

Quesnell Bridge/Whitemud Drive Project
Noise and Noise Mitigation Information Session
June 7, 2008

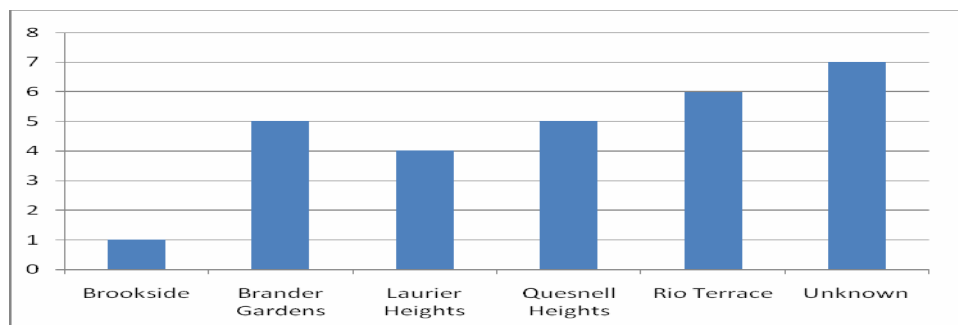
Summary of Participant Survey Analysis

1. Statistical Summary

- Number of participants in attendance– 58
- Total survey responses received 28 (48.27% of participants)
- 18 of the 28 responders heard about the meeting via a letter to their home.
- 4 heard through seeing the portable sign
- One through the Edmonton Journal.
- The remainder did not identify a source.
- For the rating question “**The information presented was useful and informative**”
 - one person rated it 1 (strongly disagree),
 - six rated it 3,
 - nine a 4;
 - four a 5 (strongly agree);
 - the remainder did not respond to the question.
- For the rating question “**The information was easy to understand**”
 - one person rated it 1 (strongly disagree),
 - one a 2,
 - two a 3,
 - twelve a 4,
 - five a 5 (strongly agree)
 - the remainder did not answer the question.
- For the rating question “**The project representatives were helpful, friendly and accessible**”
 - two people rated it 1 (strongly disagree),
 - three a 3,
 - nine a 4,
 - six a 5 (strongly agree)
 - the remainder did not answer that question.

- For the rating question “**I was able to find satisfactory answers to my questions**”
 - six people rated it 1 (strongly disagree),
 - one a 2,
 - four a 3,
 - five a 4,
 - five a 5 (strongly agree)
 - the remainder did not answer the question.

The following graph indicates the residency breakdown for the survey respondents



2. Common Themes Expressed in Surveys and Question and Answer Sessions

Several key themes flowed from the comments at the workshop and on the surveys received:

- 1) Significant disappointment that the recommendation will be made to NOT provide noise barriers for certain areas along the Whitemud, due to the risk factor.
- 2) Request for tax relief and/or outright purchase of the homes affected.
- 3) Frustration that there are not remedies for specific homes in specific areas
- 4) Concern about the loss of trees and the esthetic affect of large walls just off the property line.
- 5) Suggestions to divert traffic off Whitemud and/or reduce speed on Whitemud to reduce noise.
- 6) Disappointment that alternatives were not provided – “they had already decided”.
- 7) Indignation that area residents were “promised” relief by local politicians and that the relief would be linked to a project; they assumed this project.
- 8) Concern that traffic (and associated traffic noise) on 149 Street (exiting and entering Whitemud via the ramps) is not being addressed as part of this project.

3. Area by Area Verbatim Comments

Comments received from the participants are captured below by neighborhood. They appear here as written on the comment sheets.

Brookside:

No comments

Brander Gardens

- I spoke to my arborist; he said trees to make a noise barrier. Trees also clean the air. There is going to be more pollution. Lots of idling cars in the winter
- We came late, so we missed the preamble. Storyboards are okay but I see no projections on traffic volume and road noise levels. We are directly impacted and it may affect our property value.
- We are in R13 and have a noise problem now. We need more trees on the berm as there is a large gap. Volume of traffic will increase a lot in the next 20 years. If walls are okay near Southgate, why do they not work on this section of the road?
- Very technical
- Do not want a wall or berm under any circumstances. We have enjoyed the beauty of the natural growth in our backyard for 30 years. Please don't build a berm

Laurier Heights:

- The material presented was thorough and informative. The problem is with the City policy. Thresholds too high. 50 - 55 dBA is more realistic, as mitigation
- Why not hold an international design competition for at grade noise mitigation? The City could become the center of excellence and share in patents for novel and meaningful noise attenuation technologies. These needs to be further examination of noise absorption solutions NO noise reflection walls.
- Why didn't we have options presented to us? You presented undesirable recommendations to us. This appears as a method to eventually do nothing.
- We do not want the noise wall in front of our house (noise wall placed next to road) on Laurier site. It is in our vision line. We will not support a noise wall across the street from our house. We would like to see it built in the trees so not in the vision line of the houses. This needs to be reviewed by your department as a possible option. The people that spoke about it at the meeting did not appear to have other options to discuss. Why?
- Have traffic of heavy trucks and "semis" move through to 179 or Anthony Henday

Quesnell Heights

- Although I am disappointed that no sound attenuation is being recommended for Quesnell Heights, the reason and concerns with the slope stability makes sense. The costs to stabilize the slopes would make any installation not viable.
- I believe that the organization and presentations provide good background information to better understand the problems
- Frustrating in part because no answers able to address all parties. Concerns continue re as a result of project, property values fall yet taxes go up. The budget has gone up 5.5% yet property taxes up 35% or so - no compensation - (should be considered).
- Need to consider lowering speed limit on Whitemud Drive. Given what appears to be a lack of options for other forms of noise reduction. TUNNEL OR BUY US OUT.
- Still not satisfied with answers to question on situation of my house - 4 Quesnell Cr. and ramp. There is no slope problem; not all houses in Rio Terrace and Quesnell have the same slope or noise concerns. Several of my neighbors are affected by the ramp. Also any consideration for lowering speed limits especially trucks? Significant geotechnical and construction risks not a problem in our area.
- Very informative and understandable presenters were very patient and remained calm even when attendees became vocal
- Very disappointing to hear that a community of homeowners who pay extremely high taxes, do not warrant or "deserve" any noise mitigation
- All options discussed should have been feasible options. I am quite frustrated that the option that affected my property is not being recommended. We need an option that will reduce the noise level.

Rio Terrace:

- Very thorough and clear
- One sided. Already decided before we came
- Unsatisfactory
- I live a block off the freeway and the best piece of information for me was that I don't need to be too concerned about noise both now and into the foreseeable future
- I am very disappointed that nothing will be recommended for our neighborhood. Even though the idea of a 5-meter high wall 2 meters behind our back property is esthetically displeasing, I feel that something is better than nothing. Even a 5-meter high wall along the side of Whitemud Drive.
- This was very informative and well organized. Unfortunately not all participants seemed to realize this was an "information" session and not a "bitch" session that wasted valuable time for all. It was very good of the project manger to step in and set people straight.
- The recommendation for Rio Terrace /Quesnell is to NOT build a wall. I recommend the city give tax breaks for lots backing onto Whitemud as there is no sound barrier

No Neighborhood Specified:

- Most of it highly technical for a layperson. The computer modeling was fine but should have been supplemented with photography
- Most of us chose this area because of the proximity to riverbank and the feeling of openness. The berm/wall solutions box us in and remove the ambiance we presently enjoy. We have adapted to the noise. We will have trouble adapting to a wall. I doubt it will improve property value
- They didn't listen - they had their minds made up. No sound barriers. The overpass will fall down some day and people will die.
- No consultation - very noisy but no help from City.
- Why do you put the contact numbers for future contact on the back of the survey page you want handed back in?
- When sending letters out, attached proposed agenda and any pertinent pre-read information
- You have said this meeting addresses 149 Street - 53 Ave /Fox Drive (Whitemud Quesnell) yet you won't address a huge noise level we have at the 149 Street overpass. Our home shakes and bangs all day long as trucks pass over and has gotten worse and worse since 1993. We can't sleep at night or open our windows for air to sleep. What are you going to do? In winter, we get headlights in our bedroom and living room windows.
- This task force is here to convince us their way is the right way. Why the semi and delivery trucks can't be diverted to the Anthony Henday. The noise walls are necessary, the higher the better. But really consider diverting to Anthony Henday.
- Waste of time
- Buy our property