



City ramps up accessibility on Whyte Avenue

October 19, 2016

A new pilot project is ramping up on Whyte Avenue this week. The project, Incline to Include, will see a number of temporary accessible ramps installed at selected storefronts on Whyte Avenue. The project is a collaboration between CityLab, Old Strathcona Business Association and the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) to make Whyte Avenue an inclusive and accessible place for all Edmontonians.

Whyte Avenue is one of Edmonton's best known and beloved destination spots. However, many of the buildings predate accessibility requirements and lack the accessibility of recent buildings.

"The AAC partnered with CityLab after identifying Whyte Avenue as the perfect location to improve accessibility for those with mobility challenges," said Zachary Weeks, member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. "Ramps were a simple solution along the avenue to ensure this unique and vibrant attraction in Edmonton can be shared with all residents and visitors to our city."

The seven temporary ramps are installed in front of businesses that have space for a ramp as per the provincial Barrier Free Design Guide. They are painted in vibrant colours and will be out during business operating hours. The pilot project will run for one month, from October 15 - November 15, 2016. People are encouraged to come down to Whyte Avenue and check out the ramps for themselves.

"We want people to let us know what they think about the ramps and about universal accessibility in Old Strathcona in general," says City of Edmonton Senior Planner Hani Quan, "People can reach us using the hashtag #inclinetoinclude or emailing us at citylab@edmonton.ca."

Once the pilot is finished, the feedback will be used to encourage and inform future accessibility opportunities on Whyte Avenue.

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