

What We Heard Report:

Yellowhead Trail And
66 Street Intersection
Removal

April 14 – May 10, 2026

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Land Acknowledgement

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty 6 territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as the nêhiyaw / Cree, Dene, Anishinaabe / Saulteaux, Nakota Isga / Nakota Sioux and Niitsitapi / Blackfoot peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis homeland and home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together, we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.



Project Overview

The [Yellowhead Trail Strategic Plan \(2011\)](#) and [Goods Movement Strategy \(2014\)](#) confirmed the need to improve the operational capacity and level of service of the Yellowhead Trail corridor. Work on the corridor is being completed in sections to ensure planning, design and construction can be delivered efficiently while effectively mitigating impacts. The resulting freeway will have six core lanes with additional lanes in congested areas. The freeway will target an operating speed of 80 km/h, where possible, and will be free-flow. In some locations, off-corridor improvements are completed to ensure that traffic rerouted from previous direct connections to Yellowhead Trail can travel to other connections easily.

The City of Edmonton will be making improvements to Yellowhead Trail between Wayne Gretzky Drive and 61 Street. This work includes removing the signalized intersection at 66 Street and the closure of nearby direct access points at 67 Street and 68 Street, both north and south along Yellowhead Trail to support safe and efficient traffic flow.

While the long-term plan for the freeway includes a partial interchange at 66 Street, the City will advance work needed to improve safety and traffic operations in the area.

Planning and design are underway to:

- + Remove the signalized intersection at Yellowhead Trail and 66 Street
- + Close nearby direct access points at 67 Street and 68 Street north and south of Yellowhead Trail
- + Identify and develop new access options for local traffic between 66 Street and Yellowhead Trail
- + Provide alternative access routes for surrounding communities
- + Establish new pedestrian and active transportation connections along Yellowhead Trail and 66 Street

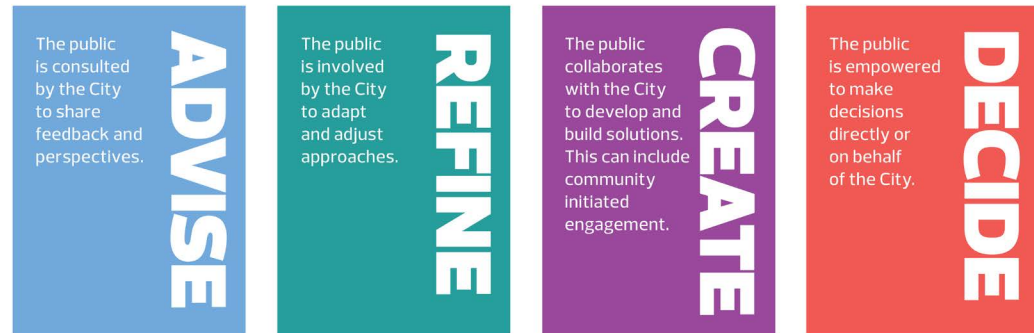
All construction work will begin in 2027.

To prepare for the future intersection removal, the eastbound Yellowhead Trail left turn onto northbound 66 Street has been permanently closed.

This report summarizes feedback received from engagement activities conducted between April 14 and May 10, 2026, that asked what the City should consider as it finalizes the transportation network design for the removal of the Yellowhead Trail/66 Street intersection and prepares for construction.

Public Engagement

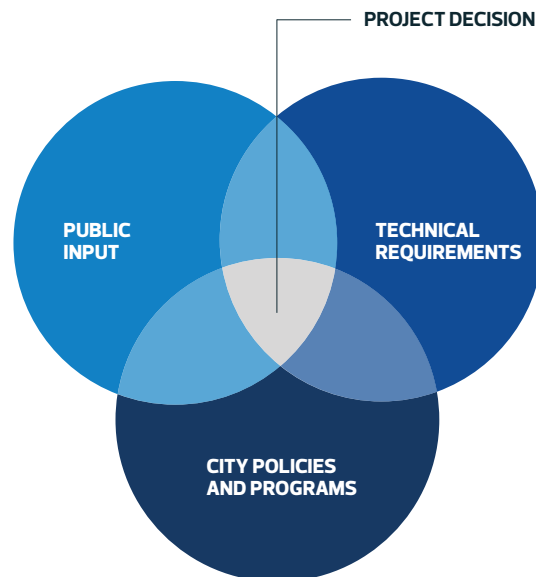
This engagement activity was at the **ADVISE** level on the City's public engagement spectrum.



Decision making process

When making decisions, there are three considerations: City policies and programs, technical requirements and public input.

These inputs will be considered as the project moves forward to finalize the transportation network design.



Public engagement activities

The engagement activities were designed to create opportunities for the public and other interested parties to learn about the project objectives and scope and to provide feedback on the transportation network design.

Feedback was collected through an online survey, comments received on sticky notes at a public engagement event, meetings with property owners and other interested parties, and feedback communicated to City Project Team members.



- + **Interested Party Meetings** – The invitation to meet with the Project Team was extended to property owners, businesses and area community leagues. Meetings were held with several property owners to gather feedback during planning and the Project Team met with the Highlands Community League during the engagement period between April 14 to May 10, 2026.



- + **Online Survey** – A survey was available from April 14 to May 10, 2026, on the project webpage at edmonton.ca/YellowheadTrail. There were 115 responses.



- + **Public Engagement Event** – The event was held at the Jerry Forbes Centre (12122 68 Street NW) on April 30, 2026 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. for businesses and interested parties and from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for the public. There were 110 attendees.

Awareness for the event was generated by:

- + Postcards delivered directly to mailboxes in the surrounding neighbourhoods
- + Lawn signs placed in the surrounding neighbourhoods
- + Roadside signs
- + Social media
- + Engagement public service announcements and the City engagement calendar

What We Asked / What We Heard

Interested Party Meetings

During meetings with property owners, the Project Team discussed the proposed network design and gathered feedback on the specific operational needs of individual businesses, identifying concerns to be considered and addressed.

Support was noted by adjacent property owners whose properties will realize minimal or no impacts.

The Highlands Community League shared neighbourhood concerns about the removal of the intersection, including increased travel times, increased impact on 50 Street due to rerouting, the lack of an active transportation connection across Yellowhead Trail and frustration that a flyover/overpass will not be constructed at this time.

Public Feedback: Online Survey and Public Engagement Event

The public event and online engagement activities asked respondents: *What should the City consider as it finalizes the design and prepares for construction to remove the Yellowhead Trail/66 Street intersection?*

Overall

Feedback received indicates strong concern about the proposed removal of the overpass connecting north and south. Respondents worry about the impacts of the closure on their travel times unless an alternate north-south link is provided across Yellowhead Trail and/or other connections to Yellowhead Trail are improved.

Participants emphasized the importance of considering the potential impacts on local travel, including traffic congestion, community connectivity, active transportation connections and business access.

A smaller number of participants support the proposed closure, citing improved traffic flow and the long-term vision of converting Yellowhead Trail into a safer, more efficient freeway.

Key Themes

Maintaining North–South Connectivity / Build a 66 Street Overpass

The most common theme noted is the importance of maintaining north–south connectivity across Yellowhead Trail. Many participants describe 66 Street as a critical connection between communities on both sides of the corridor and express concern that closing the intersection without a replacement crossing will make everyday travel more difficult.

Many respondents reference previous engagement activities related to the Yellowhead Trail Freeway Conversion Program, where maintaining north–south connectivity was identified as an important community priority. Some participants feel the current design does not align with those discussions and reiterate support for a future overpass/flyover at 66 Street.

Participants commonly express a desire to:

- + Build the overpass or flyover before closing the intersection
- + Establish a clear timeline for future crossing infrastructure

Participants note that closing the intersection could increase travel times for everyday trips to access destinations such as: Londonderry Mall, schools, places of worship, healthcare services, workplaces and family members.

Concerns About Traffic Diversion and Congestion

Many respondents are concerned that closing the intersection would shift traffic onto nearby roads that already experience congestion.

Frequently mentioned locations include:

- + 50 Street, particularly between 118 Avenue and Yellowhead Trail
- + The 50 Street / Yellowhead Trail interchange
- + Fort Road/Wayne Gretzky Drive
- + 82 Street

Participants worry that these routes may not have sufficient capacity to absorb additional traffic and that congestion could worsen for area residents and commuters.

Pedestrian and Cycling Access

Pedestrian and cycling connectivity emerged as one of the strongest themes outside of vehicle travel.

Many participants note that people regularly walk, cycle or use transit to cross Yellowhead Trail in this area. The main concern is that alternative crossings are located a significant distance away and would require lengthy detours.

Participants desire to maintain safe and convenient active transportation connections across Yellowhead Trail by constructing a pedestrian bridge or multi-use crossing.

Potential Impacts on Local Businesses

Some participants express concern about how the closure could affect local businesses located near 66 Street.

Comments focus on:

- + Reduced convenience for customers
- + More difficult travel between commercial areas north and south of Yellowhead Trail
- + Potential reductions in business visibility and accessibility

Views Supporting the Closure

Those who support the intersection removal view the change as an important step toward completing the Yellowhead Trail freeway conversion and improving regional transportation efficiency.

Reasons cited include:

- + Improves traffic flow along Yellowhead Trail
- + Advances the freeway conversion program
- + Reduces shortcut traffic through neighbourhoods
- + Creates a safer and more efficient freeway corridor

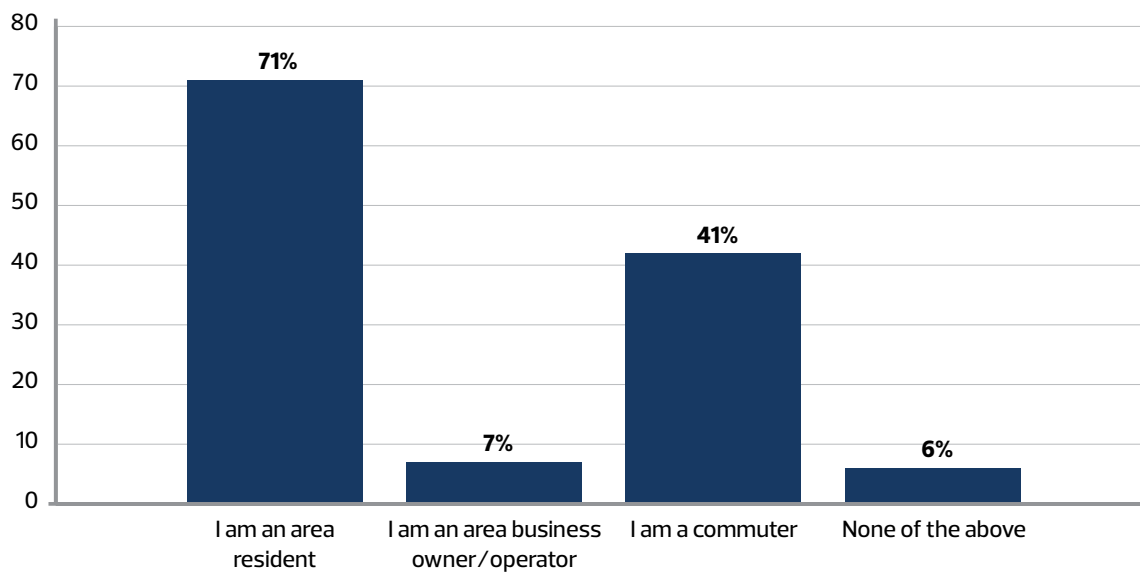
Survey Respondents' Connection to Project Area

Of the 115 respondents who completed the survey, 71 percent are residents of the area, 42 percent are commuters and 7 percent indicated they are an area business owner/operator. Six percent are none of the above.

Public event attendees were not asked this question.

What is your connection to the area?

184 Responses



Next Steps

- Fall 2026** Final design to be shared online
Off-Yellowhead Trail construction begins
- 2027** Construction begins on this segment (anticipated to be complete in October 2027)

Stay Informed

Visit edmonton.ca/YellowheadTrail for more information.

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