What We Heard

Bonnie Doon Traffic Diversion Engagement

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SHARE YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

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INTRODUCTION: PROJECT OVERVIEW

During the summer of 2022, community residents conducted public engagement to gather community expertise about lived experiences and traffic safety concerns. Bonnie Doon residents have expressed concerns of an increase in traffic volume, and the City has confirmed this through traffic counts. During rush hour (7:00 - 9:00 AM and 4:00 - 6:00 PM), 89 Street sees 3.5-5 times the traffic of comparable local roads in the area (e.g., 90 Street and 91 Street).

The feedback obtained through the engagement in the summer of 2022 was used in conjunction with the City's engineering expertise and technical data, to determine if the proposed safety measures of adaptable traffic diverters will be installed at three locations: Connors Road and 92 Avenue, Connors Road and 92A Avenue, and 89 Street near 88 Avenue to address shortcutting on 89 Street. This decision is outlined in this report.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The City of Edmonton's public engagement spectrum defines the public's level of influence in engagement processes. **The role of the public during this engagement was at the ADVISE level on the City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum** and residents were invited to share their feedback and perspectives on the proposed safety measures. Visit edmonton.ca/publicengagement for more information on the City's public engagement process.

Communications Activities

To ensure residents were aware of the engagement process, and to support inclusive participation of Bonnie Doon residents, the City communicated the engagement activities in the following ways:

- **2,717** public notices were mailed to residents in the Bonnie Doon neighbourhood. The public notice included information on the proposed safety measures, engagement opportunities and information on how to sign up for project updates.
- A dedicated Bonnie Doon Street Lab Engaged Edmonton page was developed to provide project information and updates and to share engagement opportunities.
- Information about engagement opportunities was shared with Councillor Salvador.

Engagement Activities

Online engagement opportunities were provided to ensure a diversity of voices and equitable participation in the engagement process. An online survey was available from September 19 to October 2, 2023 on Engaged Edmonton.

Most of the respondents, 129 (83%) of the 170, indicated they live in Bonnie Doon. An additional 24 respondents indicated that they both live and work in Bonnie Doon, bringing the number of respondents who live in the neighbourhood to 153 (90% of total responses).

What We Asked

The goal of the survey was to provide Bonnie Doon residents with the opportunity to advise on the two options that address shortcutting on 89 Street at the following three locations: Connors Road and 92 Avenue, Connors Road and 92A Avenue, and 89 Street near 88 Avenue.

WHAT WE HEARD

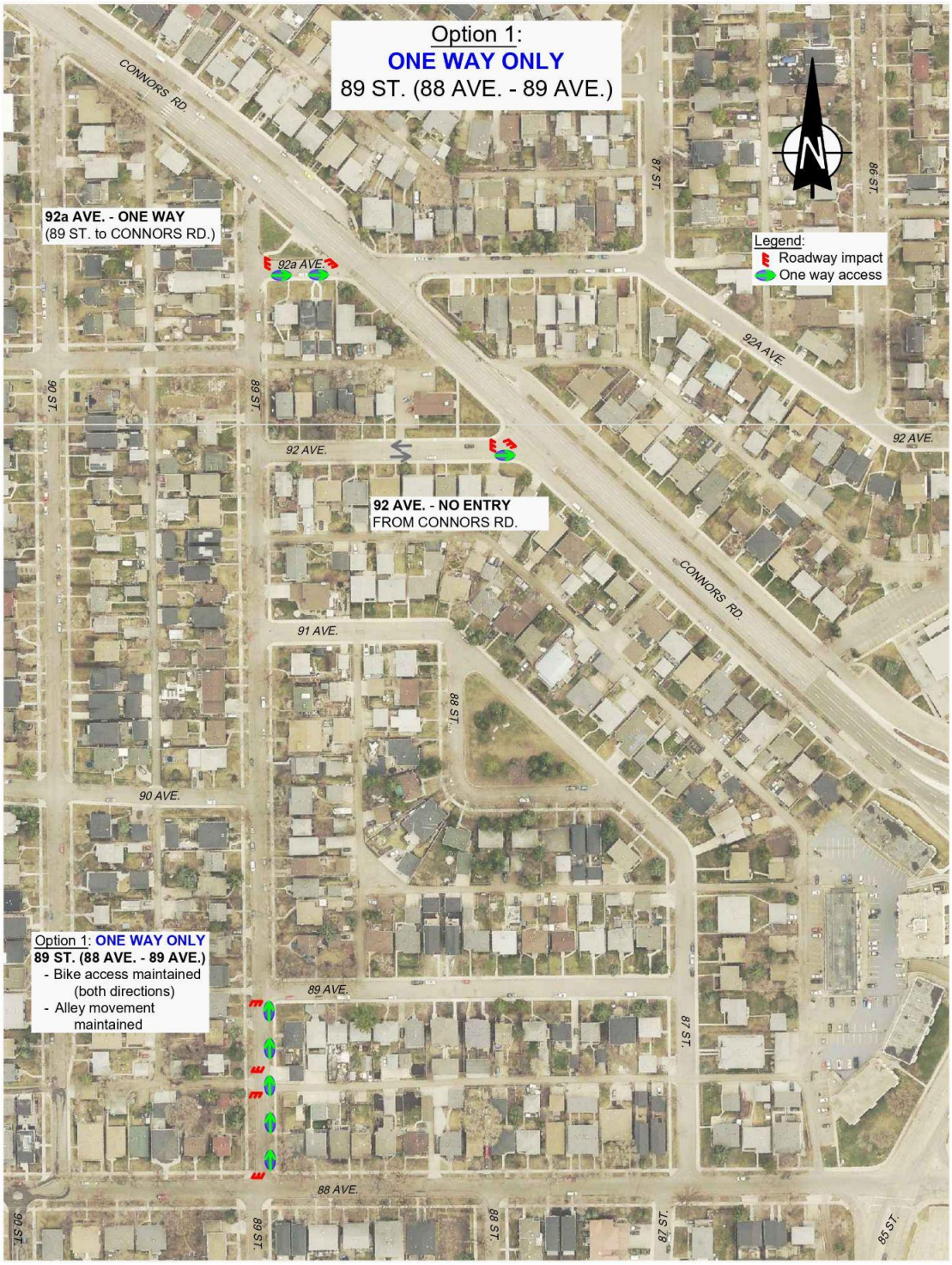
Online Survey Results Summary

The data from the online survey was analyzed and themed. Results have been presented as overall responses (170 responses) and the responses of those living in Bonnie Doon (153 respondents).

Question 1: **Do you feel that shortcutting is an issue in the Bonnie Doon neighbourhood? Shortcutting occurs when drivers leave the arterial road network to find quicker or easier routes through a community's residential roads.**

	Overall	
Response	***N=170***	***%***
Somewhat or Strongly Agree	113	66.5%
Neither Agree or Disagree	9	5.3%
Somewhat or Strongly Disagree	48	28.3%

Please state your level of support for piloting Option 1.



	Overall	
Response	N=170	%
Somewhat or Strongly Support	76	44.7%
Neither Support or Oppose	6	3.5%
Somewhat or Strongly Oppose	88	51.8%

Please state your level of support for piloting Option 2.

	Overall	
Response	***N= 170***	***%***
Somewhat or Strongly Support	70	41.1%
Neither Support or Oppose	7	4.1%
Somewhat or Strongly Oppose	93	54.6%

Why are you less likely to support piloting Option 1 or Option 2?

Participants provided a number of responses as to why they oppose the proposed options. Both questions received similar responses, which are outlined below. Comments specific to Option 2 are at the bottom of the table.

Response	***Description***
Respondents felt that the options would increase shortcutting on other streets, increase congestion and not improve traffic flow	• 90 Street • 91 Street ○ Some respondents noted that Google Maps directs drivers along 90 Street and 91 Street, so shortcutting is also a concern on those residential streets • 92 Street (illegal left turn off Connors Road) • 93 Street • Via Bonnie Doon Mall parking lot. Multiple respondents linked to news articles stating that this is illegal • Concerns that other turns into the neighbourhood are riskier than 92 Avenue
Respondents were concerned about how the options would impact access to the neighbourhood	• Reduces access into the neighbourhood, which is already limited, due to no left turn onto 92 Street from Connors Road • Respondents see this as the best way to access Bonnie Doon from the east (Connors Road)
Some respondents were also concerned about how the options would impact access to their homes	• Increase in driving time and emissions • Concerns about on-street parking and access to back lane and garages on 89 Street
Specifically in regards to Option 2, shortcutting through the following areas was a common concern amongst respondents	• Increased shortcutting on 91 Avenue and 89 Avenue to reach 88 Avenue and out of the neighbourhood • Increased shortcutting on the service road along Connors Road

Which of the following applies to you?

Respondents were asked to indicate if they live in, work in or visit Bonnie Doon. The total number of respondents who indicated that they live in Bonnie Doon as well as those who indicated they both live and work in the neighbourhood was 153, or 90% of survey respondents.

	Overall	
Response	***N= 170***	***%***
I Live in the Neighbourhood	129	75.9%
I Live and Work in the Neighbourhood	24	14.1%
I Only Work in the Neighbourhood	2	1.2%
I Only Visit the Neighbourhood	15	8.8%

What street do you live on?

Residents of 89 Street are likely to be most impacted by both proposed options. The proportion of respondents who indicated that they live on 89 Street was 18.9%

Response	***N= 153***	***%***
89 Street	29	18.9%
Elsewhere in Bonnie Doon	124	81%

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your responses?

Respondents shared a number of additional comments. These have been analyzed and themed as presented below.

Theme	***Description***
Proposed options divert shortcutting but do not decrease it	Respondents raised concerns that the proposed interventions would only divert shortcutting to other neighbourhood streets and not reduce it entirely
Issues regarding traffic circle removal	Some respondents mentioned that shortcutting issues stemmed from the removal of the Bonnie Doon traffic circle and that they do not trust the City to fix the issue
LRT-related concerns	Many respondents felt that recently installed LRT infrastructure in the neighbourhood was the source of the traffic safety concerns

Other Feedback

A number of community members reached out to the City to express their opinions on the proposed options for traffic diverters in Bonnie Doon. Comments that were not collected through the online survey are outlined below:

Theme	*Description*
Traffic and Speeding on 92 Street	• Opposition to increased traffic on 92 Street, citing concerns about speeding issues • Calls for visual changes to make the street appear as a 40 km/h zone to address speeding • Disappointment was voiced regarding the maintenance of a crosswalk, specifically the lack of black parts being painted over, which can be found in nearby neighbourhoods
High Traffic Volume on 89 Street	• Concerns about the high-traffic volume and shortcutting on 89 Street, especially during rush hour
Opposition to Vision Zero Initiatives	• Strong opposition to the Vision Zero initiative, specifically the planned addition of traffic-calming measures • Arguments were made that streets are meant for traffic, and concerns were raised about the aesthetic impact and safety of barriers
Limiting Access into the Neighbourhood	• Frustration about limited access into the neighbourhood, particularly from the east • Concerns were raised regarding the consequences of closing southbound access to 85th Street from Connors Road

SUMMARY

Survey results show that the majority of respondents feel that shortcutting is an issue in Bonnie Doon.

Shortcutting measures shared in Option 1 included installing adaptable traffic diverters at Connors Road and 92 Avenue, Connors Road and 92A Avenue and 89 Street near 88 Avenue to address shortcutting on 89 Street. Respondents were mixed in their support on this option, with opposition slightly greater than support.

Shortcutting measures shared in Option 2 included installing adaptable traffic diverters at Connors Road and 92 Avenue, and Connors Road and 92A Avenue as well as closing a short section of 89 Avenue. Respondents were mixed in their support on this option, with opposition somewhat higher than support shown.

We heard concerns that there is a high amount of traffic on 89 Street. We also heard concerns that if the measures to decrease shortcutting in Option 1 and Option 2 are installed, that there could be a possibility of increased shortcutting on other roads, that the access into the neighbourhood would change and there could be impacts to parking to summarize a few themes.

NEXT STEPS

The Safe Mobility team considers a variety of inputs when determining next steps. Inputs include thoughts and perspectives gathered from public engagement, technical requirements such as traffic volume counts, technical expertise and alignment with the Safe Mobility Strategy and Vision Zero.

The City will install the following adaptable traffic diversion measures in 2024 restricting left turning drivers from entering from Connors Road:

- 92A Avenue is converted to one-way eastbound.
- Entry onto 92 Avenue from Connors Road is restricted. Drivers can still exit in the eastbound direction. Two-way access is maintained to the east, including to and from the New Apostolic Church.

Speed reduction measures will also be installed on 89 Street at 88 Avenue.

This option addresses residents' shortcutting concerns but takes a less invasive approach compared to the initial proposed Options 1 and 2 by installing two, instead of three diverters, and relying on speed management on 89 Street. This option strikes a balance between addressing the shortcutting while maintaining access for residents. The primary considerations for selecting this option over the others include the following:

- Responds to public feedback that showed mixed feelings about the level of traffic diversion in the initial proposal
- Results in minimal impact to parking on 89 Street, which was a concern from the public engagement
- Allows the City to test a less invasive approach and see whether it resolves the issues

Prior to the installation, Bonnie Doon residents will receive a public notice in the mail. The evaluation will take place approximately one year after the installation of the measures.

Following installation, there will be periodic monitoring to assess the impact of these measures to determine if they decrease shortcutting and to determine if further actions may be needed. Included in this monitoring will be traffic data collection and a review of all related inquiries from residents that the City may receive.

CONTACT: Please direct any questions or comments to saferoads@edmonton.ca.