



London  
CANADA

# Connecting Neighbourhoods



**Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan Update**

ITCAC – January 18, 2023

# Why we're here

- **The Issue:**
  - London Plan sidewalk policies have led to street-by-street debate over the past few years resulting in gaps in the pedestrian network.
- **Council Direction:**
  - Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to develop a Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan (NCP) approach, including a community engagement strategy on a trial basis in 2022 to inform the 2023 Renew London Construction Program.
- **Today:**
  - Provide an update on NCP engagement and what's next





# London Plan Active Mobility Policy 349

London Plan Active Mobility Policy 349 now in full force and effect.

## ACTIVE MOBILITY

**346\_** Active mobility, with a key focus on walking and cycling, is recognized as a mode of transportation that can play a positive role in improving mobility and quality of life as part of a balanced mobility system.

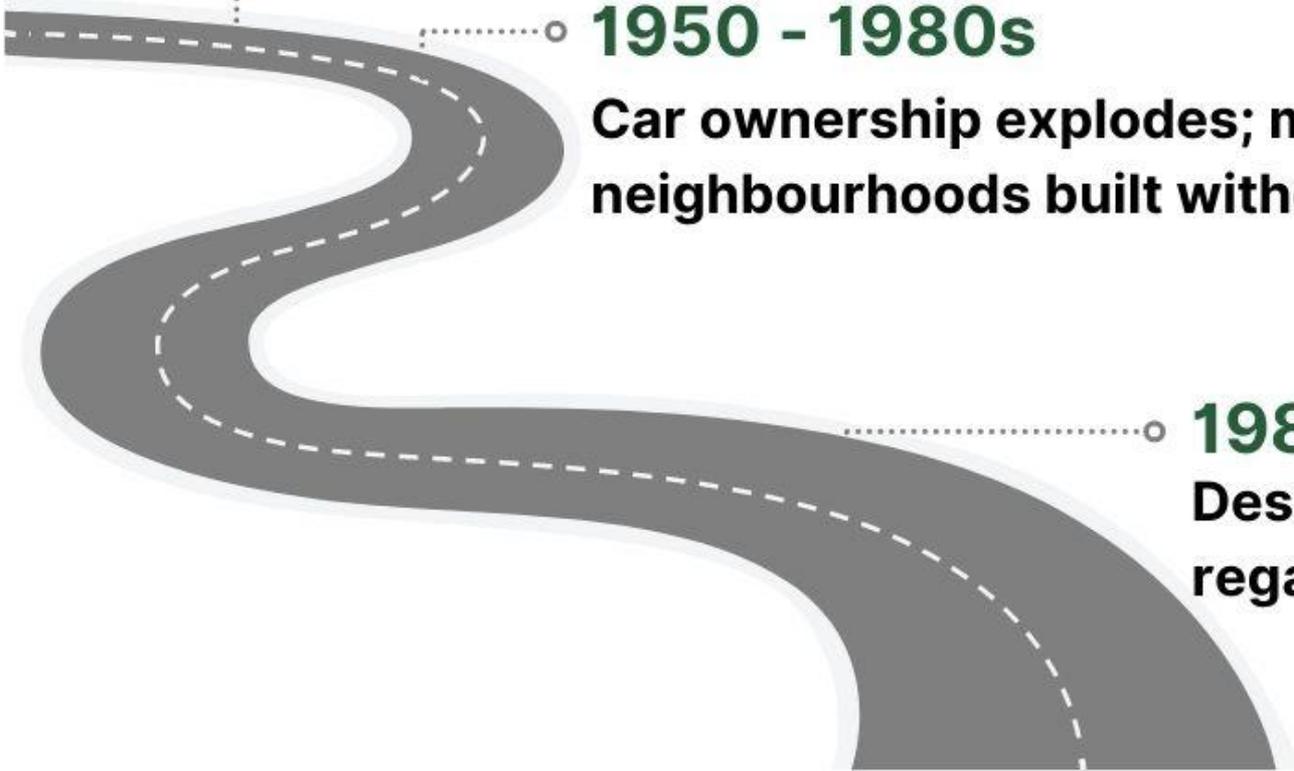
**347\_** The active mobility network is shown on Map 4 of this Plan. This planned network will be considered in the evaluation of all planning and development applications.

**348\_** Active mobility features will be incorporated into the design of new neighbourhoods and, where possible, enhanced in existing neighbourhoods to ensure connections to the street and transit system.

**349\_** To support walkability, sidewalks shall be located on both sides of all streets, with possible exceptions in the following instances. In most of these instances a sidewalk will be required on one side of the street.

1. Cul-de-sacs, dead-end streets, or crescent-shaped streets that extend less than 250 metres, do not make connections between streets, and do not connect to neighbourhood features or amenities.
2. Portions of streets flanking natural heritage features or areas.
3. Portions of streets flanking a Green Space that includes alternative active mobility infrastructure parallel to the street.
4. Window streets adjacent to arterial roadways where sidewalk extensions join a boulevard sidewalk on the arterial road.
5. Portions of streets that have a designated multi-use pathway within the boulevard on one side.
6. Streets classified as Expressways or Rural Thoroughfares.
7. Street reconstruction or retrofit projects, where the existing conditions such as mature trees, right-of-way widths, or infrastructure would impede sidewalks on both sides of the street.

# Sidewalk history



- **Pre-1950**

**Most neighbourhoods have sidewalks on both sides**

- **1950 - 1980s**

**Car ownership explodes; many neighbourhoods built without sidewalks**

- **1980s onward**

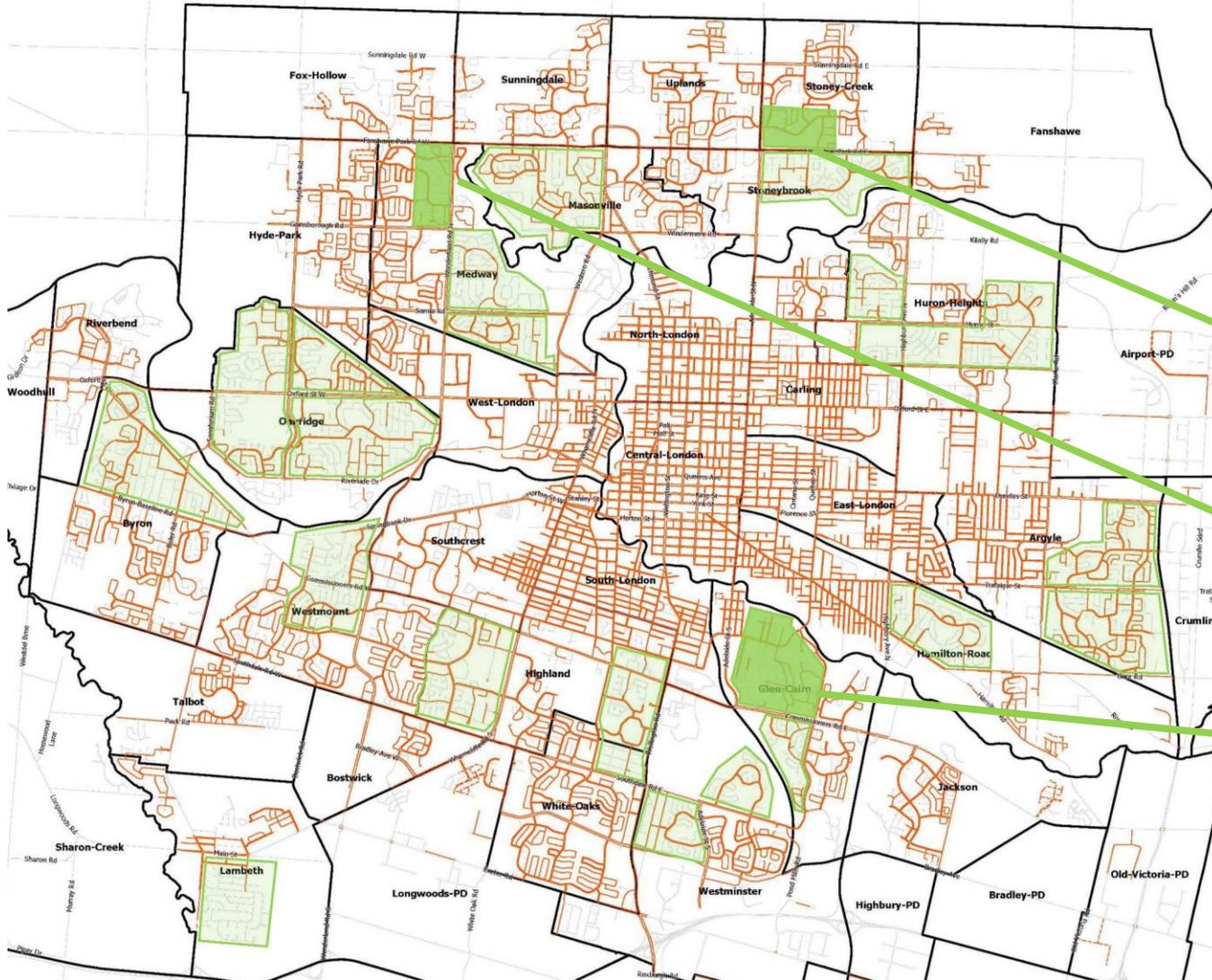
**Designs have more regard for walkability**



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# 2022 NCP communities

(and Legacy neighbourhoods with poor connectivity)



## 2022 NCPs

Grenfell

Whitehills

Glen Cairn

# 2022 NCP engagement

Developed standardized tools and templates that can be tailored to each neighbourhood

Several options were provided for residents to give feedback:

- **Get Involved webpages:**
  - Online survey
  - Community map tool
- **Virtual webinars**
- **Library drop-in sessions**
- **Reaching out to the project team directly**
  - Contact details provided in all materials





# Community Engagement

There were 720 visits to the three Get Involved websites.

74 people answered the online survey and even more providing general comments or providing input through the map tool.

Between 25-60 residents came out to each of the library drop-in sessions where we received another 32 paper surveys.

Webinar attendance was lower than expected, however recordings were posted on the websites for viewing later.



# What we heard:

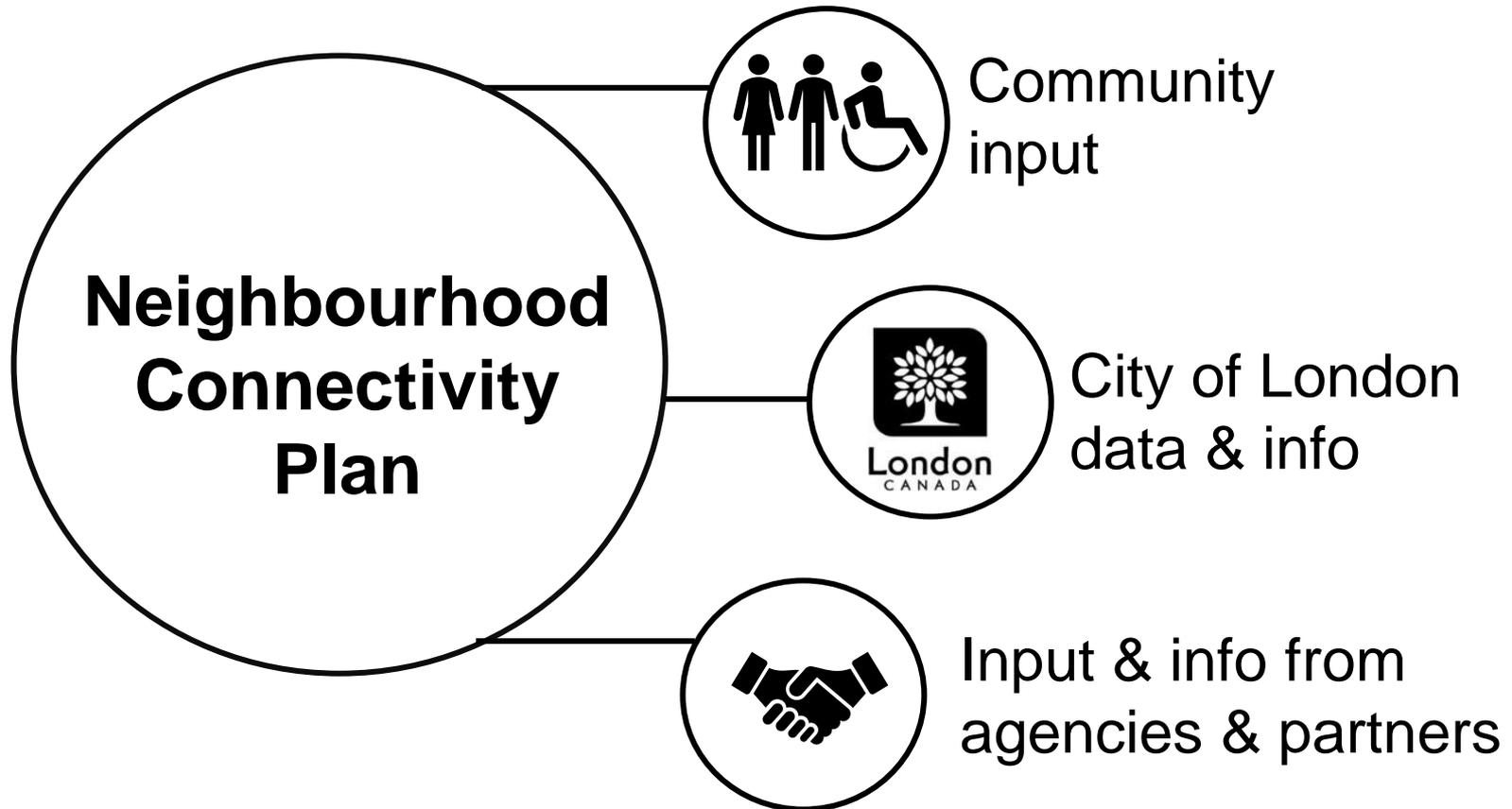
Top rationales for why sidewalks should not be considered in a given area or on a given street included:

- Residents felt that there was not enough foot or car traffic on the street to warrant the addition of sidewalks, and expressed that walking on the road was acceptable and safe for themselves and their neighbours
- Many residents indicated they were concerned about potential loss of trees
- Impacts to landscaping and driveways were key concerns
- Some residents expressed concern about sidewalks not being adequately maintained during the winter, making it more hazardous to walk on a sidewalk than to walk on the road

Staff did speak to some people who voiced their support for more sidewalks:

- Some residents highlighted the need for more sidewalks in their area overall
- Residents noted concerns for pedestrian safety, especially during busy times around the schools, parks, the community centre and churches when cars park on both sides of the street and people are forced to walk down the middle of the road
- Feedback highlighted places with high pedestrian volume but no sidewalk.

# Creating the plans



# Reporting to Council



- January 10<sup>th</sup> Civic Work's Committee:
  - Information report with update on NCP engagement strategy
  - Continue NCP trial into 2023
  - Set the stage for PPMs
  - Provide advance notice to residents
- January 31<sup>th</sup> CWC:
  - 3 scheduled PPMs
  - Companion report: 2023 Sidewalk list
  - Easier resident participation

Residents are being informed of upcoming meetings and what to expect.

# The process

**WE ARE HERE!**



## **STAGE 1: NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATION**

Staff gather input from community and stakeholders to create a “NCP”

June 2022 /  
Spring Annually

## **CITY COUNCIL REVIEWS RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council considers recommendations made in the “Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan”

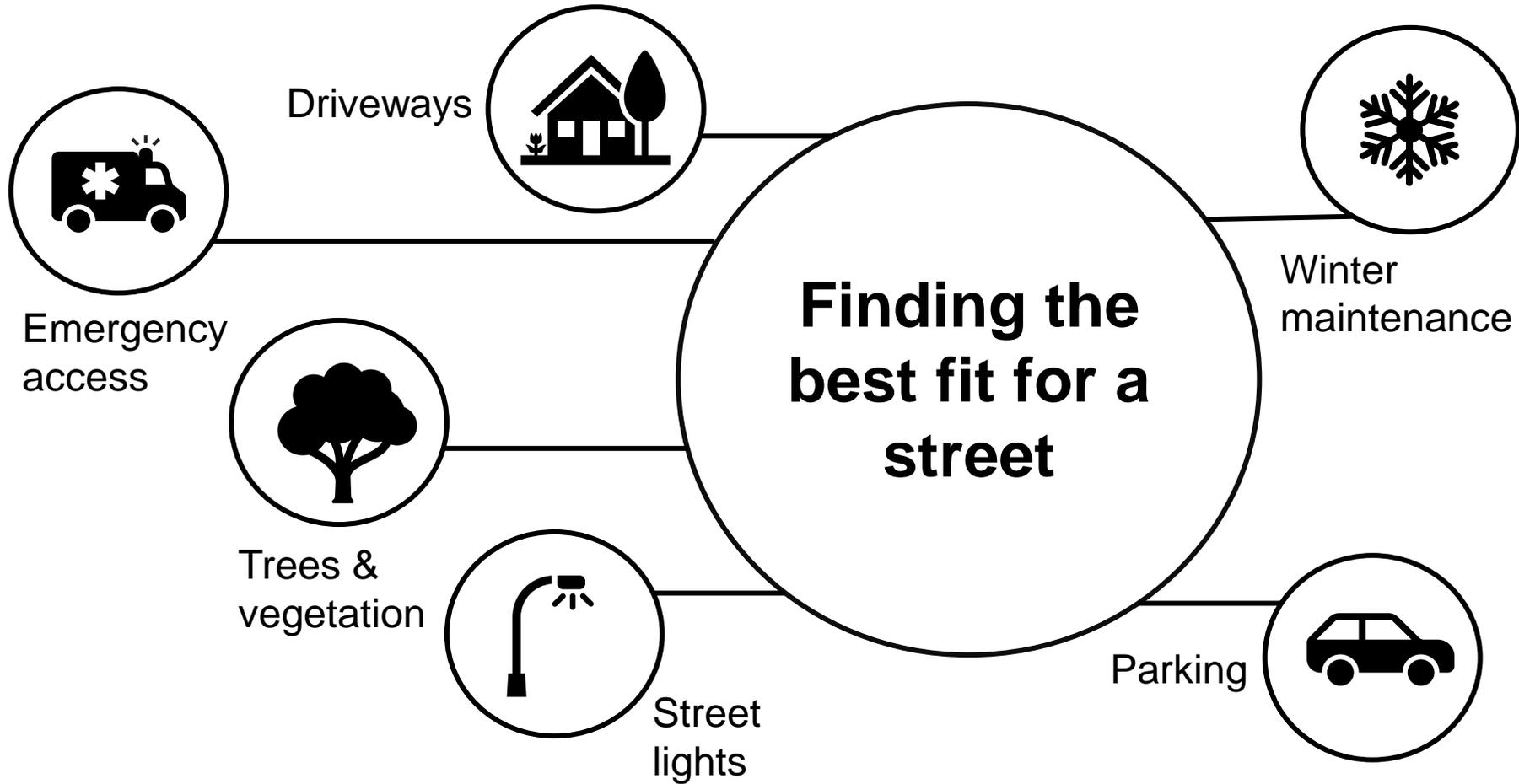
January 2023

## **STAGE 2: STREET-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT**

Staff consult at the street level in places where sidewalks were recommended

Timed to coincide with planned road work

# Stage 2 consultation





# What's next

## January 20

- Recommended locations for new sidewalks will be posted to the Get Involved websites for Grenfell, Glen Cairn and Whitehills neighbourhoods

## January 31

- City staff will be bringing a report with recommendations on where new sidewalks should be implemented to City Council's Civic Works Committee.
  - This meeting includes a public participation component, meaning you can speak directly to the Civic Works Committee at this meeting.
  - This staff report will be available to preview online on the City of London's website at noon on January 26.
- To register or learn more about the public participation process, contact the City Clerk's Office by email [\*\*PPMClerks@london.ca\*\*](mailto:PPMClerks@london.ca) or phone (519- 519-661-2489 ext. 7100).