represented by a Council Member. Council Members would then have both talent/experience specialization as well as more intimate ‘area’ representation-voice to offer, keeping our life in the city more personable. Please refer to comments recorded at the meeting outlined below in Parts 2 and 3.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope our comments help make Lethbridge a great place to live.

NOTES recorded from our City Circle:

**Part 1: What makes a beautiful neighbourhood?**

10 000 Villages: How to Build Community poster; see Appendix B
Rita
- where children can play in the evening
- where families can get together and enjoy each others company
- a place where there are recreational spaces that are safe
- a community that is open to drumming (other ideas)
- with experiences that make my heart feel good

Bill
- a neighbourhood has to be safe for children, women, families,
- a society where we know our neighbours, full of relationships

Al
- Promotes and creates a palette for meaningful, loving and caring relationships between the members of a community
- Be able to walk all around the neighbourhood

Natalie
- be able to experience other cultures
- appreciate the diversity of religion, culture, thoughts

Audrey
- a neighbourhood of trust, assisting each other, take care of yards, watch homes during holidays.
- work to benefit each other, learn about what they need and how to assist each other

Julie
- respect between neighbours, and safe in who they are
- a neighbourhood that says hello, share meals, talk over the fence, share produce from the gardens, celebrating each others events

Mary & Kim
- knowing that my children are safe in the neighbourhood and with our neighbours.
- love to see gardens and share
- a community/house that you do not want to leave

Brian
- ethnic diversity within the community
- rental properties that are safe and respectful
- make eye contact to say hello even though there is a language barrier
- contribute to the conversation face to face rather than electronically

Kevin
- currently, most neighbourhoods are not conducive to meeting your neighbours,
- walking helps get to know people

Paul
- a need for a central gathering place in each community

Sherri
- opportunity to experience, share passion-knowledge and care for our natural areas: both maintain existing coulee and riparian areas, as well as re-establish native ecosystems through the city, especially in ‘school’ yards, seniors homes, other shared community space, and personal property
Part 2: What is your best ‘living’ IN your neighbourhood story/experience?

- the 2009 Westminster summer Activities and Sport camp, where most of the kids walked and rode their bike; a Sudanese woman brought 4 trays of food to share; a Chinese woman offered food for next year, and
- the Westminster park and area was full of children, 50 +, running playing, smiling together

- People who walk in the neighbourhood from a meeting
- Being committed to being green

- Playing guitar music on porch, and neighbours listen in
- Sharing art, talents, music, chalk on the sidewalk

- The downtown farmers market
- Wish for a year round farmers’ market
- Stop in the fountain in the Galt

- share neighbour’s garden, take turns watering, weeding…
- know neighbours well enough that they will take care of dying cat

- Garage sale with neighbours adding in cucumbers, eggs to sell and stop to share a coffee, and sit a while on our couch that we are trying to sell
- City-Net, random acts of kindness, party in the park (Wilson): hot air balloons, band, hamburgers/hotdogs, jumpers
- Each party has a sense of community
- Kids brought their parents to the party to for events, free of cost
- The smaller party in the park was very ethnic and the best

- The construction of the community playground, by neighbours
- Husking corn, cutting and watering grass for neighbours, coulee clean-ups, the Nature Club, the Kid Style Neighbourhood Nature Club with, Stewardship Campout, ‘sandlot baseball’, plots in the garden, solar ‘kit-car’…

- Saturdays and after school playing hockey, sharing snacks, a feel of community

- The empty space in the downtown is a concern,
- A walk on a cold morning and running into Galbraith, a building of character

- Streets filled with people in Spain,
- Upon returning to Lethbridge wonder: Where are all the people?
- The London Road – 6A Street party, vibrancy to the area
- Create an area where there are sidewalk cafes,
- Spontaneously, immigrants dance and sing in the 10,000 Villages store

- A neighbour watched his children and offered the use of his car when he needed to return to church for forgotten gather keys


- Transit riding has improved and continues to improve
- More and more people choose to use transit
- Presentation on a renovation and addition to a church. Please see Appendix C.
- A micro-community, condo ‘street-party’
- Densification of the downtown core, and some of the major commercial areas (13th, 3rd)
- Create walk-ability, reduce threats
- Support by economic development and city council of smaller community-based businesses, farmers market, offices, grocery,
- Create more sharing gardens, co-op
- Self sufficient areas (maybe 10 – 12 now, being about 7000 people per area); that has a niche, eg. spray parks, swimming parks; local grocery store; city council member affiliated with an area, therefore more personable relationship for council and the community have a richer voice
- A grocery store for each community, eg. Downtown, University Students
- Assisting the struggling community members

From Shelley, by email:

“We just had a master plan vision day for our city, and despite technical difficulties, it was a great exercise in gaining appreciation for what it takes to look into the future then shape that future. I saw that same process in your work.

Thanks for your interest in Community Renewal. You will find our website at communityrenewal.us “ From their webpage:

The CRI strategy has three initiatives:

Renewal Team
The Renewal Team works citywide to unite businesses, churches, civic groups, residents and others as caring partners building a stronger city.

Haven Houses
Haven House volunteers unite neighbors on the block where they live. Identified by a “We Care” sign in their yard, Haven House leaders may host block parties, take meals to a sick neighbor, help find a lost pet, share garden produce or just offer a listening ear.

Friendship Houses
These are homes built in low-income areas and lived in by CRI staff – families who help turn impoverished neighbourhoods into havens of hope. Each house contains a large community room for tutoring, computer training, character-building and much more. Other agencies partner with us in this life-changing outreach.
Appendix A: Poster, with agenda

Working and Playing in Beautiful Neighbourhoods,
Building Meaningful Relationship:

Please gather and share your success stories, challenges and hopes for Lethbridge,
LIVING IN our neighbourhoods.

WHERE: Westminster Community Center, Corner of 5th Ave and 16th St

WHEN: Wednesday, September 2, 2009, 7:15 - 9 pm

WHAT: Round Table Discussion followed by Snacks,
Welcome and introduction; start discussions considering what makes a neighbourhood beautiful, physically and relationally; further explore topic; conclusion and snacks. Our thoughts will be recorded and then shared at the City Ideas Fair, October 17.

HOSTS: Members and Neighbours of the Westminster Community

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
COME READY TO SHARE YOUR STORY!!!!

Please bring a cup for refreshments.

MORE INFORMATION THROUGH:

Rohan Crown – (403) 795-7692 or rohancrown@gmail.com
Sherri Umeris Bohnert sherri@sayee.ca
Appendix B: “How to Build A Community” poster list from 10 000 Villages

- Turn off your TV
- Leave our house
- Know your neighbours
- Look up when you are walking
  - Greet People
  - Sit on your stoop
  - Plant flowers
  - Use your library
  - Play together
- Buy form local merchants
- Share what you have
  - Help a lost dog
- Take children to the park
  - Garden together
- Support neighbourhood schools
- Fix it even if you didn’t break it
  - Have potlucks
  - Honour elders
  - Pick up litter
  - Read stories aloud
  - Dance in the street
- Talk to the mail carrier
- Listen to the birds
  - Put up a swing
- Help carry something heavy
  - Barter for your goods
  - Start a tradition
  - Ask a question
- Hire young people for odd jobs
  - Organize a block party
  - Bake extra and share
- Ask for help when you need it
  - Open your shades
  - Sing together
  - Share your skills
  - Take back the night
- Turn up the music; Turn down the music
- Listen before you react to anger
  - Mediate a conflict
  - Seek to understand
  - Learn from new and uncomfortable angles
- Know that no one is silent though many are not heard
  - Work to change this
Kirby's Coffee Chat

Part 1 Housing Development
Part 2 Facilities and Amenities in the City
City Circle Name: Kirby's Coffee Chat

City Circle Topic of Interest: Housing Development

What is the current situation regarding your topic?

It would seem that the land developers are limited by some of the regulations the city has for innovative and creative housing development. We are seeing developments that are trying to provide diversity in housing choice, facilities, amenities, and landscaping, but are prevented because of some of the guidelines.

Please share your ideas to improve or implement you topic of interest?

Our group feels that the city should revisit the guidelines associated with land development so that more innovation can occur. We also think it is important that these new subdivisions have the opportunity to create community associations to ensure the sustainability of the communities and the original goals of the community. One idea we have is to provide a financial incentive to the land developers that would need to change their plans to incorporate innovative ideas into their current outline plans since the development process takes quite a bit of time. We need to understand that innovative development and diverse housing choices must be offered to the community, but in order to do that we need to ensure that these types of developments can occur at a good pace and not be onerous on private industry. Another idea is to educate the citizens of Lethbridge about the different types of development and housing choice that is available. Industry will build what they can sell and if the buying public decides they want something different, you will find that industry will build that. Education on this issue also has to be taken on.
City Circle Name: Kirby's Coffee Chat

City Circle Topic of Interest: Facilities and Amenities in the city

What is the current situation regarding your topic?

There seems to be a disparity in the types of services and amenities that are located throughout the city. There is a lack of recreational facilities on the southside while there is a lack of commercial and retail amenities on the westside. It seems that the growth of the city is not balanced when it comes to facilities and amenities.

Please share your ideas to improve or implement you topic of interest?

It is our group's belief that the city needs to look at the growth of the city by ensuring that new areas have key facilities and amenities for the people that will be living in that area. If we were to look at areas that look at nodal development and incorporate that type of growth with regards to facilities and amenities, it might bring more well rounded communities to our city.
Moving Up Lethbridge
**City Circle Name:** Moving Up Lethbridge

**City Circle Topic of Interest:** Housing Development

**What is the current situation regarding your topic?**

The development of housing throughout the city is very interesting. Currently there is active development on the Southside Northside and the Westside. It would seem that the East side has been overlooked. We are also seeing the seeds of innovation in land and housing development being planted, but only in areas where the city has control of the development. We are hearing messages about affordability, housing choice, increased densification, and a better division of facilities and amenities throughout the city, but we are not necessarily seeing any action on these fronts. There is a hint of this with some of the new subdivisions, but we haven't seen it materialize as of yet.

**Please share your ideas to improve or implement you topic of interest?**

In order to increase the amount of housing choice available to citizens of Lethbridge, our group recommends the following:

1. Relax the guidelines that surround the land development process and encourage innovation in new communities through a financial incentive or speedier process for developments that involve some sort of innovation. Eg. Mixed Use, Nodal, etc.
2. Educate the citizens of Lethbridge about the various housing and development choices. If the public want this, industry will build it so they can sell it.
3. Increase the densification of the downtown core. Encourage the addition of a storey to those buildings either by a financial incentive or a speedier process. This will result in more housing choice. This should also help in creating a village atmosphere with nice apartments and condos and bring more people to downtown.
4. Focus some economic development into the downtown core by targeting businesses to set up their head quarters in our downtown core. Build a marketing campaign that will draw in more professionals to the core.
5. Revisit the guidelines about secondary suites in existing and new subdivisions. Make secondary suites a discretionary use in land zones such as R-SL to encourage more housing diversity and home ownership.
6. Lobby the federal government to change the taxation structure for rental properties so that individuals are encouraged to become landlords and increase the level of affordable housing.
7. Look at the inclusion of recreational facilities in the various communities or by having at least one large recreational centre that will encourage people to our city.
Lethbridge Communities in Bloom
PLAN YOUR CITY
CITY CIRCLES

SUBMITTED BY
COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM
LETHBRIDGE

AUGUST, 2009
Communities in Bloom was established as a national programme in 1995. That same year the City of Lethbridge joined the national association, with its first judging and entry into the national competition for cities in the population group of 50,000 to 100,000. In 1996, Lethbridge was the first place winner in our category.

Each year, the city is judged based on eight criteria. These are:
- Landscaped areas
- Environmental awareness
- Community Involvement
- Tidiness
- Floral Displays
- Natural and Cultural Heritage
- Urban Forestry
- Turf and Ground Cover

The Lethbridge Communities in Bloom Committee has worked diligently over the past 15 years to influence substantive changes in city practices and community involvement to create a better place for all citizens to live and work. It is for this very reason that the committee saw the need to meet, and prepare a submission for the City Circles programme. This submission is based upon the eight criteria, as set out by the National Communities in Bloom organization.
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
2008 - 2009

Brian Wright  Chairperson
Helen St. Onge  Vice-chairperson
Jan Foster
Robert Hironaka
Joanna Fraser
Rhondda Schindeler
Linda Kiernan
Phil Edmundson
Katy Edmundson
Cynthia Edgar
Enid Gom
Joan Haig
Judy Matlock
Paulette Reid
Judy Scott
Dayna Tilleman
Francis McHardy
Dave Ellis   Administrative Support
John Gilbert  Staff Support
Marlene LaPointe  Staff Support – Secretary
LANDSCAPED AREAS

- Continue the development of floral areas in Galt Gardens.
- Continue the improvement of Brewery Gardens, using more natural plantings.

- Continue the revitalization of Henderson Lake controlling the weed problem.
- Develop floral areas in Nicholas Sheran Park and other Westside areas with adequate staffing to maintain these areas.
- Develop downtown sculptures and artwork that depicts local history and our historical heritage.
FLORAL DISPLAYS

- Encourage more downtown hanging baskets and provide constant management. The City should adopt the program.

- Continue to encourage residential gardens and beautification with recognition, awards.
- Encourage the development and maintenance of floral displays by businesses and public institutions.

- Encourage the development of Victorian and Heritage gardens.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Establish a “Welcome to Lethbridge” sign on west side of city.
- Continue to promote Lethbridge at the National and International level by highlighting opportunities with quality of life issues, Education – University, College, Federal and Provincial Research Stations and business opportunities.
- Development of an Arts and Cultural Centre, preferably in the downtown.
- Diversify the economy but retain community as a marketplace with an agricultural focus and keeping a sustainable vision for the future.
- Promote the development of a Convention Centre to attract events and the hospitality industry.
- Encourage public involvement in our tourist attractions and visitor centres. Develop community gardens on the west and south side of city.
- Encourage children’s educational programs involving gardening, planting of flowers and trees.
- Encourage development of memorial gardens of trees and floral displays such as Rose Garden at St. Michael’s Health Centre and perhaps in the newly planned cemetery.
• Encourage more year round use of parks throughout the city, such as Winter Festivals, Children’s Festivals, Fundraising and Community events.

• Encourage the development of train rides over High Level Bridge.
• Encourage partnerships with seniors and students and Senior’s residences with raised flower and vegetable beds. Provide raised beds for seniors in new community gardens.
TURF AND GROUND COVER

- Encourage the use of native plants that are adapted to the area through public education programs – low maintenance and lower water use.
- Develop and maintain planting of native grasses in appropriate areas.
URBAN FORESTRY

- Maintain and improve existing programs by developing a long term urban forestry plan.
- Encourage citizens to prune trees for beauty, water conservation, longevity and safety through creation and development of tree protection bylaw and develop public education programs for same.
- Through public education, encourage residents and businesses to plant more appropriate trees.
- Extend trees along boulevards – eg; 3rd Avenue South from Downtown to Mayor Magrath Drive.
- Encourage planting fruit bearing trees and shrubs (with proper education regarding clean up of fruit).
NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

• Complete river bottom trail system by Golf Course.
• Create focal point to recognize mining history in city. This will recognize the mining contribution to this community, as well as serve as a tourist attraction.

• Maintain current state of natural areas of the river bottom.
• Encourage development of heritage gardens throughout the city.

• Continue and expand the designation of heritage buildings throughout the city.
• Improve the public recognition and acknowledgement of heritage buildings and sites.
• Continue the development of downtown while maintaining the heritage of the area.
TI DI NESS

- Encourage businesses, especially in the Industrial Park to “tidy up” their property – offer incentives, awards and recognition.
- Develop a system to clean up alleys with stricter enforcement of existing bylaws.
- Control littering with better education and more accessible refuse containers, especially at special events and parades.

- Encourage absentee property owners to maintain revenue properties.
- Encourage citizens to become involved in the annual Pitch-In week and litter pickup and all year round.
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- Develop a “Blue Box” program.

- Develop and maintain more natural habitats for birds and wild life. Increase the use of artificial wet lands.

- Encourage use of xeroscapes in cul de sacs and private properties.

- Develop more recycling locations if blue box program is not viable.

- Return the toxic waste drop off sites. Encourage yard waste drop off through public education.

- Reduce use of large asphalt areas in residential developments.

- Develop more shared bicycle walking paths around the city to promote reduced use of vehicles - dedicated bicycle lanes to provide harmony with vehicles.
6 Avenue A Neighbourhood Society
City Circle
Introduction

The 6 Avenue A Neighborhood Society City Circle is made up of a group of residents living on 6 Avenue A between 12th and 13th Street South. The topics we discussed in our meeting were topics, we felt as a group of City residents, to be relevant to the future of our area and to Lethbridge as a whole. The topics are not listed in order of importance.

Topics

Transportation
Trees
Energy
Curbside Recycling/ Composting
Downtown Core
Low Income Housing
Recreation Complex
Herbicide/Pesticide Use
Transportation

Current Reality

Lethbridge is/has currently:
Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) Dominant
Car Centric
Inconvenient Mass Transit
Not Bike/Pedestrian Friendly

Solutions

SOV dominance.
The vast majority of vehicles on the road in Lethbridge have a lone occupant. In order to improve this, Lethbridge can create incentives for those that choose to carpool or make it more convenient for those that choose not to drive. Some ideas that may help alleviate this problem are listed below:
- Improve mass transit to the point that it can become a viable alternative to driving a vehicle.
- Create HOV lanes and bus lanes on busy thoroughfares to create an incentive to carpool.
- Create monitored car pooling parking lots in highly desirable parking locations for carpool users to take advantage of.

Car Centric
The motor vehicle is the primary mode of transportation in Lethbridge. Some reasons for this may be the fact that Lethbridge covers a very large area for the population; it has a very convenient and relatively fast roadway system and it has poor infrastructure to allow for alternate modes of transportation. Some ideas that may help alleviate this problem are listed below:
- Promote car sharing (refer to carpooling above).
- Move toward higher density so walking/biking/transit becomes a more convenient or quicker mode of transport.
- Improve mass transit.
- Use an alternating license plate concept similar to other cities where cars are restricted to entrance to key parts of the city dependant on the day of the week and the license number.

Inconvenient Mass Transit
Lethbridge transit is not convenient to use due to long ride times, long wait times and long transfer times. There are some other potential issues discussed below.
It is felt that mass transit in Lethbridge has an image issue that makes it undesirable for many people to be seen as a transit user. If transit is seen as a smart choice to driving, people would more likely use it.
- Smaller busses running more frequently on certain routes may help with some of the wait issue.
- A central bus depot where quick transfers can take place would help with trip times, convenience and shorter transfer times.
- Bus lanes would improve trip times and help to increase frequency with smaller busses.
Not Bike/Pedestrian Friendly
Due to the fact that Lethbridge is a car centric city, it has poor infrastructure that hinders the use of alternate forms of transportation in particular walking and the use of bicycles. Bike lanes could be incorporated onto existing roads, room could be made by using parking lanes which may help with limiting the number of cars per household. Bike depots or safe parking areas placed in convenient places throughout the city would encourage the use of bikes.
Lessons or awareness campaigns for cyclists on how to use the road legally and safely would increase the average citizen's willingness to ride. Conversely, lessons or awareness campaigns to teach motor vehicle drivers to interact safely with cyclists.
Better quality pathways that are interconnected on well-used traffic routes may cut down traffic.
Pathways that are designated to streets should be clearly marked as such so pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles are all aware of the existence.
Links between North, South, and West Lethbridge are poor at best and need to be improved.
Grades on Whoop-up Drive are steep for vehicular traffic and more so for bikes. A ‘zip line’ has been used in other cities where a mechanical means is used to aid the cyclist from the bottom of a long hill to the top. This does not alleviate the problem of the unsafe steep downhill grade on this road.

Trees

Current Reality

Lethbridge is/has currently:
Few trees in new areas of the City
People can cut trees down at will on private property
Lack of maintenance on City landscaped areas
New areas create an urban heat sink
Driveway approaches thru boulevards approved

Solutions

Few trees in new areas of the City
Lethbridge has beautiful treed older neighborhoods that many people visiting the City comment on. These areas also happen to be some of the most desirable areas to live in no small part due to the trees. New areas of Lethbridge lack this appeal and will continue to lack this appeal in the future simply because fewer and fewer trees are being planted. It seems as if the City has a short-sighted view with regard to how the new areas will look in the future.

Every house gets a new tree and all boulevards are planted with trees.

People can cut down trees at will.
While dictating what happens on private property is difficult, incentives can be created to keep a certain number of trees alive and healthy on your lot. This could be in the form of a property tax break and could be assessed with the property value.
Lack of maintenance on City landscaped areas.
Maintenance of Green areas within the City is an expensive undertaking and it is obvious sometimes that the commitment to keep these areas looking good is not being met.

Use of untreated water where possible would cut the cost and waste of treated City water.
Xeriscaping of boulevards and medians using hearty native trees and grasses could be incorporated so watering and minimal maintenance would be required. A good example of this would be the median near the Enmax Centre.

New areas create an urban heat sink
More trees and green areas curb the heat absorption of the new areas increased concrete and asphalt area in these areas.

Driveway approaches thru boulevards approved
Driveway approaches through boulevards take valuable green space away and potentially cause the cutting down of trees to allow for this. Driveways are a necessity for most houses but approaches are being approved where no driveway either exists or is planned. These approaches are being built in many cases to “save” a parking spot. The City should investigate prior to allowing construction of these approaches. Is there a driveway? Is there room for a driveway? Set a time line to have a driveway built or remove at owners cost.

**Energy**

*Current Reality*

Lethbridge is/has currently:
Limited solar, wing, geo, and bio energy use options

*Solutions*

Limited solar, wing, geo, and bio energy use options
Lethbridge has given limited options with regard to the types of energy home owners can use. Local by-laws need to be relaxed to allow citizens to use these alternate energies. Bio-digesters could be used to supplement our energy needs ant at the same time allow for a cleaner environment.

**Curbside Recycling/Composting**

*Current Reality*

Lethbridge does not currently offer curbside recycling or composting to city residents. Lethbridge does not offer composting of household waste.

*Solutions*

If the City is unable to provide this type of program, an increase of drop sites in the form of auxiliary drop sites may bridge the gap for the time being. These auxiliary sites could be smaller, limited capacity sites and be located in high traffic locations such as
restaurants, apartment buildings, convenience stores. The drop locations could be incorporated into the much improved transit system (in the future) at main stops or depots.

Three collection box colors could be used to separate recyclables. Black – electronics; blue – plastics, paper, etc.; and brown – compost materials. Collection of compost material could be used in city run bio-digesters to create earth friendly energy.

The Core

Current Reality

The downtown core in Lethbridge has been dying for many years. It is not a desirable place to go most of the time. There is very little reason to go downtown for anyone that doesn’t work there. There is no longer a grocery store, the appearance of most of the area is poor, and it is not lively or exciting. The most positive thing to happen in downtown Lethbridge is the addition of the fountain park at the Galt Gardens. This has transformed a small part of the park into what we think Lethbridge could be.

Solutions

Bring in the Arts Center!
An Arts Center brings people out after the main working hours. A centrally located facility that houses all different kinds of art, dance, and theatre would have something to show on any night of the week. This would help increase traffic to the core.

Get some living accommodations downtown.
A permanent population downtown would give it a voice. With no permanent population it is easy to pass on programs for that area and concentrate on areas that have more pull with the City.

More mixed use would provide more accommodation downtown.

Give incentives for development to happen downtown.

Low income housing has negative connotations associated with it which causes opposition to certain types of development so allow for high quality, more expensive housing for professionals to start the move to living downtown and transition to more affordable accommodation once a precedent has been set.

We need more social events.
The main event that has most people taking a trip to the fringe of downtown is the Show and Shine on Street Machine Weekend. More festivals would have the same effect. Festivals such as the Fringe, Street Performers, Music Festivals, Wine and Food Festivals, most outdoors, some in and all year round.

Lethbridge needs a grocery store downtown.
The closing of IGA was an unfortunate thing for the City of Lethbridge to allow to occur. This further set our downtown along the wrong path. The current IGA site could be used for many useful facilities but it is known as a grocery store so a natural use would be a fresh food market with local sellers of in season foods and goods.
Bring in University/College students. Bus connections are pretty good from downtown to the University and College right now; in fact the University is probably the shortest trip time in the City. Unfortunately living downtown is not an option for university students due to lack of accommodation. Students are currently forced to live either close walking distance and higher rents or a very long bus ride, with transfers, away.

Free up bylaws to allow for buskers and market stands. This would help to create a feeling of liveliness and excitement.

Low Income Housing

Current Reality
Lethbridge is in dire need of low income housing.

Solutions
Create small pockets of low income housing mixed in with other types of housing throughout the City rather than low income areas. This proximity creates understanding between the different classes.

Recreational Complex

Current Reality
In Lethbridge we currently have to go to a hotel to use a waterslide. We have to share facilities with the University to get the use of ‘good’ facilities. We don’t have a sports center we can be proud of.

Solutions
Look to other cities. Cities such as Red Deer, Medicine Hat, or Spruce Grove would be a good comparison for similar sized cities with these facilities.

Could be in the form of a multi-use building. The sports facility could be combined with other uses such as a library or art instruction.

Construction of a campus type of facility a possibility. To spread out the cost of construction of a multi-sports/leisure complex a centrally located campus area could be created and building spread out over a number of years. The question that arises is; is the City able to make a long term commitment such as this and stick to it and carry it through with a change of council?

Herbicide/Pesticide Use

Current Reality
Herbicides are allowed in the City of Lethbridge
Solutions

Use alternate means of weed control in the City. If herbicides are absolutely required, notice of intent to use should be supplied to residents that may be affected. This would include surrounding homes, businesses, school students, employees, etc. The notice of intent should be in the form of a letter (not a newspaper notice) to all affected stating the date and type of herbicide/pesticide to be used as well as information on how to safeguard against the chemicals used.
Vox Musica Choral Society
City Circle Name: Vox Musica Choral Society

City Circle Topic of Interest: Support for the arts is needed in both word and action; i.e., promotion and funding, priority and facilities. Over the years, the City of Lethbridge has invested quite consistently in sports facilities; these are valuable and worthwhile. Similar consistent attention to arts facilities is needed to tackle the perception of “second class” treatment for the arts that has arisen because of the contrasting deficit in concert facilities. We have excellent musicians in this city who perform in often inadequate space because there is no alternative. What more could happen if we had appropriate facilities? Such venues would also generate growth and promote culture by attracting high quality performers, prospective residents, and visitors.

What is the current situation regarding your topic?

Numerous indicators of the need for a concert hall are evident.

1. The Yates Centre is inadequate for concerts as it is acoustically dead. Electronic sound enhancement is not an option; rather, we need a place with excellent natural acoustics. The Yates also has limited capacity and is difficult to secure as it is constantly in use.

2. Southminster United Church has good natural acoustics, but the seating can be uncomfortable, sight lines for some seats are compromised, and the temperature cannot be adequately controlled, leading to noise intrusion through open windows. Although it is larger than Yates, it, too, accommodates only around 750 people in a concert setting. Finally, because its primary function is not for performance, Southminster presents logistical challenges such as inadequate stage space for larger productions (choral/orchestral performances), inadequate stage lighting, and no concert grand piano.

Please share your ideas to improve or implement you topic of interest?

A key solution is to move quickly to build a much-needed concert hall.

1. A facility with excellent natural live acoustics and seating for 1000-1200 would be ideal for a city of our size and potential. (Medicine Hat recently built a new hall with 750 seats; it is already too small for many events.)

2. Lethbridge is due for the funding! Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, and Medicine Hat have all received performance facility funding in the last few years, but Lethbridge has missed out. How sad that we did not pursue such a project for our provincial centennial to parallel Lethbridge’s national centennial project (the Yates) and the provincial centennial projects of renovating both Jubilee Auditoriums.

3. The cost of two endeavours - building a stand-alone concert hall and enhancing the Yates Centre to make it a top-notch theatre - could be lower than the cost of a single new mixed-usage venue that would compromise long-term sound quality if it were to try to serve a wide range of purposes.

4. Such a project could be a centrepiece in downtown revitalization. It could also be successful in other locations with easy access/parking, and proximity to accommodations and restaurants.
Family Village

Part 1 Submission 1
Part 2 Submission 2
City Circle Name: Family Village

City Circle Topic of Interest: The development and operation of a co-location site that brings together family and community social service organizations to share resources, collaborate and improve access to services for the citizens of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta.

What is the current situation regarding your topic?

Lethbridge Family Circle Association (LFCA), with support from the City of Lethbridge, is working towards making Family Village a reality within the next 3-5 years. The group is working with local social service organizations to develop the most comprehensive and encompassing Village that LFCA can. Both provincial and federal government representatives are aware and familiar with this project. As of this date, no money has been raised but a lot of ground work has been and continues to be done towards gaining funding for this project. Many interested organizations are running into severe space constraints and will required more/new space in the next few years. For these groups, operating or overhead funding is becoming harder and harder to obtain. As a result, LFCA is in a positive position to help these vital groups as their needs arise. The next steps in ensuring Family Village becomes a reality is to move forward with an aggressive marketing plan, ensure large funding sources are secured and that space is available as groups need it.

Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest?

In order for Family Village to become a reality, the City of Lethbridge and its citizens need to support this initiative with substantial funding and support. This funding does not require an actual cash outlay but could include a donation of land and/or services towards the completion of Family Village. Citizens, businesses and other organizations who support this project need to step forward to volunteer with the organization of the various tasks that need to be completed. There is board work to be completed as well as numerous committees to work on. We welcome anyone who is interested in more information or those interested in becoming more involved. Please contact LFCA at info@thefamilyvillage.ca or call 403-381-4676 for more details.
FAMILY VILLAGE
CITY CIRCLE

We want Lethbridge to be a place for families who are supported, with accessible services for all.

We want to see the development and operation of a co-location site for family and community social service organizations

**Our Mission**
Lethbridge Family Circle Association is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to develop and operate a co-location site called Family Village that brings together family and community social service organizations to share resources, collaborate and improve access to services for the citizens of Lethbridge and southwestern Alberta.
Our Vision for 2020

Family Village is the busy and vibrant home to a collective of mutually supportive member organizations that provides:

- a warm, inviting and inclusive Family Village where people can access supportive services in a socially interactive gathering place.
- accessible and complementary services provided through the collaborative relationships between the community and member organizations.
- a place that brings people together to create meaningful relationships that will help them more fully participate in the community.
- expanded services to family and community through the reduction of administrative and operating costs of member organizations by cost sharing and sustainable building ownership.
- an enhanced quality of life in our community.

Lethbridge Family Circle Association (LFCA) is a registered society representing not for profit family service agencies committed to offering their services in one common facility. Upon purchase, this common facility will be named Family Village and will be a shared one stop shop area where agencies will share resources and benefits to enhance programs for individuals, children, youth and families in our community.

By creating a Family Village, citizens of Lethbridge will see:

- Community partnerships in action
- Easier accessibility to services for its citizens
- Enhanced services due to cost savings by the agencies
- Improved programming due to joint programming
- An environment that supports healthy individual growth and development
Canadian Home Builder’s Association–Lethbridge Region

Part 1 Housing and Land Development
Part 2 Facilities and Amenities
City Circle Name: Canadian Home Builder's Association-Lethbridge Region

City Circle Topic of Interest: Housing and Land Development

What is the current situation regarding your topic?

The residential construction industry is a large cornerstone of the local economy and is a driving force for employment and tax dollars within the City of Lethbridge. It is estimated that in 2009, the local industry will provide wages in excess of $153 million dollars and total housing investment will total around $370 million dollars. Not only does the development of housing and land offer large economic gains for the city, but the individuals who are involved in the industry are building the future of the city as they develop neighborhoods where families and individuals of all ages will live and call home.

Currently, the city has started working more effectively with the industry to address concerns and foster better relationships as we work together to shape the future of Lethbridge. However, it is paramount that the effort is continued and expanded into all areas of the city that are affected by the development of housing and land. The various departments of the city must see industry as a resource rather than a problem and continue to work with industry to build a sustainable and vibrant city.

There are several factors that affect housing and land development that must be considered by the city with regards to future plans. These factors include:

1. Areas of the city that are being developed
2. The type of development that is occurring
3. Densification and Variety of Housing Choice

It is crucial for the city to understand that all of these factors are intertwined and must be looked at holistically versus piecemeal. As well, the demand of the consumers drives our local markets and those needs must be considered when making decisions about housing and land development. One must also remember that markets can change quickly and dramatically and that we must be in a position as a city to react to those changes in the best way possible. Included in our submission are our thoughts about each one of the factors listed above as well as ways to implement change in each of the areas.

Where is Lethbridge growing currently?

As a city we are seeing development of housing and land in almost all of the quadrants of the city, but a large focus being on the West side of Lethbridge. One of the largest developers on the West side of Lethbridge is the city’s own land department with involvement in Riverstone, Sun Ridge, The Crossings, and Copper Wood. There are only 2 subdivisions on the West side that do not have city involvement in them; Canyon Crest and West Highlands. With the city’s heavy involvement on the West side and the purchase of land for many years to come, it has forced private developers to look at the other areas of the city including the North and South. This has caused some concerns because we are not seeing the city encouraging development in the other areas of the city.
What is the current situation regarding your topic? (Cont.)

Due to the large amount of development that has occurred on the West side, it has caused issues with the availability of facilities and amenities that an individual can access that builds or purchases a home on the West side. Not only has this caused an overburden on the infrastructure to the West side, but it has put a disproportionate amount of pressure to purchase on the West side as that is where the largest amount of development is occurring; thereby causing unbalanced growth. As a city we must be cognizant that growth needs to occur in all sectors and we must look to the future to see where growth should occur and consider all of the factors that will affect future growth. (E.g. Canamex Highway)

What is the current type of development?

It is apparent that our city is on the cusp of innovative development and wants to be a leader in that area. Recent examples include the creation of an innovation zone for new development and the Built Green ™ subdivision of Sun Ridge. However, it has been established as fairly difficult for other developers and builders to be innovative in their plans because of bylaws that rule certain uses as permitted vs. discretionary, the NIMBY attitude of the citizens of Lethbridge, and the process involved in obtaining a development permit. Industry is trapped into providing similar types of development because of the MDP, the bylaws, off-site levies, and the cost of maintenance for the city.

How is Lethbridge currently dealing with densification and housing choice?

As a city we have been largely focused on providing single family units in subdivisions because this is what the consumer has demanded and this is what the bylaws and MDP have supported. Builders and Developers have been hesitant to look for innovative ways to increase the densification and add variety of housing choice in neighborhoods as the rules were too stringent and the attitude of the citizens of Lethbridge has been somewhat negative towards projects that have a higher densification. The NIMBY effect is very prevalent in this community when it comes to higher density projects.

We have seen some movement towards increasing the densification of the city with the new bylaws about secondary suites and the city’s willingness to provide grants to bring existing suites up to code. However, even those bylaws have some struggles associated with them. The fact that the city does not allow secondary suites as a discretionary use in the zoning of R-SL will discourage densification. It is apparent that this bylaw must be revisited if we are to start tackling the low vacancy rates that are apparent in our city and provide more of our citizens with the option of home ownership as they are able to supplement their mortgage payments with a renter in the house.

It must be noted that there are a lot more multi-family projects and condo style projects that are under construction or planned to be under construction. With the conversion of several of the upper floors downtown of buildings to provide suites, it is the feeling that we have taken some tentative steps to solving this problem but a lot of work is yet to be done. As a city we have not seen a large amount of mixed use development or implementing mandatory mother-in-law suites in certain areas of the city, etc.

Another barrier to densification that has been identified is the tax structure that builders and/or landlords face when building units that can increase the densification. Due to the high amount of tax paid on buildings that are available for rent, it discourages this type of development. This will only change once the tax structure changes. In order for those changes to occur, it is paramount that industry and all levels of government work on this problem to develop a solution that will encourage more people to consider owning rental properties.
Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest?

How can Lethbridge grow smarter?

It is in the city’s best interest to ensure that the future development of the City of Lethbridge be balanced and focus on all quadrants of the city. As an association we would like to see development plans be moved through the process a quicker pace so that we can respond to the interests of the consumer on a more timely basis. We would suggest that the city consider scaling down the level of development they are actively involved in and allow the market to determine where, when, and how land should be developed. Or, the city could start to play a role that involves innovative and diversified development versus mass development.

Consumers who have a vested interest in their neighborhood are more likely to ensure that developments are consistent and appealing. The use of community associations and neighborhood plans should be revisited as they provide a great resource to the city for ensuring integrity in the style of development in their area.

It is also imperative to review how growth is being funded, should we unfairly tax the new home buyer over the existing homebuyer when the new home buyer is providing more tax revenue for the city and building the city. A review of the off-site levies and the projects that are being funded from the account must be reviewed openly. Government Imposed Charges for new home buyers in the City of Lethbridge equate to around $26,500. This has a serious impact on home affordability and ownership. If we wish to grow our city in a sustainable manner that encourages different types of development, we must be cognizant of the pressures that government imposed costs play.

As we look further down the road, we must ensure that we look to the future developments that are occurring around our city that will affect growth. Factors to consider such as the Canamex highway, the Hwy #3 corridor, the County of Lethbridge Development Plan, need to be reviewed or a regional development plan implemented with all of the neighboring communities and counties. Infrastructure must be considered when looking at these projects as they might dictate growth in areas that are currently not being considered by the city. It would be foolish of us to think that we can completely dictate where growth can occur, we must understand that external factors will affect how the city grows as well.

How can Lethbridge develop differently?

If we want Lethbridge to develop differently, there are several factors that need to be considered. First, we must educate the citizens of Lethbridge to start changing the NIMBY attitude. The city has the key role to play in this and should be leading the way. Informational campaigns that talk about the benefits of different types of development such as mixed use, nodal, and green must be communicated to the public. The City of Lethbridge has a great opportunity to be a leader in the area of development and this could be one of the ways in which they lead.

Second, reduce the barriers to innovation for both land developers and builders. It is extremely difficult and costly for land developers to change their plans when a new land zone is created like the innovation zone. The creation of subdivisions takes years and this must be taken into account when the city is requesting something different. A separate or streamlined process should be considered for all developers that are being innovative in their design. A financial incentive should be considered to encourage land developers to change existing plans that are on their way in the development process. As the consumer’s desires change, the need for inspired development must occur. We must consider mixed use development, green development, and nodal development. However, in order to accommodate those changing needs, we must ensure the vision of the city is followed by administration by providing them the resources and tools to implement the vision.
Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest? (Cont.)

Builders must also be encouraged to continue to be innovative. Industry wants to be innovative and strives to be different. It was the home building industry that developed the Built Green™ program, not government and this is just one example of private enterprise leading the way. The development officers at the city must be given the tools, resources, and authority to look at the big picture when builders are submitting their house plans. If there is an innovative aspect to the plan, it should be allowed to be considered. This may cause all of the bylaws to be re-visited and ensure that industry has input into the creation of those bylaws. Innovation must have a vested interest from all parties involved; the municipality, the land developer, the builder, and the consumer if it is going to succeed.

If a plan doesn’t fit into the exact requirements and or policy, it should be given the opportunity to be reviewed and the requirements adapted if the plan is for the greater good. Sometimes common sense needs to outweigh rules and regulations. Examples of this include allowing alternative energy sources within housing developments. The demand for energy efficiency is growing on a yearly basis. We need to ensure that the doors are open for considering these options and we are continually looking at how we can improve in those areas. The citizens of Lethbridge determine the type of housing and development projects that will grow the city; we must have the flexibility to meet those demands. Cookie cutter solutions do not offer that.

It is imperative that the vision of the citizens be followed by administration through the guidance of council. As a city we must do more than just look at shining examples from other municipalities and areas, but ensure the resources and tools are in place to make our own shining examples. An idea is just a wasted thought unless acted upon. By continuing to work with the industry and foster relationships, the city and industry can bring innovation to the forefront here in Lethbridge. However, all sides must be actively working together to ensure this occurs and all departments in the city must be onside.

How can we address densification and housing choice in the future?

The densification issue is one that will continue to face the city throughout the years. However, by involving industry, opening up the MDP, and the bylaws to be more flexible, it is a problem which can be worked on. As an association we would suggest the following options to be implemented to encourage densification within the city:

1. Review the current bylaws surrounding secondary suites and allow them as a discretionary use in the zone of R-SL.
2. Educate the general citizens of Lethbridge about the benefit of higher densification housing. Work on calming the NIMBY effect.
3. Look at mandating a percentage of higher densification in every subdivision.
4. Encourage the addition of a floor or conversion of the second floor in the downtown core to suites or rentals. Some great examples of this are the Club Cigar Store and Alec Arms Hotel.
5. Look at a tax break or a streamlined development process for developers and builders who are trying to be innovative in increasing the densification, like mixed use, etc.
6. Work with industry and all levels of government on changing the tax structure around rental properties.
7. Ensure and encourage the development officers to look for innovation in designs and allow them the flexibility to adopt the innovation. This may involve redrafting of numerous bylaws.
8. Continue to foster the relationships between the city, UDI, CHBA-LR, LCA, and LDAR. Industry loves to innovate and they will if given the chance.

As consumers demand more choice in housing, industry must be given the opportunity to satisfy that choice. This can
Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest? (Cont.)

As consumers demand more choice in housing, industry must be given the opportunity to satisfy that choice. This can only be accomplished by industry and the municipality acting as partners versus opponents. We must also always understand that consumers will want a variety of choice and that moving to just one type of housing will never build sustainable communities. Building and development must encompass a wide range of housing choice including single family units and multi-family units. Adaptability and flexibility is key to the future growth and success of our city.
City Circle Name: Canadian Home Builder’s Association- Lethbridge Region

City Circle Topic of Interest: Facilities and Amenities

What is the current situation regarding your topic?

The City of Lethbridge is a stable city with solid growth. We are starting to see some changes around the level of facilities and amenities that are offered in our city, but we have a long way to go. As an industry we hear a lot of comments from new home buyers and people from outside the city about our lack of facilities and amenities in areas of the city. It is impressive that we have both a University and a College, but the need for more facilities and amenities continues to be a topic of conversation. Other common topics of new home buyers and the public is the request for subdivisions with more walkability and parks area. While it is generally accepted that we need to reduce car usage, city planning has made this nearly impossible in some areas which are not only remote, but also which have limited commercial development.

As a city we lack commercial development on the West side, recreation facilities on the South side, housing development on the East side, and a Multi-Plex for the city. In order for us to attract more economic development to the city, we need to ensure that their employees have quality facilities and amenities throughout the city.

Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest?

As an association, we encourage the city to visit the issue of building a multi-plex for the city that can be used by all residents. It would also make sense for the city to partner with future developments to provide facilities and amenities in the newer subdivisions. Greater commercial development throughout West Lethbridge (rather than concentrating it all in the new development near the high school and at the north end of University) would allow more people work/shopping/business opportunities within their own neighbourhoods.

Existing neighbourhoods may need commercial retrofitting or bylaws may need to be re-examined to accommodate increased business opportunities within neighbourhoods (work/live arrangements; more reasonable home-based business licenses; reduced setbacks with garage offices, etc.). The recent comment of a city official that the new bridge will be put off for many years in order to encourage West Lethbridge residents to change their travel habits is an example of an impossible wish – folks can’t drive less if there is no place they can reasonably walk to. If we are going to sentence neighbourhoods to automobile dependency, and a second river-crossing would shorten the distance needed to drive (i.e. SunRidge to the airport), then adding the river crossing would REDUCE the mileage (i.e. amount) driven.

We would also encourage the city to revisit the issue of green space in neighborhoods. As an industry we understand the cost of maintaining these spaces, but perhaps we need to look at reducing the size of the parks versus the quantity. Partnerships between community groups and community associations could also have a role to play in these new neighborhoods. The more we get people involved in their neighborhoods the more sustainable the community.
SAGE City Circle

Part 1 Environmental Council
Part 2 Greening our City and our neighbourhoods
The City of Lethbridge has a position, currently unfilled, for a Sustainability Manager. Though it is important to maintain this position within the City administration, it requires access to a broad spectrum of expertise and coordination with non-government organizations.

The Sustainability Manager within the City could be modeled like a Quality Control manager in an industrial setting. In this setting, Quality Control is the only department in the company not responsible for quality – the role is to measure quality performance and provide support to achieve desired goals. Similarly, a Sustainability Manager would not be responsible for implementing sustainability – each department would set targets and processes to achieve their goals. The Sustainability Manager would monitor and measure department achievements and provide support where required. An organization can no more mandate sustainability than it can mandate quality – both must be integral to the spirit and operation of the organization.

To augment the Sustainability Manager position, an Environmental Council would be created with a director and volunteer board, and it would include groups directly involved in environmental health and sustainability. Such a council would be modeled on the successful local examples of the Allied Arts Council, and Economic Development Lethbridge.

The Environmental Council would provide the voice of engaged citizens and their collective expertise directly to the Sustainability Manager. The relationship would be arms-length from the City to ensure critical objectivity.

It is critical that the City of Lethbridge become a leader for environmental stewardship, both by demonstrating best practices within the administration, and by acting as an inspiration for change in the community (residential, business, & industry). Redefining the Sustainability Manager position within the City administration with clear goals and performance measures, and supporting an Environmental Council that would provide a central voice for the array of existing citizens’ organizations currently existing in the City would be a positive step.
SAGE CITY CIRCLE

Greening our City and our Neighbourhoods

July 2009

Contributors: Braum Barber, Sherri and Paul Bohnert, Cheryl Bradley, Bill Brown, Paula Collins, Lori Goater, Deb Jarvie, Klaus Jericho, Mary McEachern, Nicola Miller, John Nightingale

This report is based on the outcome of three sessions – one at the Fish and Game Hut on May 7th, one at a river valley picnic on June 4th and one at the Penny Coffee House on June 29th. Note that we have not included a section related to parks and the river valley as this is being dealt with through another City Circle organized by the Helen Schuler Coulee Centre.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few months the Southern Alberta Group for Environment (SAGE) has informally convened a City Circle to share ideas on what Lethbridge could be like in the year 2050. We have discussed the concept of sustainable community that is variously defined including as “a community that meets the diverse needs of existing and future residents, is sensitive to environment, and contributes to a high quality of life” (Ref: United Kingdom Sustainable Communities Plan 2003).

The focus of our discussions has been on the environmental quality component of Lethbridge as a sustainable community although we recognize that economic vitality and social equity are also important considerations and all three are interlinked. There is an important role for the City of Lethbridge (City Council and administration) as well as for SAGE and other interested individuals in our community in helping to achieve sustainable community.

WHERE WE ARE

In order to determine where we want to go, it is important to understand where we have been and where we are. Our discussions are informed by the following key historical points regarding environmental management towards sustainable community in Lethbridge.

- The current City of Lethbridge Municipal Development Plan (1998) has four of six goals that are environment-related. They include directing future residential growth to those areas where development already has started, enhancing the downtown, encouraging open space corridors and protecting the river valley as required by the River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (1986). We are not aware of an evaluation of progress towards the goals defined in the 1998 Municipal Development Plan. Our assessment is that although there has been some progress towards the environmental goals in the last decade, there continues to be urban
sprawl, plans to revitalize the downtown are slow to be implemented, our hiking/cycling pathway system remains fragmented, and there are increasing threats to the river valley environment.

- In 2002 Lethbridge City Council resolved to incorporate the principles of sustainable development (economic vitality, social equity and ecological and environmental quality) into business planning, including an audit of current practices and identification of strategic responses and action plans for improvement. Community input, through an Ecosystem Management Advisory Group that included representatives of SAGE and other informed citizens, provided substantial background for this resolution. (Ref: Resolution of February 11, 2002 regarding Model for Urban Environmental Management). Although SAGE offered at the time to continue in an advisory role, our offer was not accepted and we are not informed about how effectively the City of Lethbridge is incorporating the principles of sustainable development into business planning.

- In 2003 an Environmental Manager position was established within City Hall however the position was discontinued in 2007. The Environmental Manager position was placed within Community Services with some responsibility to Infrastructure Services. It is our observation that the Environmental Manager position was not given a strategic leadership role; hence, there was not on a level playing field with business units directed towards economic growth and the traditional “business as usual” approach to municipal operations prevailed. There appeared to be little support for initiatives of the Environmental Manager within City Hall. There is a link on the City of Lethbridge website to an “Office of Environmental Management and Urban Sustainability” but there does not appear to be a human face to that “office”.

- In 2005, Lethbridge City Council approved strategic priorities for the 2004-2007 term. One of the thirteen priorities dealt with improving environmental quality, that being “to identify those factors which would impact a safe and secure water supply to the City and develop internal and external mitigation strategies”. (Ref: Working Together For Tomorrow: an integrated strategic plan for the City of Lethbridge 2004-2007). There was significant progress towards this goal with upgrades to the City’s water and wastewater treatment plants. The City of Lethbridge is considering external factors that may affect water quality and supply in the Oldman River headwaters through its involvement in the Oldman Watershed Council.

- Since 2004, representatives of the City of Lethbridge, SAGE and other organizations on the Urban Team of the Oldman Watershed Council developed and implemented a multi-stakeholder process to assist with improving urban stormwater quality in Lethbridge. Lethbridge stormwater has high levels of lawn chemicals. A key finding of a 2004 community survey and a 2006 workshop is that the large majority of Lethbridge citizens are receptive to changing their yard practices to benefit the river and human health. They expect the municipality to demonstrate leadership in building community commitment to improved environmental practice. (Ref: Lethbridge Stormwater Education Program: Design and Evaluation Report (2004) and Municipal Leadership in Improving Urban Stormwater: Report of a Workshop (2006)).

The City of Lethbridge has been improving stormwater management to comply with provincial requirements. Stormwater ponds are being constructed in newly developed communities (e.g. Uplands, Sunridge). Currently City Council is considering passage of a Drainage Bylaw that prohibits the release of specified materials into the stormwater drainage system and regulates connections made to the system. This is a measure that SAGE supports and considers long overdue. Furthermore, representatives of the City and SAGE are participating in the Prairie Urban Garden Group of OWC that is promoting use of xeriscaping principles.
In 2006 Alberta Environment announced that applications for new water allocation were no longer accepted in the Oldman River basin. This means that growth in the City of Lethbridge is limited by its current licensed water allocation unless new allocation is acquired through a license transfer. It is important that our plans for sustainable community recognize and reflect the limits of water supply in this semi-arid region that is expected to get more arid with climate change.

Economic Development Lethbridge (EDL) is a member of the Southern Alberta Alternative Energy Partnership which has developed a Green Growth Plan for the region including the expansion of alternative energy production mainly from wind power and waste-to-energy studies. SAGE has a representative on EDL.

The City of Lethbridge developed Canada’s first entirely ‘green’ neighbourhood based on Built Green principles. Every home must meet a minimum Built Green rating for environmentally friendly materials, systems and building practices that lower water and energy consumption, and reduce waste. In partnership with Cedar Ridge Quality Homes and Lethbridge College, The Living Home project was built to demonstrate best practices in green building. This is an important initiative towards sustainable community, however by continuing the practice of building suburbs of single family residential dwellings it does not address concerns about sprawl.

Approximately 1000 kg of waste is generated by each person in Alberta each year. Of this, less than 20% is diverted from the landfill. The City of Lethbridge has a rudimentary recycling program involving centralized collection points for plastics, glass, metals and cardboard. Electronics and toxic waste is presently separated at the Municipal Landfill for proper disposal. Trimark Engineering was recently commissioned to develop a preliminary study on Waste to Energy Treatment Alternatives in Southwest and South-Central Alberta focused mainly on incineration techniques to produce power. Advanced recycling, composting and anaerobic digestion were also mentioned in the report. Reducing and recycling are more sustainable approaches to solid waste management than landfilling or incineration.

In 2007 Lethbridge City Council committed to a strategic plan for the 2007-2010 term. The plan includes two priorities focusing on environmental quality. One priority is “to contain or reduce the community’s total impact on the environment” including developing an environmental policy and implementation plan that addresses water, energy, waste, air and soil. Another environmental priority is “to manage growth” including developing a sustainability plan as part of the Municipal Development Plan (ref: City of Lethbridge 2007-2010 Towards a Sustainable Future: an integrated strategic plan). Citizens were engaged in the process to define priorities.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Guided by an Environmental/Sustainability Office and Environmental Advisory Council

- A City Environmental /Sustainability Office is revitalized. It has the mandate and authority to direct and guide all business units to work towards environmental sustainability.

- The Environmental /Sustainability Office could be modeled like a Quality Control manager in an industrial setting. In this setting, Quality Control is the only department in the company not responsible for quality – the role is to measure quality performance and provide support to
achieve desired goals. Similarly, an Environmental Manager would not be responsible for implementing sustainability – each department would set targets and processes to achieve their goals. The Environmental Manager would monitor and measure department achievements and provide support where required. An organization can no more mandate sustainability than it can mandate quality – both must be integral to the spirit and operation of the organization.

- There is municipal leadership towards achieving sustainable community
- There is a mechanism for drawing on environmental expertise in the community that will contribute to achieving sustainable community (e.g. environmental advisory council to the Environmental/Sustainability Office).

- An environmental advisory council would be an ongoing City Circle. It would be created with a director and volunteer board, and it would include groups directly involved with the environmental health and sustainability of the region. Such a council would be modeled on the successful local examples of the Allied Arts Council, and Economic Development Lethbridge. The Environmental Advisory Council would provide the voice of engaged citizens and their collective expertise directly to the Environmental Manager. The relationship would be arm's-length from the City to ensure critical objectivity.

- An Environmental Advisory Council would, among other things:
  - Conduct ongoing scan of governance structures, plans and programs in other communities making progress towards sustainability (e.g. Green Communities Guide)
  - Inform decision makers about sustainable options appropriate in Lethbridge.
  - Define indicators of environmental quality, monitor these indicators and report on them on a regular basis (e.g. stormwater quality)
  - Evaluate how effectively the City of Lethbridge incorporates the principles of sustainable development into business planning.
  - Evaluate progress towards the environment goals of the Municipal Development Plan
  - Encourage citizen’s initiatives (resourcing, awards…)
  - Define and encourage initiatives that help citizens find meaning outside of consumerism including initiatives that help to build community connections (e.g. community halls, community gatherings, supporting locally produced goods and services)

Using Water Wisely

- There is widespread recognition that we live in an area that is “water short” and growth is limited by the water allocation available to the City of Lethbridge.
- There is widespread recognition that there is an increased risk of drought stress and less water supply due to climate change.
- There is widespread recognition that we are responsible to other residents in the Oldman River basin to manage water wisely through conservation, efficiency improvements and reducing water contamination.

- The City of Lethbridge is participating and investing in projects in the headwaters of the Oldman River and its tributaries (Waterton, Belly and St. Mary) that protect source waters.

- The Municipality undertakes full cost accounting that captures all costs related to provision of municipal water services and reports these costs.

- Savings in water use are linked to savings in energy for processing and distributing drinking water or treating wastewater.

- There is full metering and reporting of water use, including City use of water for irrigation delivered through Irrigation District canals.

- Infrastructure leakage is fully evaluated and addressed.

- Water use reduction targets are set.

- Programs are in place to encourage uptake of water efficient fixtures and technology. Options include rebates to builders and homeowners and a water use bylaw (examples exist for Red Deer, Okotoks, Calgary, Cochrane, Olds).

- Stormwater is captured (stormwater ponds, rain barrels etc.) and used instead of treated water for irrigation and industrial cooling.

- A bylaw is adopted and enforced that reduces contamination of stormwater.

- A monthly allowance of water per household is defined at a reasonable rate. Water used above that amount is subject to a substantial penalty rate.

- Xeriscaping practices are encouraged and the municipality leads by example.

- Lethbridge is working with other municipalities and irrigation districts to develop an efficient regional supply system.

**Reducing Urban Sprawl**

- There is full-cost accounting of the municipal infrastructure costs (water supply, wastewater treatment, transportation, solid waste management) associated with future expansion of the urban footprint. These costs are passed on to the developer(s) by attaching them to the cost of land allocated for development.

- Incentives are provided to redevelop and increase density of the current urban footprint (e.g. incentives to convert single family dwellings to multiple unit dwellings for students in residential areas near the University of Lethbridge).

- There are examples of development that are an alternative to suburbia and are more environmentally friendly, including:
○ development and redevelopment that provides ample options for matching space needs with family size (e.g. smaller houses, condominium complexes, modular housing units)
○ essential shopping facilities and community gathering places in each neighbourhood
○ big-box store development on City fringes is discouraged
○ downtown redevelopment that includes residences above commercial storefronts and encourages the Arts in the downtown
○ demonstrating use of environmentally friendly materials, technology and practices (e.g. Sunridge development, OWC Praire Urban Garden xeriscaping projects)
○ use of public transit is encouraged and is increasing
  ▪ delaying or forgoing construction of a third bridge crossing
○ use of bicycles for transportation is encouraged and increasing:
  ▪ designing a bicycle trail system with better connections and signage
  ▪ providing places to safely park bicycles in the downtown area and in other public places (perhaps partner with cycling shops in the City)
  ▪ linking bicycle and bus routes (continue putting bike racks on buses)
  ▪ implementing a rent-a-bike program

Reducing Solid Waste

- Initiatives are encouraged that help residents find meaning outside of consumerism
- The Municipality undertakes full cost accounting of solid waste management, reports this to citizens and implements a waste disposal fee structure that fully reflects the costs
- Building materials are recycled and kept out of the landfill
- The current recycling program is improved by:
  ○ providing recycling bins in more places
  ○ ensuring proper signage on bins
  ○ accepting all plastics
  ○ transparent reporting of what is collected and its recycled use
- Full curbside recycling is implemented following a trial program to sort out any issues
Kids at Play City Circle

Ideas Fair Survey Feedback
City Circle Name: Kids at Play – City Circle

City Circle Representative’s Name: Lyndsey Robinson

City Circle Topic of Interest:

Our original topic of interest was:

- Exploring options for indoor recreation opportunities for children, youth, and families in Lethbridge but the conversations began to include a lot of OUTdoor recreation opportunities as well, so that is what follows.
- 69 people joined this facebook city circle.

What is the current situation regarding your topic?

- There are a lot of parents of young children frustrated by the current indoor recreation facilities in Lethbridge.

- Some parents are nervous about biking on the side of the road while pulling a bike trailer with their child in it.

- Some people find the under-development of the West side hard to understand. Why, if according to our latest census, this area of town has the highest number of residents, and it continues to grow steadily at rates much larger than those of the rest of the city – do residents have to cross the river every time they need to access a variety of services?

- Concern about lack of indoor play space or gym space. Especially for use by families on the west side of Lethbridge.

- Some people believe that only non profit groups are allowed in school gyms and there is no gym space available at the pools/arenas that we do have.

Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest:

- the creation of more community and school gardens that are close to or integrated into playground areas.

- dedicated bike lanes would allow parents to feel safer and more comfortable biking with a child in tow.

- the university and college could offer regular opportunities for families to try free physical activities. Students could gain practical teaching and mentorship skills, the schools could promote their facilities and programs, and families could try a variety of activities they may not otherwise have tried. This type of initiative also promotes feelings of connectedness and community which is a very important
component to mental and social well being.

- the city could construct a kid’s play area in the Bay mall downtown. A good example of one is at Market Mall in Calgary. It’s not huge, but the kids love it, it’s free, and it brings people to the mall. If we had something like that downtown, it would serve a few different purposes: offering kids a place to come and get some physical activity, it would help to revitalize the downtown shopping as parents would inevitably come and spend some money while down there and it would serve as a gathering place for parents to come and socialize. The City would also need to make sure some desirable retailers were in that mall to make the whole idea viable; this should fit nicely with the whole “downtown revitalization” idea.

- a new movie theatre complex

- Wouldn’t it be great if the little indoor playgrounds we DO have weren’t just at McDonald's and Burger King, but at places where we eat HEALTHY choices?

- Offer West Lethbridge residents easier access to city services by: building a bridge connecting the west side with the south side and putting future developments on the west side.

- Open more community halls like they have in Calgary – they have moms and tots groups, family night outs, fitness classes, drop in times, festivals, potlucks, pub nights etc. You get to know your neighbours this way.

- If there is not gym space or an inside area available for playgroups or kid’s events/classes, then maybe a private facility or multi-use facility (like Okotoks Centre) needs to be built.

- Key on the expanded indoor play area that is planned for the new Family Centre. Promote it well and make sure it is accessible to all city residents.

- we need more fun free things to do with our kids

- build a leisure centre that has an indoor wave pool, workout room, skating arena, indoor playground, gymnastics room, etc.

- Something that would be good in the city is a park called GREEN GYM. You can visit their website at www.greengym.ca. It is a series of gym equipment pieces - like ellipticals and sit up machines and leg presses and arm presses and so on – where you use your body weight as the resistance. Everyone can enjoy themselves and do it and get a workout at the same time. The best part about this is it is outside and you don’t have to pay for a gym to use gym quality equipment. For all the people out there that don’t want to be seen in a gym these are awesome to use late at night when no one is around. They could be built near already existing parks so that we could use them as our kids are playing on the kids equipment or the kids could join us for a workout. It’s a great step toward a healthy future.
- The City could build and operate OR a private investor could build and operate a child activity facility such as:

  Giggles & Smiles - a supervised fitness and fun center for children ages 3 to 10. Giggles & Smiles' many gross-motor skill activities promote movement, which helps build strength, flexibility, balance and endurance, and helps to build each child's confidence.

  http://gigglesandsmiles.net/storefront/our_center.html

  Something like ENERGYPLEX in Kelowna. http://www.energylex.ca/index.htm. This indoor facility has a gymnastics centre, pool, climbing wall, activity cube where you climb up and through tubes, ladders, slides and agility spaces, gym-type spaces where they teach martial arts, dance, etc. There is also a healthy cafeteria and eating area. This complex does birthday parties and has plans to add an adult work out area with TV monitors so you can see your children taking various lessons in the adjacent areas. What an amazing way for families to be active together!
Family Recreation Activities: What does our city need? 
Survey Results- 52 surveys received 
November 2009

| Ranking | Option 1 | | | Option 2 | | | | Option 3 | | | | Option 4 | | | | Option 5 | | | | No Answer | | | | Ranking |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------| | | | | | | |
| 1st     | 13      | 25.00%  | 12      | 23.08%  | 9       | 17.31%  | 6       | 11.54%  | 12      | 23.08%  | 0       | 1st     |
| 2nd     | 10      | 19.23%  | 6       | 11.54%  | 10      | 19.23%  | 11      | 21.15%  | 11      | 21.15%  | 4       | 2nd     |
| 3rd     | 5       | 9.62%   | 6       | 11.54%  | 14      | 26.92%  | 12      | 23.08%  | 9       | 17.31%  | 6       | 3rd     |
| 4th     | 7       | 13.46%  | 9       | 17.31%  | 9       | 17.31%  | 9       | 17.31%  | 12      | 23.08%  | 6       | 4th     |
| 5th     | 13      | 25.00%  | 13      | 25.00%  | 4       | 7.69%   | 12      | 23.08%  | 4       | 7.69%   | 6       | 5th     |

Key:
- **Option 1**: More School and Community Gardens
- **Option 2**: Indoor Playgrounds for Kids
- **Option 3**: More Free Events at Current Venues
- **Option 4**: More Outdoor Family Fitness Fun
- **Option 5**: A Multi-Use Family Leisure Facility
CAL City Circle
Hi Brian,

The following is a list of ideas from the residents and staff at Columbia Assisted Living, regarding future planning in Lethbridge.

1. More amenities on the West side, e.g. restaurants, department stores, clothing stores.
2. More seating - like benches in the stores for the seniors because they often have a long wait for a ride.
3. Recreational facilities, such as roller skating rinks, arcades for the young people to hang out in.
4. Less signage along the roads, especially advertising.
5. More mom & pop stores.
6. There are too many senior facilities, and as a result every place has empty beds and staff are either having hours cut or finding a second job.

Thank you,

Columbia Assisted Living

Hi Brian,

One more idea came across my desk this afternoon - more 4 way stops.

Thanks,

Columbia Assisted Living
AAC Membership City Circle
Statements:
The leaders of our community need to understand and focus on the identity of our city. In terms of "The Arts" the name Lethbridge is favourably noted for 1) The University of Lethbridge Art Collection, 2) The Southern Alberta Art Gallery, 3) The Galt Museum and 4) The Japanese Garden. But we also have a small but growing number of smaller galleries which showcase local artists, an excellent live music scene, and a number of active visual artists' organization all of which are largely un-integrated and operating as separate entities. Cities with a successful Art scene draw people in from all around. Lethbridge should be known across the Country for its Arts. We need to take this opportunity to ponder our identity. Lethbridge is the hub for Southern Alberta and already draws many people in from surrounding smaller communities to take part in its Arts scene. The more visible the Arts are the more people will understand its importance and support it. The City needs to encourage integration by building Culture & the Arts together, making inclusiveness, cooperation & transparency its top priority. Funding & communications are crucial for creating awareness within the city and encouraging consensus building. We need to train the culture of our community. We also need to prepare ourselves for future generations, realizing the importance the Arts have in children’s lives as well as adults.

Problems:

1. Existing Arts Facilities are inadequate.

2. Getting a process through city departments has too many avenues and there is too much bureaucracy. It is difficult to use public spaces with the existing City bylaws. To encourage artistic endeavours, the City has to stop thinking strictly in business terms.

3. The City has unbalanced itself by encouraging people to drive to the outskirts to shop.

4. Lower income families are not able to afford programs.

5. There is a lack of support for local/newer arts groups. The City does not celebrate the talent that exists within Lethbridge. Major events taking place that draw some of the largest audiences/community, always showcase the same groups year after year. This makes it very difficult for new artists' groups to get showcased in the community. Announcements of public events, where artists' groups can participate, need to be advertised well in advance, with an audition/application process. Every major public event should be looked at for
the opportunity to draw in the arts community. When planning such events, it would be helpful to draw in representation, from the various arts groups, to be involved in the planning process. Above all, this would help showcase, and celebrate the great diversity that already exists in the city now and in the future.

6. Most financial support is based around sports, very little for the Arts.

7. Business license costs for Artists in their homes are outrageous. The high costs discourage Artists from coming to the surface.

8. Community and Artists are separate entities. The Arts exist primarily underground.

9. Lack of Public Art & acceptance of controversial Arts that stretch the boundaries. When publically funded Arts projects come up, there should be a fair and level playing field. The call should be well advertised. Public Art should be exciting, not just in the planning and choosing, but should keep/command the interest of people whenever they encounter it. Perhaps the Public Art Acquisition Committee should be expanded to include several community members in addition to the 2 council members, 2 arts community members and the member from downtown. There needs to be more public art, including more murals. The public acquisitions committee should take more chances with some very controversial art. Wind energy and the power to manifest razzle-dazzle kinetic artwork needs to be looked at. This is a project that could make Lethbridge a world tourist site. We can't stop the wind but we could harness some of it to produce unique artworks.

10. The City outsources a lot of their projects but provides inadequate funding. The AAC needs more funding to adequately do their job and to expand the services they currently offer.

Solutions:

1. The City’s Arts Facilities process needs to keep moving forward, seeing the completion of the SAAG, the Performing Arts Centre & the Community Arts Centre. The Yates theatre should be upgraded as necessary. The Performing Arts Centre & Community Arts Centre should be kept located downtown, both facilities requiring the space for greater public access. These facilities should encourage integration among the arts groups and encourage walking to and from Arts Destinations. Creating a cultural corridor will encourage integration. There needs to be more artist studio spaces offered in the downtown core. Local schools close at 6pm and mostly remain empty. These spaces should be
utilized more. Local artists could be encouraged to use empty school rooms allowing students to then see the processes and end products. Perhaps unused classroom space thus used would encourage more utilization of community artists/organizations in the education process.

2. There should be more leniencies for Arts Groups, allowing for more creative ideas to grow. The Regulations on City spaces needs to be reviewed and changed to allow for this. It should not be difficult to utilize these spaces. There should be lower cost rent for Arts Groups and benefits/ regulations for businesses that support the arts.

3. More housing & shopping opportunities should be created in the downtown core (Grocery Store is a must!). The City should be shovelling the sidewalks in the downtown area to allow for community walk-ability and to encourage access all year round.

4. More subsidizing should be made available to lower income families who are not able to afford some arts programs. Free arts programs should be encouraged.

5. All major city public events should include an Arts sector. Auditions should be held, giving the new and upcoming a chance. In general there should be larger, well funded, year round artistic events. Local talent should be looked at first for entertainment. It should be encouraged that the Arts partner up with other areas of the city and other organizitional events like the Rotary club Dragonboat Festival or the Show and Shine. They could be partnered up or run parallel to the events, to broaden and enrich, thus bringing more public on board.

6. More city money needs to be put towards the Arts. Sports & Arts should be on the same playing field.

7. Home business licenses need to be seriously reviewed and revised to encourage artists to continue to create and add colour to our community.

8. There should be more art sharing with the public. More public spaces should be available to display local art. The addition of the Arts should be in all City special events. More murals painted throughout the city.

9. The City's Public Art acquisition Programme should continue. In addition, a local artist in Residence Programme should be created. The City would cover the cost of the programme in lieu of artwork.

10. The City needs to recognize the value of the work that is being outsourced
and provide adequate program funding to organizations who work on behalf of the city, eg. the AAC.

11. The University Satellite campus should be located downtown.

12. The University Art Collection should be more accessible and visible, and should have gallery space downtown.

13. The City might think of a new web-portal where artists can view the availability of various city facilities and book space online. A model for this would be the same scheduling system used by city cooperative auto networks (e.g. that operate in Vancouver and elsewhere). This would mean that a group like AAC having funding and personnel to create and maintain this kind of database.

14. At large events, rather than having a single main stage, the city should aim to maximize benefits across the art community and community at large by having a number of stages (and sizes) to showcase talent and encourage more involvement, thus expanding arts and culture within the city.
Siever Family City Circle
1. What Lethbridge has that we like

- Gyro spray park
- Pools
- Museum
- Destinations are not far from each other
- Downtown spray park
- Library
- Gyms
- Art galleries
- Helen Schuler Nature Centre
- Hiking trails
- Whoop-Up Days
- Coulees
- River valley
- Walkability of downtown
- Second run movie theatre
- Variety of classes for children
- YMCA
- Great support for homeschoolers
- Theatres
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Nikka Yuko
- Galt Gardens
- Family-oriented

2. What we wish Lethbridge had

- Dinosaur museum
- Community leisure centres in each neighbourhood
- Shadow of the Bridge Festival was annual
- More support for home businesses
- Year-round farmers market
- Zoo
- An annual country fair (rides, livestock contests, gardening contests, etc)
- More support for xeriscaping
- Artisan market downtown in the summer
- 300 block of 6 St S closed off to vehicular traffic to allow for markets, fairs, festivals, etc.
- Bicycle lanes, more bicycle racks
- Transit to nearby communities
- Public indoor water park
- Saturday marathons
- Higher density development
- Parking downtown to be all underground or above storefront
- Priority given to transit at controlled intersections
5th on 5th Youth Services
Staff Meeting – September 4, 2009  City Circles

Transportation

- Bus system too slow; Casual Labour clients do not get to the job sites on time and many times job is completed before the client gets there.
- Bus system does not go out to the far regions of the city; does not go out far enough on the South and West side of the city, cannot get to job locations on 43rd street or out to the research station area.
- People need to arrive at work before starting time and therefore the schedule of on the hour and half-hour do not work. Worked better when the bus schedule was every 20 minutes instead of every 30 minutes as it is now.
- Bus system is under utilized in the morning hours because people have already started work before the bus systems first buses start in the morning especially related to shift work.
- We need a subway system before the year 2050.
- Need another bridge from the West Side of the city as soon as possible to accommodate the present traffic and future traffic.

Recreation

- We need a youth centre for kids, with Skate Park, and drop-in centre.
- Maybe have the drop-in centre operated by the police force.
- Need a Sporting Complex, like the city of Medicine Hat has, a facility where youth can meet and play games, etc, where they can play all kinds of different sports and other creative activities; a place where they can sit and chat with friends.
- A place where people can play basketball recreationally and that is affordable to all.

Job Situation

- Create a recreation facility where youth can be employed and services will be provided to the general public.
- Employers do not feel youth under 18 years of age are very reliable; hence they will wait for University or College students to fill their job requirements.
- Early training in schools to encourage work ethics; rather than have employers try to teach employees basic work skills.
- People quitting school to work before they have obtained their high school diploma. We need to promote education throughout society to assist youth to understand the value of education.
- Re-arrange the school system to adapt to the fact that many people would be better with vocational training rather than academics. We need to have the school system show these youth that they are as important and valuable as those attending University.
- “Math Pure – is not meant for all to learn; it is not practical.”
- Bring in school uniforms; less teasing and taunting and separate the boys and girls, particularly in Junior and Senior High School.
• Street gangs are a problem – graffiti is terrible. Perhaps installing security cameras in the downtown area would assist to stop some of the vandalism by street youth.
• Make parents more responsible for their children.
• More restitution for the crime and parents should have to accompany their child.
• Better funding for not-for-profits that assist people who fall through the cracks of the normal life routine.
• Not enough resources for people with disabilities at any age in Lethbridge.
• More feasible ways for young people to obtain their high school diploma or GED after dropping out of the school at a young age.
• Aboriginals feeling like they need to change their names on their resumes so they won’t be discriminated against.
Language **Supports for Newcomers in Lethbridge**
City Circle “Language Supports for Newcomers in Lethbridge”

City Circle session held by the Southern Alberta Language Assessment Services (SALAS) business, located at 7 St. South in Lethbridge. Six people participated in this session and brainstormed on the above topic. Newcomers was defined primarily as immigrants, refugees, and foreign workers.

The results of this topic can be divided into three sections: suggestions for the City of Lethbridge, suggestions for Lethbridge Service Organizations, and suggestions for the Chamber of Commerce and other businesses.

City of Lethbridge

- include more welcoming information on city website, including links to Service provider organizations for language assessment and training here in Lethbridge
- offer a coupon book for city attractions that would include passes to places like the Galt Museum & Archives, Fort Whoop Up, Japanese Gardens, city pools, etc.
- hold a reception every three months at city hall to welcome newcomers to the city, invite them to Council meeting that week.
- Outside of city hall have a neon sign with information on “This Week in Lethbridge” that lists activities open to the public
- Provide information at city bus stops on times of service and city activities

Service Organizations

- Ask newcomers club to make an effort to include immigrants and refugees
- Have mosque and churches examine interfaith education opportunities
- Pay membership fees for scouts, sports clubs, etc. for first year for children of immigrants and refugees if this is needed
- Could use Canadian volunteers with teen groups, women’s groups, provide guest speakers, work out of city hall
- Seniors’ Associations could seek out immigrants to involve them in their memberships and activities

Chamber of Commerce and Lethbridge businesses

- C of C. Committee on immigrants as part of the workforce (labour pool) in Lethbridge...how do we access this pool of talent
- Meeting employer needs...issues surrounding employing immigrants...could be a topic through the HR Directors’ Association
- Volunteer Lethbridge could invite immigrants to volunteer in their community once they are familiar with getting around in Lethbridge
- Local radio stations could play music that is more international
- Could fund newcomer survey to determine how immigrants perceive Lethbridge...what they experienced when they first came and what they would have liked/appreciated.

Submitted by [Name Redacted] President, SALAS Ltd.
Growing **Food Security** in Lethbridge & Area
City Circle Name: Growing Food Security in Lethbridge & Area

City Circle Topic of Interest: Food Security: Equity & Access to Nutritious Food

What is the current situation regarding your topic?

Growing Food Security in Lethbridge & Area includes representatives from various organizations including the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank, The Salvation Army (Community & Family Services), The Lethbridge Food Bank, Community Good Food Club, The Chinook Country Interfaith Community Kitchen, Lethbridge Community Gardens, Making Connections (Galbraith Elementary School), Blood Tribe Food Security, and Community Nutrition AB Health Services. Our mission: A coalition of agencies that strives to achieve food security through education, advocating and influencing change to provide better health and quality of life for southwest AB. Some food security issues identified by the coalition include:

• Along with shelter, clothing and water, food is a basic human need. A lack of nutritious, adequate food is related to crime, education, mental health, depression and overall health and well-being. Lethbridge currently does not have a Food Charter to support the right to nutritious adequate food.

• Access and location to city community gardens is lacking; the current north side location is inconvenient or too far for the majority of Lethbridge residents. There currently is a 3 year waiting list to obtain a plot so this also limits access. Lethbridge Housing currently does not allow their residents to plant gardens on lots.

• Access and time period to farmers markets is limited.

• Low income residents often face transportation barriers to access grocery stores and existing food security programs such as the Community Good Food Club, Community Kitchens and to Food Banks.

• There is currently no gleaning project in Lethbridge for excess produce from people yards and gardens. Many of the food charity organizations receive excess buns, breads, sweet rolls, etc. but are lacking fresh produce.

• There are many agencies working to provide fundamentally similar services involving food security and all make a great effort to obtain adequate, nutritious food to their clients.

• Twenty percent of student’s surveyed in Lethbridge and area schools (4768 in total) reported a 20% rate of some food security issues, e.g., often going hungry, worrying about getting enough food to eat, etc. (June 2003)

• School kitchen facilities are currently under utilized during the evening and weekends for community kitchen projects.

Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest?

• Adopt a Food Charter to “Put Food Back on the Table” and make food security a priority within the community.

• Increase the number of community gardens available in the city to rent out. Utilize under utilized parks and land areas for community gardens. Provide City of Lethbridge zoning bylaws which will support land availability for community gardens. Increase the number of perennial fruit trees and bushes throughout the city; e.g., raspberries, saskatoons, apples, rhubarb, etc.

• Increase hours of Saturday farmers market and provide more locations throughout the city for additional markets similar to the downtown and Westside market. Change the location of the Westside farmers market to a more populated and accessible location, e.g., University parking lot, Shopper’s Drug mart parking lot or Nicholas Sheran parking lot (Leisure Centre, School or Park).
Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest? (Cont.)

- Support a city gleaning project which would help to increase fresh produce donations. A greenhouse project and a community garden located by the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen and Shelter would also help to increase fresh produce available throughout the winter months.
- Improve access to school kitchen facilities for families and individuals to participate in community kitchen projects.
- Improve transportation access for low-income residents to farmer’s markets, grocery stores, Good Food Club program, community kitchens, community gardens, food banks, etc.
- Maximize human and material resources to improve service and decrease duplication and overhead costs of food-related charity organizations or projects.
- Increase public awareness of the opportunities to improve food security and build a stronger community for better health and an improved quality of life.
- Work to improve the five A’s for Food Security:
  1. Availability - sufficient supplies of food for all people at all times
  2. Accessibility - physical and economic access to food for all at all times Acceptability - culturally acceptable and appropriate food and distribution systems
  3. Adequacy - nutritional quality, safety, sustainability of available sources/methods of food supply
  4. Action - ensuring the social and economic infrastructures are in place to enable action that will ensure the previous four elements of food security.
Galt Museum & Archives Board City Circle
In talking about the importance of history to planning for our future, we identified a number of themes that we feel need to be reflected in the upcoming Integrated Community Stability Plan. We focused on the importance of our history to helping meet one of the challenges identified by the Metroquest team: to provide high quality cultural and social services. We also believe that a community's memory is a vital to maintaining a high quality of life. Following are our ideas about what will be important to preserving, building, and communicating our community memory.

(1) Preserve our stories.

* It is important to recognize that preserving our history is about more than what takes place inside a museum. It also needs to consider where history is made. We would like to see the physical buildings, structures, and spaces where our stories happen preserved. An example of this would be historic building designations.

* We all have an interest in the preservation of the community’s stories. It is important to record our collective, civic history not only for generations to come but to create a sense of community between those who live here now.

* History is about more than just the group’s story; it is also about individuals’ stories. We would like to see a place where individuals can share their stories. Again, this is as important in the present for the understanding it fosters as it will be for its historic value in the future.

(2) Share our stories.

* It will not be enough to keep the spaces, items, stories, etc. We must also ensure that there are spaces where our stories are shared. This means both sharing our history and to communicate current stories.

* History is not the exclusive realm of museums. It will be important for the future of Lethbridge to make connections with different groups. The opportunity for shared community spaces for story-sharing and story-building is essential. This may be with the Arts (e.g. Theatre space that can be used by different groups for different purposes); it may be parks and recreation (e.g. the current preservation of Indian Battle Park for both its historic significance and for what park space brings to citizens); it also includes working with educational institutions at all levels.

(3) Ensure the physical spaces and resources are available.

* Finally, it is not enough to say our history is important or to encourage sharing our stories. There must be the physical spaces for:

  o Preservation and keeping (adequate collections and archives spaces);
  o Sharing and constructing our stories;
  o Communicating stories from our past; and
  o Making connections to others stories (Arts, Recreation, Education).

* It will also be important to keep resources accessible by using the best methods for preserving and communicating. The next forty years will certainly see changes in technology that can help communicate and keep our stories. It will be essential to take advantage of these technologies to help keep our stories.
Lethbridge Healthy Communities
City Circle Name: Lethbridge Healthy Communities

City Circle Representative's Name: [Name Redacted]

City Circle topic of interest: Health of Lethbridge Residents with an emphasis on active living, healthy eating and tobacco reduction.

What is the current situation regarding your topic?
- Poor nutritional food and beverage choices in city facility vending machines and canteens, e.g., city arenas and sports centres which serve many families with children do not follow the Alberta Nutrition Guidelines
- Lethbridge and Southern Alberta Childhood obesity rates are amongst the highest in Canada at 28%
- Access and location to city community gardens is lacking; the current north side location is inconvenient or too far for the majority of Lethbridge residents
- Outdated playground equipment in city parks and playgrounds, plus limited facilities for young families
- Access and time period to farmers markets is limited

Please share your ideas to improve or implement your topic of interest?
- Improved food and beverage choices in public arena vending machines and canteens following the Alberta Nutrition Guidelines; particularly for facilities which serve mostly children and youth.
- Increase awareness of what Healthy Communities and its partners offer as far as programming and resources.
- Increase the number of community gardens available in the city to rent out. Utilize underused park and land area for community gardens. And/or increase the number of perennial fruit trees and bushes throughout the city; e.g., raspberries, saskatoons, apples, rhubarb, etc.
- Improved or updated playground areas for families with children; especially in older communities throughout the city. Include tennis courts and ice arenas in more locations.
- Offer subsidised support for low income families for facility usage
- Increase hours of Saturday farmers market and provide more locations throughout the city for additional markets similar to the downtown and Westside market. Change the location of the Westside farmers market to a more populated and accessible location, e.g., University parking lot, Shopper’s Drug mart parking lot or Nicholas Sheran parking lot (Leisure Centre, School or Park).
- Find “champions” from City Council that support our initiatives regularly
- Understand what problems exist for community members ie. Time, transportation, money etc.
CMARD City Circle: Building a Welcoming and Inclusive Community
CMARD City Circle
Building a Welcoming and Inclusive Community

Plan Your City submission from the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) Committee.

NOVEMBER 24, 2009
5 Areas of Focus

We have chosen to focus on five different areas:

1) Safety
2) Involvement
3) Building Relationships
4) Accessibility
5) Quality of Life
#1 - Safety

**Goal:**
To ensure that the community remains safe and that our residents’ perception of safety is effectively addressed.

- We need to work towards:
  - Creating an environment that supports all forms of safety - not just physical safety but safety in a more holistic sense
  - Changing personal perceptions towards minority groups
  - Improving transit hours of operation as they can play a role in safety as well
#1 – Safety Cont’

- We need to consider:
  - The influence we have on our children
  - The role that media plays in how community issues are portrayed to the public

- We would like to see a community where all members feel safe by 2050.
#2 - Involvement

**Goal:**
To promote active involvement of residents in all facets of governance and community life

- We need to encourage:
  - Civil engagement and political involvement
  - Feeling comfortable and welcome in the community - “this is your community”
  - Community connections

- We need to work towards
  - Equality and fair competition
  - Dispelling myths about minority groups
#2 – Involvement Cont’

- We need to consider:
  - the importance of Teacher’s influence on children

- We need to provide:
  - Opportunities for people to be active participants
  - An ongoing open venue for discussion of community issues
  - Access to online networking and discussion forums

- We would like to see full participation in all facets of community life by 2050
#3 – Building Relationships

Goal:
To cooperate with our municipal and First Nations neighbours; strengthening our region

- We need to:
  - Understand the historical context and what our collective vision for the future is
  - Listen to the Elder’s and appreciate the information and wisdom they can provide
  - Strengthen the education on aboriginal history for youth in our schools
#3 – Building Relationships Cont’

- We face some barriers:
  - Western alienation and provincial alienation
  - Underrepresentation of the Alberta South Region

- We want to see a community with no perceived boundaries or barriers between our municipal and First Nations neighbours by 2050.
#4 – Accessibility

**Goal:**
To ensure that recreation, transportation, housing, education and employment opportunities are economically and physically accessible to all of our residents

- We need to:
  - Ensure equal opportunities for all residents
  - Create the systems that help us to interact and form linkages
  - Improve public transportation between neighboring communities

- We would like to see a community where no opportunity is missed due to lack of accessibility by 2050.
#5 – Quality of Life

**Goal:**
To balance cultural, social, economic, and environmental policies and programs to achieve a high quality of life for all residents

- We need to:
  - Respect and celebrate diversity in our community (i.e. Gay Pride Celebration, Ethnic Celebrations)
  - Listen to others
  - Create a sense on belonging and respect throughout Lethbridge

- We want to see a community where all residents feel respected and have a high quality of life by 2050.
Thank you
Lethbridge Astronomy Society
October 19, 2009
Brian Conger, Community Infrastructure, Canada
AECOM  514 Stafford Drive North
Lethbridge, AB.

Dear Mr. Conger,
Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of ‘Plan Your City’. As with others participating in
this program, the Lethbridge Astronomy Society also wants to ensure that the future offers
quality life for its citizens, environment and protects resources we value.

One resource that we believe is worth protecting is a natural dark night sky – a rare commodity
in an urban setting. Lethbridge is fortunate to have this resource at Popson Park where the
Lethbridge Astronomy Society and Oldman River Observatory are located.

Because the park is free from light pollution, our society has been able to provide educational
programs and hold astronomical events for our community for the last 20 years. Thousands of
people including school and service groups have accessed our Centre. As well, for over a
decade, the University Physics Department has hired us to teach the lab component of their
astronomy curriculum at our Centre. A few years ago, the labs (that were once taught at the
university campus) was relocated to our Centre because of the dark skies and facility we offer.

Because Popson Park provides a true reprieve from light pollution, citizens are able to
experience a dark night sky within an urban setting. Through our programs citizens are able to
learn about the universe, then step outdoors and actually see constellations, planets and
phenomena such as meteor showers and aurora. Through our telescopes they can peer even
deeper into the heavens and see galaxies and other celestial wonders.

With good planning this precious resource can continue to be available to our citizens and the
creatures that we share the park with. It is our hope is to have Popson Park designated an Urban
Dark Sky Park so that the skies will be protected now and for future generations. As
development inches its way southward towards the park, we ask that we be included in talks and
urban planning to ensure that we not destroy or downgrade the resource that we currently value
and enjoy.

Light Pollution Committee

cc: Robert D. McKay, Plan Your City Project Manager
Two Ideas Circle
“I would like two things to happen for things to happen for this city: one is to have a company called Wild Health that sells herbal plants with all the needed resources for growing and collecting the seed for sustainability and their uses. A club that shares this exploration of knowledge and a garden design firm for the disabled to design their own successful garden. A greenhouse run by its members either to suit a purchase or to learn in a greenhouse. And [REDACTED] to successfully run it.

Secondly, I would like to see a youth drop-in centre privately funded to host all types of small events like improvisational skills and improve nights. A night coffee shop, poetry weekly and art space freely, comfortable seating for the occasional
nap, good music at will and anthropology for kids. Tables that go up and down to the revolving around the days busy calendar. Every hobby’s house. Basically a youth hostel with pazzaz.

Age: 27
APPENDIX A

City Circles Newsletters
City Circles August Newsletter

Hello All:

First and foremost I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that has registered a City Circle to-date. As of today we have a total of 34 City Circles registered throughout the City that are actively contributing policy shaping information for the City of Lethbridge “Plan Your City” Municipal Development Plan/ Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (MDP/ICSP).

The intent of this newsletter is to update all registered City Circles about some of the exciting things that have been going on with Plan Your City and some of the key events and dates as we move forward with the Plan.

We are currently in the Policy Alternatives Phase of the Plan Your City MDP/ICSP following the successful adoption of the Plan Your City Vision by Council on June 15th. The Vision Statement, Principles and Goals, which comprise the Plan Your City Vision, set forth the direction we as a community want to move towards over the 40 year horizon of this Plan (see online for a copy of the Vision).

As we move forward with the development of potential policies there are a few key events and dates in the near future:

- City Circles Submission Deadline - September 8th
- City Circles Ideas Fair Orientation - September 17th
- Plan Your City Policy Alternatives Open Houses - October 14th, 15th, and 17th
- Plan Your City Ideas Fair - October 17th

City Circles Submission Deadline
We are asking all City Circles to submit their ideas to the City Circles Coordinator Brian Conger by September 8th. We would also appreciate at this time if you could please let us know if your Circle is intending to participate in the Ideas Fair so that we can begin preparations.

City Circles Ideas Fair Orientation
On September 17th we will be holding an Ideas Fair Orientation in the Culver City room at City Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 pm for all City Circles that have participated in the planning process. At this meeting we will be discussing how City Circles can prepare for the Ideas Fair and best present their ideas to the community at large. This will also be an opportunity for City Circles to mingle and share their ideas with one another.
**Plan Your City Policy Alternatives Open Houses**

On October 14th, 15th, and 17th, a series of three Open Houses will be held throughout Lethbridge in order to give residents an opportunity to view the potential policies that have been developed to-date. The first Open House will be held on October 14th at the Children of St. Martha’s School on the west side and will run from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. The second Open House will be held on October 15th at Park Meadows School on the north side and will run from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. The third and final Open House will run on October 17th, the same day as the Ideas Fair at City Hall, with a presentation at 1:30 in the afternoon in the Culver City Room. While these Open Houses are not part of the City Circle process they are an opportunity for everyone in the City to participate in the policy development process and such you are welcome to attend.

**Plan Your City Ideas Fair**

On Saturday October 17, the City of Lethbridge will be holding Plan Your City Ideas Fair from 10:00 to 3:00 pm in the atrium of City Hall. You are invited to participate by creating displays of any type – videos, display panels, slide shows, write-ups, plans, or cultural presentations such as dance, song, poetry – anything that talks about the Lethbridge of the future. One key aspect of the Ideas Fair will be the Ideas Fair Awards; all participants in the Ideas Fair will be eligible to win Cash Awards up to $500.

All City Circles are encouraged to participate in the Ideas Fair as this will be a fantastic opportunity to present your ideas to people throughout our City. We ask that any Audio/Visual Entries be submitted with a hardcopy (CD/DVD) by **October 5th** so that we can prepare your entry, and that any Print/Graphic Entries be at City Hall by 4:00pm on **October 16th**, the night before the Ideas Fair.

More information about all three events is provided online at [www.lethbridge.ca](http://www.lethbridge.ca)

On a final note, we have an opportunity for interested City Circles to discuss their ideas with the Media. If you are interested please inform City Circles Coordinator Brian Conger and he will add you contact name and information (provided in the Sign-up Form) to the media contact list. It is important to note that this does not mean that you will be contacted.

Should you have any questions about any of the City Circles registered to-date please feel free to contact AECOM Planner and City Circle Coordinator **Brian Conger** at brian.conger@aecom.com, or City of Lethbridge Senior Planner and Plan Your City Project Manager **Robert McKay** at rmckay@lethbridge.ca.

Sincerely,

**Brian Conger, BA**  
Planner, Community Infrastructure, AECOM  
City Circles Coordinator

**Robert McKay, MCIP, ACP**  
Senior Community Planner, City of Lethbridge  
Plan Your City Project Manager
Hello All:

Once again I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that has registered a City Circle. To-date we have a total of 48 City Circles registered throughout Lethbridge that are actively contributing policy shaping information for the City of Lethbridge “Plan Your City” Municipal Development Plan/ Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (MDP/ICSP).

As we continue forward with the Policy Alternatives Phase of the Plan Your City MDP/ICSP several key events and dates draw nearer:

- **City Circles Submission Deadline** - September 8th
- **City Circles Ideas Fair Orientation** - September 17th
- **Plan Your City Policy Alternatives Open Houses** - October 14th, 15th, and 17th
- **Plan Your City Ideas Fair** - October 17th

**City Circles Submission Deadline**
Submissions are starting to roll in. Of the 48 City Circles currently registered, 16 Circles have made submissions. It is important to note that if you are planning on participating in the Ideas Fair we do not need your final Ideas Fair display for the September 8th submission deadline.

**City Circles Ideas Fair Orientation**
As stated in our last newsletter, we will be holding an Ideas Fair Orientation on September 17th in the Culver City room at City Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 pm for all City Circles that have participated in the planning process. At this meeting we will be discussing how City Circles can prepare for the Ideas Fair and best present their ideas to the community at large. This will also be an opportunity for City Circles to mingle and share their ideas with one another. Mayor Bob Tarleck has also confirmed that he will attend the orientation to extend a thank you to all City Circle participants.

**Plan Your City Policy Alternatives Open Houses**
On October 14th, 15th, and 17th, a series of three Open Houses will be held throughout Lethbridge in order to give residents an opportunity to view the potential policies that have been developed to-date. The first Open House will be held on October 14th at the Children of St. Martha’s School on the west side and will run from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. The second Open House will be held on October 15th at Park Meadows School on the north side and will run from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. The third and final Open House will be held at City Hall at the same time as the Ideas Fair on October 17th, a presentation will be made at 1:30 in the afternoon in the Culver City Room. While these Open Houses are not part of the City Circle process they are an opportunity for everyone in the City to participate in the policy development process and as such you are welcome to attend.

* Open House locations are subject to confirmation. Should an unforeseen change occur notification will be provided.
Plan Your City Ideas Fair
On Saturday October 17, the City of Lethbridge will be holding Plan Your City Ideas Fair from 10:00 to 3:00 pm in the atrium of City Hall. You are invited to participate by creating displays of any type – videos, display panels, slide shows, write-ups, plans, or cultural presentations such as dance, song, poetry – anything that talks about the Lethbridge of the future. One key aspect of the Ideas Fair will be the Ideas Fair Awards; all participants in the Ideas Fair will be eligible to win Cash Awards up to $500.

All City Circles are encouraged to participate in the Ideas Fair as this will be a fantastic opportunity to present your ideas to people throughout our City. We ask that any Audio/Visual Entries be submitted with a hardcopy (CD/DVD) by October 5th so that we can prepare your entry, and that any Print/Graphic Entries be at City Hall by 4:00 pm on October 16th, the night before the Ideas Fair.

More information about all three events is provided online at www.lethbridge.ca

Community Advisory Group
On a final note, many City Circles have been curious about the various committees responsible for the effective development of the Plan Your City MDP/ICSP. One key committee is the Community Advisory Group (CAG); a steering committee made up of representatives of various organisations and institutions from throughout Lethbridge as well as four Alderman and selected members from the community at large. The role of the CAG has been to provide ideas and advice on the various activities undertaken throughout the planning process. As such, the CAG has played a pivotal role in the development of the Plan Your City Vision and are currently assisting in the creation and review of potential policies, many of which will be based on, or refined by, feedback from City Circles.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact AECOM Planner and City Circle Coordinator Brian Conger at 403.329.7139 or brian.conger@aecom.com, and/or City of Lethbridge Senior Planner and Plan Your City Project Manager Robert McKay at 403.320.4041 or rmckay@lethbridge.ca.

Sincerely,

Brian Conger, BA
Planner, Community Infrastructure, AECOM
City Circles Coordinator

Robert McKay, MCIP, ACP
Senior Community Planner, City of Lethbridge
Plan Your City Project Manager
Hello All:

As we come close to the end of the Policy Alternatives Phase of the Plan Your City MDP/ICSP I want to thank every one of the 54 City Circles who participated in the City Circle process. This final newsletter addresses the remaining two events before we begin the Policy Review Phase of the Plan:

- Plan Your City Policy Alternatives Open Houses - October 14th, 15th, and 17th
- Plan Your City Ideas Fair - October 17th

**Plan Your City Policy Alternatives Open Houses**

On October 14th, 15th, and 17th, a series of three Open Houses will be held throughout Lethbridge in order to give residents an opportunity to view the potential policies that have been developed to-date, please feel free to attend one of the following Open Houses and provide input:

- **Open House #1**
  - October 14th at the Children of St. Martha’s School on the west side; 6:30 to 9:00 pm
- **Open House #2**
  - October 15th at Park Meadows School on the north side; 6:30 to 9:00 pm
- **Open House #3**
  - October 17th in the Culver City Room at City Hall during the Ideas Fair; Presentation at 1:30

**Plan Your City Ideas Fair**

On Saturday October 17, the City of Lethbridge will be holding Plan Your City Ideas Fair from 10:30 to 4:00 pm in the atrium of City Hall. I want to say thank you to the 20 City Circles who are participating in the Ideas Fair alongside resident artists and professionals throughout the City.

**Come on down and visit the Ideas Fair!**

**Sustainable Community Initiatives Funding**

A great funding opportunity is available for interested City Circles. Recently City Circle Participant Steve McGlenn attended the Impact! Youth Conference on Sustainability in Guelph, Ontario and has been given access to an endowment fund created by the sponsor's of the conference. If you would like to find out how to attain funding to further develop the topics you have explored within your City Circle please contact Steve at stephen.mcglenn@uleth.ca. The deadline for funding is October 30th.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact AECOM Planner and City Circle Coordinator **Brian Conger** at 403.329.7139 or brian.conger@aecom.com, and/or City of Lethbridge Senior Planner and Plan Your City Project Manager **Robert McKay** at 403.320.4041 or rmckay@lethbridge.ca.

Sincerely,

Brian Conger, BA  
Planner, Community Infrastructure, AECOM  
City Circles Coordinator

Robert McKay, MCIP, ACP  
Senior Community Planner, City of Lethbridge  
Plan Your City Project Manager
Hello All:

On behalf of the Plan Your City Development Team I want to extend a warm thank you to the hundreds of residents from Lethbridge and the surrounding region who participated in the City Circles and Ideas Fair.

A special thank you goes to the dozens of people involved in creating the 41 displays that filled the Atrium at City Hall. The variety of displays, including dance, videos, poetry, interactive art, booths, collages and live music, created a truly festive atmosphere. Your time and effort shows an extraordinary commitment to ensuring that Lethbridge is a great place to live, work and play.

Congratulations to the Ideas Fair contest winners!
The official advertisement that will be included in the Lethbridge Herald on October 31st has been attached to this newsletter. Please Contact Plan Your City Project Manager Robert McKay at 403.320.4041 or rmckay@lethbridge.ca if you are a winner.

All of the information gathered these past five months will be compiled into the Ideas Book that will be used to refine policies within the Plan and identify any gaps that may exist. Your input will help us develop a Plan that strives to make this City a better place for everyone over the next 40 years.

Once again, thank you all!

Sincerely,

Robert McKay, MCIP, ACP
Senior Community Planner, City of Lethbridge
Plan Your City Project Manager

Brian Conger, BA
Planner, Community Infrastructure, AECOM
City Circles Coordinator
PLAN YOUR CITY
Ideas Fair

Thanks for sharing your ideas!

The City of Lethbridge thanks the hundreds of Lethbridge residents who attended the Plan Your City Ideas Fair. Your input will help develop a Plan to make the City of Lethbridge great for everyone throughout the next 40 years.

A special thank you to those involved in creating more than 40 displays that filled the City Hall Atrium. The variety of displays, including dance, videos, poetry, interactive art, booths, collages and live music created a truly festive atmosphere. Congratulations to our contest winners!

And the winners are...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People's Choice</th>
<th>Audio/Visual</th>
<th>Print/Graphic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Celebrating Diversity Group: Ethnic Dancing and Music</td>
<td>Bikebridge Cycle: Removing Barriers to Cycling in Lethbridge Interactive Display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel Prize A</td>
<td>Allied Arts Council, Lethbridge Registered Music Teachers: Live Music</td>
<td>Biodiversity and Ecological Integrity: Nature Web and Display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel Prize B</td>
<td>Curbside Recycling in Lethbridge Video</td>
<td>Allied Arts Council, Bowman Arts Centre Staff and Volunteers: Painting a Great City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel Prize C</td>
<td>Community Gardens in Lethbridge Video</td>
<td>Lethbridge Astronomy Society: Light Pollution Committee Display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel Prize D</td>
<td>Planning Our City Video</td>
<td>Ability Resource Centre: Limited Access Collage</td>
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</tbody>
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APPENDIX B
City Circles Pamphlet & Ideas Fair Poster
What is a City Circle??

A City Circle is a self-formed and self-managed group of Lethbridge residents who want to help with preparing the new Plan. To form a City Circle get a group of friends together; they can be from work, school, sport, extracurricular activities, an existing organization, your family, or all of the above – there are no rules for how your Circle organizes itself.

Your City Circle will meet when and where its members want and discuss any community related issue you choose such as:

- Arts, Heritage, CULTURE, Parks, recycling, SUSTAINABILITY, zoning, roads, CITY GROWTH, pesticide use, RECREATION, affordable housing, protecting the river valley.

From May to September 2009 your City Circle can meet as many or few times as you want and prepare input for the Plan. There is no limit to the number of City Circles that you can form or be part of.

Your ideas will MAKE a DIFFERENCE

Why Join or Create a City Circle?

Everyone seems to have an opinion about what makes a great community – those are the ideas we need to hear to plan the future. It is great to work with new and old friends to create something that makes a lasting difference.

The Vision:

A Public Conversation

We know that many people in Lethbridge will form City Circles – students, neighbours, friends, and families. We will help but creating the Circle will basically be up to you.

ALL IDEAS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE PLAN

How to Run a City Circle:

Some suggestions on how to make the most of your meetings may include the following:

- SET, DISTRIBUTE AND STICK TO AN AGENDA – an agenda is used to focus your meeting. Input into the agenda should reflect the needs, interests and concerns of all group members. It should be distributed in advance of the meeting to help group members gather their thoughts and be better-prepared for the discussion.

- ASSIGN A NOTE-TAKER – good ideas often come at a fast pace and they need to be recorded. Your final output will be a list of issues and solutions and your notes will form the basis of this list.

- Submit!!

Submissions:

Once your Circle has come up with ideas you feel are ready for submission please send them to us in any format. All submissions will be reviewed and presented to the public. Your ideas will be published in the Plan Your City Ideas Book. We will be holding an Ideas Fair in October at which time all City Circles will be invited to display and/or present their ideas to the public. You can participate in any format or language. We will translate.

Tentative Schedule:

There are three optional meetings scheduled for City Circle participants; the first meeting will occur on May 26th at 7:00 pm in City Hall Council Chambers, and will provide orientation for City Circles. The second meeting scheduled for early September will provide an update of the Plan’s progress to-date and how to prepare for the Ideas Fair. The final meeting will be the Plan Your City Ideas Fair, held on October 17th in the main foyer at City Hall.
Have Your Say
PLAN YOUR CITY

Every so often an opportunity comes along where you get to play an integral role in the development and success of the place you call home. For Lethbridge residents this opportunity is now.

Over the next year, The City of Lethbridge will be preparing a Municipal Development Plan for the next 40 years.

The ‘Plan Your City’ Municipal Development Plan / Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (MDP/ICSP) is the primary planning document that maps out the future of our city and we need your ideas about how the city should grow and operate.

The final Plan will address such things as:

- How and where should the City grow?
- Environmental issues and sustainability
- New development – height, density, architecture
- Social issues and needs
- Economic development
- Transportation
- Parks
- Recreation and Culture
- and much more

The best way to be involved in this Plan is to form a CITY CIRCLE

Contact

Working together, the City and AECOM will collect all input received from City Circles. The City Circle Coordinator is AECOM Planner, BRIAN CONGER. Brian can be reached at brian.conger@aecom.com or 403-329-7139. The City Planner responsible for the Plan is ROBERT MCKAY. Robert can be reached at rmckay@lethbridge.ca or 403-320-4041. Either Brian or Robert can answer any questions you may have.

It will take some imagination and maybe a bit of courage to create a City Circle.

For registration and should you have any questions or require further clarification, please call Brian or Robert.
How to Make Lethbridge Better
- we want YOUR ideas

PLAN YOUR CITY IDEAS FAIR
at City Hall, October 17th

You are invited to participate in this unique opportunity by creating displays of any type – videos, display panels, slide shows, write-ups, plans, interactive art, or cultural presentations such as dance, song, and poetry – anything that talks about the future of our community.

There are two categories, Audiovisiual and Print/Graphic. Each category will have a $500 People’s Choice Award as determined by Ideas Fair attendees, as well as four $250 Panel Prizes that will be awarded based on the review of the judge’s panel.

Restrictions do apply please visit the website for more information.

www.lethbridge.ca and follow the PLAN YOUR CITY links