



RIVER VALLEY ROAD/ GROAT ROAD INTERCHANGE CONCEPT PLANNING

November 2014

ONLINE SURVEY SUMMARY SEP 26 - OCT 17, 2014

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. The area serves as a commuter and recreational route for all forms of traffic, including cyclists and pedestrians, with access to the downtown area, the University of Alberta and the River Valley park system.

The existing interchange can be confusing for drivers, and also has several conflict points between drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. This concept plan will not include any modifications or improvements to the bridges in the area.

Online Survey Feedback

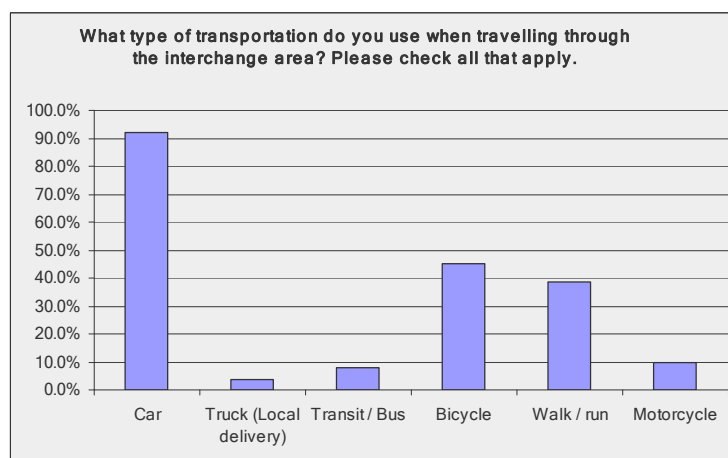
The City received 391 responses to its online survey in the three-week period between September 26 and October 17.

Note: Not all respondents completed each question, and some questions had multiple answers.

The majority of survey respondents are regular commuters of the River Valley Road and Groat Road Interchange (70%) with 11% indicating they work at an area business or park.

When asked what type of transportation they used to travel through the interchange area, 92% indicated they travel by car, 10% by motorcycle and 8% by public transit. Many respondents also use other ways to travel

through the area including, 45% who cycle and 38% who walk or jog.



Signage and Wayfinding

When asked what the current major transportation issue within the study area is, 34% of respondents stated that it is difficult to navigate through the interchange. Several locations were of particular concern:

Southbound Groat Road: 14 respondents feel the exit signs for Groat Road Bridge or River Valley Road east do not provide enough warning for safe and timely lane change.

Action: Signage along Groat Road will be reviewed during this study.

Westbound Victoria Park Road: 10 respondents feel the exit signs for eastbound River Valley Road, northbound Groat Road or southbound Groat Road do not provide enough warning for timely decisions.

Action: Signage on Victoria Park Road will be reviewed during this study.

Other Locations: Respondents indicated that signage was insufficient in other areas, including northbound Groat Road Bridge and eastbound River Valley Road.



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Pedestrian Wayfinding: Some respondents feel additional directional and safety signage along the shared-use paths would be beneficial to cyclists and pedestrians alike.

Action: Shared-use path signage will be reviewed during this study.

Road Congestion and Safety

At 46%, traffic delays and congestion are the most cited transportation issues for the interchange. Congestion may be addressed by changing signal timing, and/or constructing intersection improvements. While 12% of respondents feel that the interchange works just fine and should not undergo any improvements, many others had concerns with specific locations along the interchange as summarized below:

Traffic Signal: Many respondents had concerns with the existing traffic signal within the interchange. More than 10 respondents feel the traffic light adds to road congestion because of poor signal timing and the lack of a right turn lane to Victoria Park Road. A few respondents suggested that it would be beneficial to reconstruct the intersection as an overpass.

Action:

Traffic signal locations and timing will be evaluated during this study. Right turn options will be explored during the concept planning process.

Left turns on to and off of eastbound River Valley Road: More than 10 respondents mentioned that these turn-offs add to road congestion due to high vehicle volumes. Left turning vehicles block through movements as they wait for a safe gap in traffic. Visibility in the area was also a concern. The installation of a traffic circle was one

suggested improvement to address slow moving traffic.

Action:

The project team will explore design solutions at this location.

Lanes: Several respondents mentioned that an accident or stalled vehicle on River Valley Road can cause significant traffic delays. Various solutions were mentioned including the addition of a lane or the widening of the road.

Action:

The project team will review the viability of these options.

Merging: Several merges throughout the interchange were flagged as difficult. One issue cited was the angle of the merges makes it difficult to see oncoming traffic.

Action:

The project team will look at the safe operation of merge locations.



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Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

41% of respondents stated that cyclist and pedestrian safety was a major transportation issue within the study area.

Crosswalk/bike safety: 16% of respondents stated that the crossing of River Valley Road near Groat Road Bridge is unsafe. Contributing factors are its location, the behaviour of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, as well as the lack of lighting at the crossing. 15 respondents supported the addition of pedestrian flashers at this location. An additional 10 respondents feel that this crossing should be built over River Valley Road to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

5% of respondents stated that the crossing north of Groat Road Bridge is unsafe as well,

with 6 people supporting the addition of pedestrian flashers at this location.

Others noted other problematic crossings, such as at the traffic signal and across Victoria Park Road near the bus stops.

Action:

Pedestrian safety is being reviewed with Transportation Operations. They will evaluate crossing control needs based on traffic volumes and numbers of pedestrians. The project team will also explore alternative design solutions.

Path from Groat Road Bridge to River Valley Road: More than 10 respondents mentioned that this path is too steep and can be dangerously icy in the winter.

Action:

The project team will review the alignment of this path to address this concern.

Interchange User Separation: Several respondents mentioned safety concerns due to cyclists/ vehicles and cyclist/ pedestrians sharing infrastructure. These respondents supported the separation of these users.

Action:

The project team will review the existing infrastructure and attempt to separate these users where possible.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections

When asked whether existing sidewalks and trails are adequate for pedestrians and cyclists, roughly half of the respondents feel the existing configuration is adequate, while the other half feels it is inadequate.

Sidewalk widths: Sidewalk widths were thought to be inadequate at multiple



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locations, including the paths south of River Valley Road, south of Victoria Park Road, west of Groat Road, east of Groat Road Bridge and from the north end of the Groat Road bridge to River Valley Road.

Action:

Sidewalk widths within the study area will be reviewed, and will be considered for widening where technically feasible.



More Connections: Several respondents indicated that additional cyclist and pedestrian connections were needed in the study area.

Action:

Safe pedestrian and cyclist connections are an important consideration for the concept planning study. The project team will review

these connections, balancing safety with route directness.

River Valley

5 respondents were concerned with the preservation of the river valley, during both the preparation of the concept plans and any future construction.

Action:

The project team will review environmental requirements during the preparation of the concept plan and for future construction.

What's Up Next

Join us at Open House where the project team will present the River Valley Road and Groat Road Interchange concept plan options.

Location: Oliver School, 10227 - 118 Street

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Time: 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Presentations: 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM

Opportunities to provide feedback will include a question and answer period after each presentation, general discussions with project staff and a feedback form which can be submitted at the Open House or online from November 19 - December 3.

Feedback from this meeting will be considered during development of the recommended concept plan.

For More Information

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edmonton.ca/RiverValleyGroatInterchange

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