



# BACKGROUND:

## PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

Participatory planning engages local residents in each phase of the planning process in order to design livable, inclusive cities. Emerging research is showing that participatory planning and design can promote health and health equity. In order to properly address determinants of health, participatory planning engages groups who do not normally have the power to influence decisions about the built environment in their own communities, and results in built environments that better address these communities' needs. Participatory planning can build momentum for political attention and action on a particular project, and can increase residents' capacity to influence planning decisions.

### Participatory Planning Best Practices



#### Clear social equity goals

These goals must be incorporated from the outset of a project to ensure equitable outcomes.

#### Social innovation

The creation, development or integration of new concepts or practices that put people first.



#### Structured open processes

An open process is when anyone can enter at any time and propose ideas or solutions to problems. However, clear structure for engagement should be provided at the beginning of the process to ensure fairness for all participants.



#### Skilled facilitation processes

This process can ensure integration of diverse perspectives.

#### Collaboration

The action of working with diverse people or sectors to produce something or solve an issue.



#### Accessibility

Efforts should be made to increase the physical, linguistic and cultural accessibility of the planning process. This can be achieved using clear, easy to understand engagement tools (such as the tools in our co-design toolkit), and through ensuring that opportunities to provide input are at accessible times and locations.

## How can policy support active transportation best practices?



**Incorporate opportunities to participate** in the earliest possible stages of policy or plan-making processes.



**Set a clear mandate for citizen engagement** in development proposals.



**Provide frameworks to engage** hard-to-reach or underrepresented populations.

## Sample Canadian Policies that Promote Active Transportation

1. [Law 122](#) - Quebec's adoption of Law 122, which recognizes municipalities as local governments, has led to various actions being taken to increase citizen participation in development projects, including participatory budgeting. The participatory budget is a deliberative process in which citizens, organizations, elected officials and officials decide how to spend a predetermined part of the municipal budget.
2. [Green Alley Policy, Ville de Montreal](#) - 'Green alley' projects are initiated by the residents of the street section concerned, and are implemented with the help of the borough or other partners. On the Island of Montreal, there are now 346 green alleys, which are equivalent to over 69 kilometres.
3. Participatory Citizen Program, Rosemont - La Petite-Patrie Borough - The Borough of Rosemont - La Petite-Patrie offers a Participatory Citizen Program in which residents can take action and create neighbourhood improvement projects with a grant of up to \$10,000.
4. [Neighbourhoods Councils, Québec City](#) - The city of Québec has a Neighbourhood Council introduced in 1997, where most neighbourhoods have a citizen appointed council that works with the elected officials on various topics.



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