



RIVER VALLEY ROAD/GROAT ROAD INTERCHANGE CONCEPT PLANNING

DECEMBER 2014

OPEN HOUSE
OLIVER SCHOOL
10227 - 118 STREET
NOV 19, 2014, 4:30 - 8:00 P.M.

WHAT WE HEARD

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The City of Edmonton is developing a long-range concept plan for the River Valley Road/ Groat Road interchange.

This interchange is a popular commuter and recreation route for all travelers. It provides all directional movements between River Valley Road, Groat Road and Victoria Park Road and provides access to Government House Park and the River Valley trail system.

To address congestion and navigation issues experienced by commuters and to improve safety and accessibility for all modes of transportation, two concept plan options for the interchange were proposed during the Open House held at Oliver School on November 19, 2014. It was followed by an online survey between November 19 and December 3, 2014 to solicit feedback on the proposed options.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED

A total of 271 comment forms were received, including those received at the Open House and through the online survey. The following provides an overview of the results of the comments submitted. **Note:** not all respondents completed each question, some questions allowed for multiple answers.

The majority of survey respondents are commuters who use the interchange (81%). 40% and 41% of survey respondents use the corridor for jogging and cycling respectively. Fewer respondents (9%) are employed at an adjacent area business/park, 6% are transit users, and another 2% are representatives of an association / organizations.

NAVIGATING THE INTERCHANGE

48% of the respondents feel that the difficulty navigating through the interchange is due to existing signage.

Of the respondents who feel signage is inadequate through the interchange, 56% felt there were not enough signs, 75% felt they were not well located, 59% felt visibility was poor, and 51% felt the message was unclear.

Action:

The project team will share these results with Transportation Operations to determine what improvements can be made to improve signage through the interchange area.



Credit: Google Maps



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PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS

As the interchange area serves as a strong connection into the River Valley trail system, many people use the area for walking, jogging, cycling and winter activities such as cross country skiing. There are several areas where there is opportunity to improve the facilities and safety for these users, and respondents indicated their level of support for various options.

- Move the mid-block pedestrian crossing of River Valley Road further east: 46% support, 25% non-support.
- Widen the shared-use path to 3m along the curve from River Valley Road to Victoria Park Road: 69% support, 14% non-support.
- Relocate pedestrian crossings of River Valley Road to near the proposed roundabout in Option 2: 25% support, 55% non-support. There is some concern that it will become more difficult and dangerous to cross 6 travel lanes in Option 2 as opposed to the existing 4 lanes.
- Realign the shared-use path from Groat Road Bridge to River Valley Road in order to reduce the steep slope: 36% support, 41% non-support. Some respondents are in favor of the reduced slope while others would like to retain the directness of the shared-use path.



Respondent suggestions:

- Install pedestrian amber flashers at crosswalk locations
- Widen shared-use path beside the mid-block crosswalk at River Valley Road to provide standing room and improve visibility for drivers
- Construct a direct ramp to connect Groat Road Bridge to the shared-use-path on the south side of River Valley Road

Action:

The design of pedestrian and cyclist facilities will be reviewed with consideration for public comments, as well as technical requirements.

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MERGE LOCATIONS

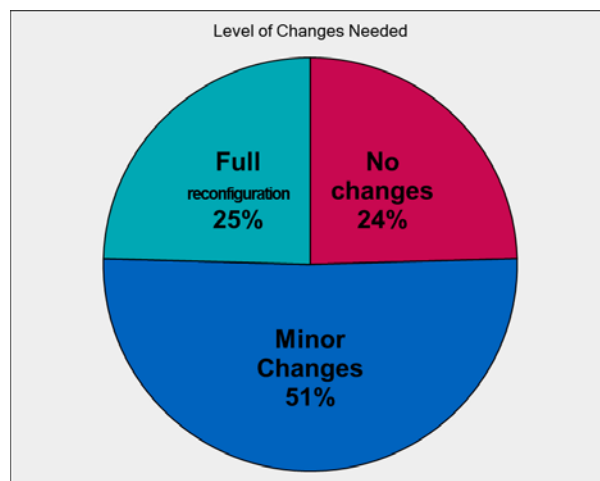
There are several merges throughout the interchange, some at an angle where drivers may find it difficult to look over their shoulder to find a gap in traffic. Respondents were split on their support of the proposed changes to the merge lanes.

- Change the angle of existing merge lanes west of Groat Road: 45% support, 33% non-support.
- Relocate Victoria Park Road merge onto Groat Road northbound from west of the bridge over Victoria Park Road to east of the bridge: 35% support, 44% non-support.
- Create free flow lane at Victoria Park Road merge onto Groat Road northbound: 43% support, 45% non-support.

Despite the seemingly low level of support noted above, respondents voiced their strong support for improvements to driver sight lines in the comments section of this question.

Action:

Any revisions to the merges to improve driver sight lines will consider existing constraints, technical requirements and public comments.



LEVEL OF IMPROVEMENTS

When asked what level of improvements respondents feel are necessary in the area, 51% indicated only minor changes are required, such as improved merges and the addition of turn lanes. 24% of respondents felt no changes are required, and 25% indicated a full interchange reconfiguration is necessary.

WHAT'S UP NEXT

The project team is revisiting the concept plan options based on collected feedback and technical requirements. A recommended concept plan will be finalized and posted on the project website by Spring of 2015.

There is currently no funding identified for the construction of improvements at the River Valley Road / Groat Road interchange, therefore exact construction timelines are unknown.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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