

River Valley Road / Groat Road Interchange Concept Planning Study

Open House 4:30 – 8:00 p.m., November 19, 2014

Presentations: 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. (repeat presentation)

- Please take a What We Heard survey summary sheet and open house feedback form
- Visit the displays and table maps for project information and to view the Concept Plan options
- Talk to members of the City Project Team

Meeting Purpose

- To provide background information on the planning study
- To present concept plan options for the interchange
- To hear your feedback about the plans
- To answer your questions

Study Area

River Valley Road / Groat Road Interchange

- Popular commuter and recreation route for all travelers
- Provides all directional movements between River Valley Road, Groat Road and Victoria Park Road
- Provides access to Government House Park and the River Valley trail system



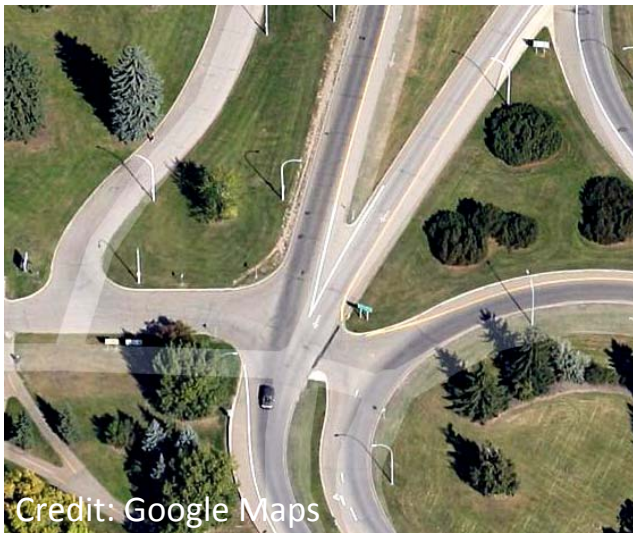
Project Purpose

- This is a long-range planning study for the River Valley Road / Groat Road interchange.
- The existing interchange can be difficult to navigate, and there are several potential points of conflict between motorists and cyclists / pedestrians.
- The concept plan will examine possible improvements considering:
 - Safety and interaction of all methods of transportation, including cars, cycling, walking and transit
 - Current use and travel patterns
 - Traffic flow
 - Access to adjacent parks
- This project does not include any modifications or improvements to the bridges in the area.



What Exists Today

- Many decision points throughout the interchange, i.e. merges, diverges, turnoffs
- Steep slopes adjacent to roadway
- Ramps
- Pedestrian / cyclist facilities
- Land constraints and environmental sensitivity of the River Valley



How We Choose a Concept

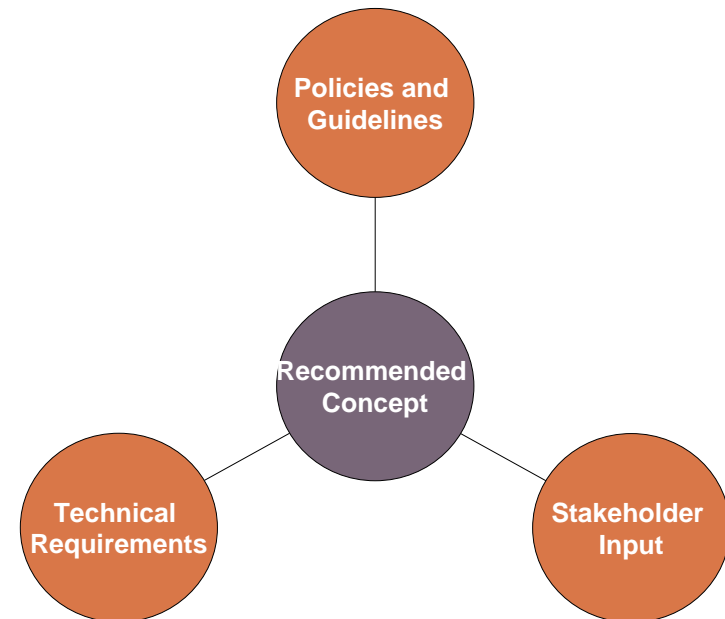


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**Issues and opportunities
identification**

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**Proposed Concept options and
design elements – public feedback**

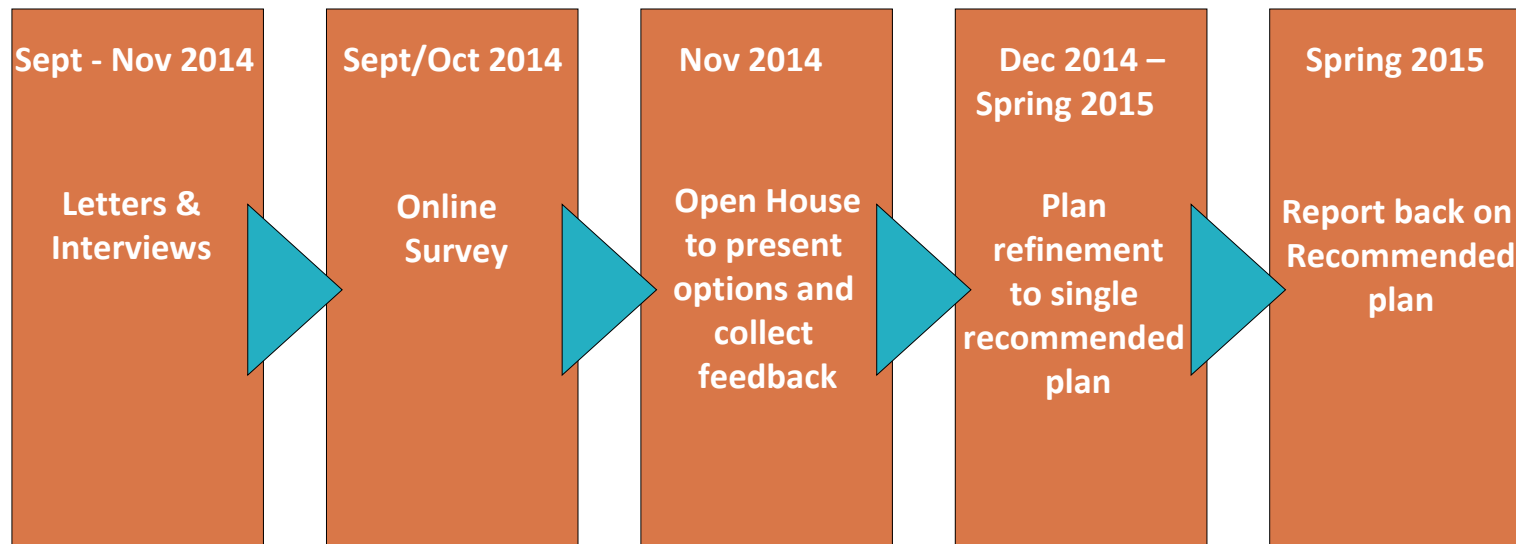
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**Recommended Concept Plan –
information sharing**

The City will recommend a plan that best balances:



Public Involvement

- In September 2014, letters and fact sheets were sent out to community leagues, local businesses and organizations. 1-on-1 interviews were arranged upon request.
- Online Survey was available from Sept. 26 to Oct. 17 to collect input on issues and concerns. Over 390 responses were received and summarized in a “What We Heard” fact sheet.
- Tonight’s Open House will present options and gather your feedback on the options.



↑
We are here

Five key themes emerged from stakeholder interviews and survey responses.

WHAT STAKEHOLDERS SAID MOST OFTEN

PROJECT TEAM'S RESPONSE

PROJECT TEAM'S DECISION

Signage and Wayfinding

- **Difficult to navigate** through the interchange. It was felt that exit signs at the following locations did not provide enough warning for safe and timely decisions:
 - Southbound Groat Road
 - Westbound Victoria Park Road
- **Pedestrian wayfinding:** additional directional and safety signage required along the shared-use-paths

- **Acknowledged:** Signage within the interchange will be reviewed during this study.
- **Acknowledged:** shared-use-path signage will be reviewed during this study.

- **Will be addressed** as necessary in concepts
- **Will be addressed** as necessary in concepts

Road Congestion and Safety

- **Traffic light** adds to road congestion due to **poor signal timing** and the **lack of a right turn lane** to Victoria Park Road.
- **Left turns onto and off of eastbound River Valley Road** – add to road congestion and create visibility issues.
- **Widen single lanes**
- **Difficult merges**

- **Agreed:** traffic signal locations and timing will be evaluated and right turn options will be explored during this study.
- **Acknowledged:** the project team will explore design solutions at this location, including roundabout option.
- **Noted:** Due to space constraints, roadway widening cannot be accommodated. Traffic count data and traffic model analysis also confirm that roadway widening is not warranted.
- **Acknowledged:** The project team will review operation of merge locations.

- Concept plan design will **address** efficient operations
- **Included** in concepts
- **Not included** in concepts
- **Will be addressed** in concepts

River Valley

- **Preservation of the river valley**

- **Acknowledged:** the project team will review environmental requirements during the preparation of the concept plan and for future construction.

- **Included** in concept planning study



Five key themes emerged from stakeholder interviews and survey responses.

WHAT STAKEHOLDERS SAID MOST OFTEN

PROJECT TEAM'S RESPONSE

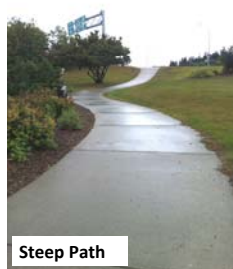
PROJECT TEAM'S DECISION

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was felt that the following crosswalk locations are unsafe due to their location, behavior of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians as well as the lack of lighting at the crossing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Valley Road crossing near Groat Road Bridge Crossing north of Groat Road Bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged: crosswalk safety is being reviewed with Transportation Operations. They will evaluate crossing control needs based on traffic volumes and number of pedestrians. The project team will also explore alternative design solutions and crossing locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in concepts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steep path from Groat Road Bridge to River Valley Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed: the project team will review the alignment of this path to address this concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in concepts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide separation between cyclists and vehicles and between cyclists and pedestrians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged: the project team will review the existing infrastructure and attempt to separate these users where possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be addressed where feasible in concepts

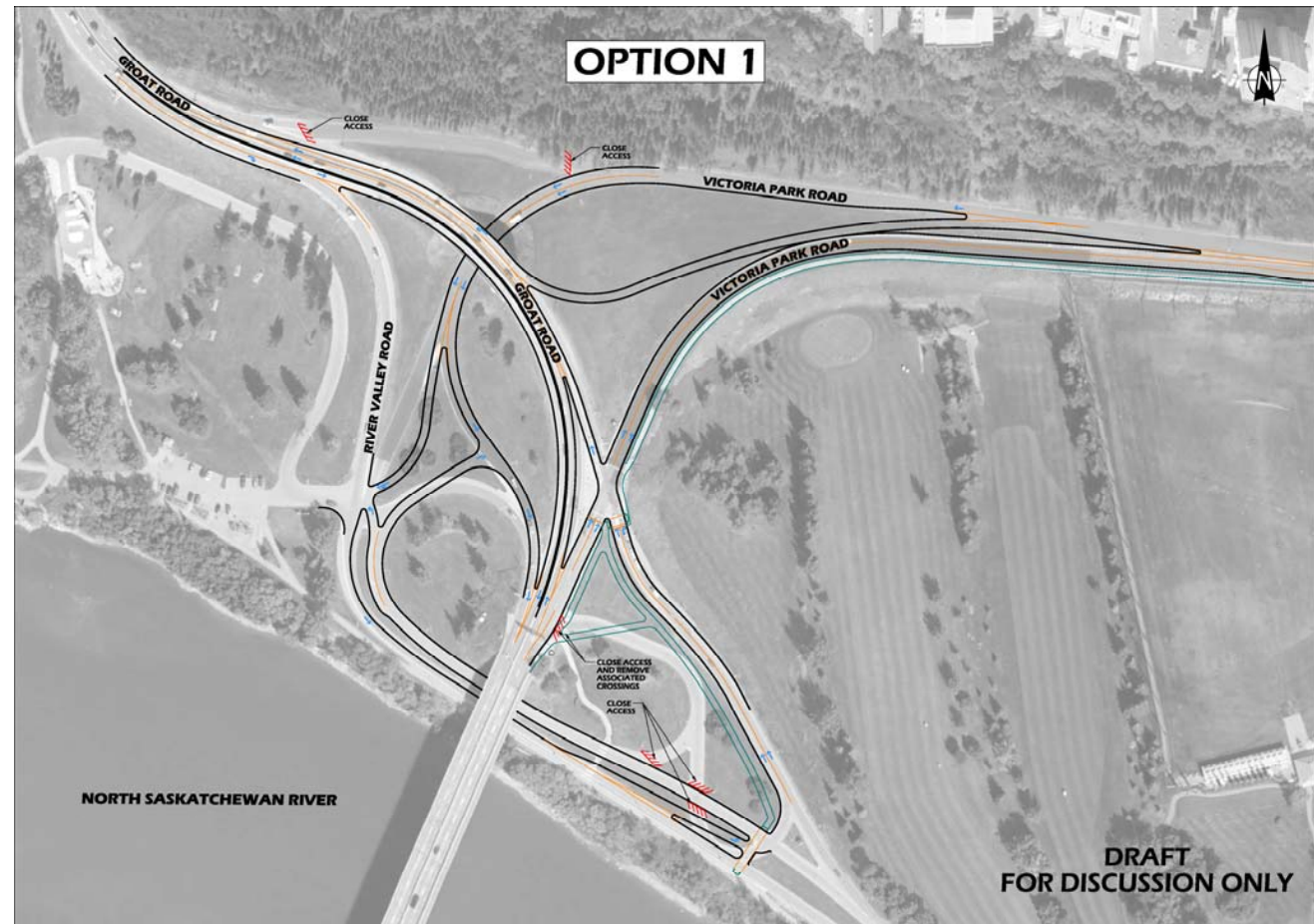
Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Sidewalk/Shared-use-path widths were thought to be inadequate throughout the interchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged: sidewalk widths within the study area will be reviewed, and will be considered for widening where technically feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included in concepts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional cyclist and pedestrian connections desired in the study area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged: 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be addressed in concepts



Option 1

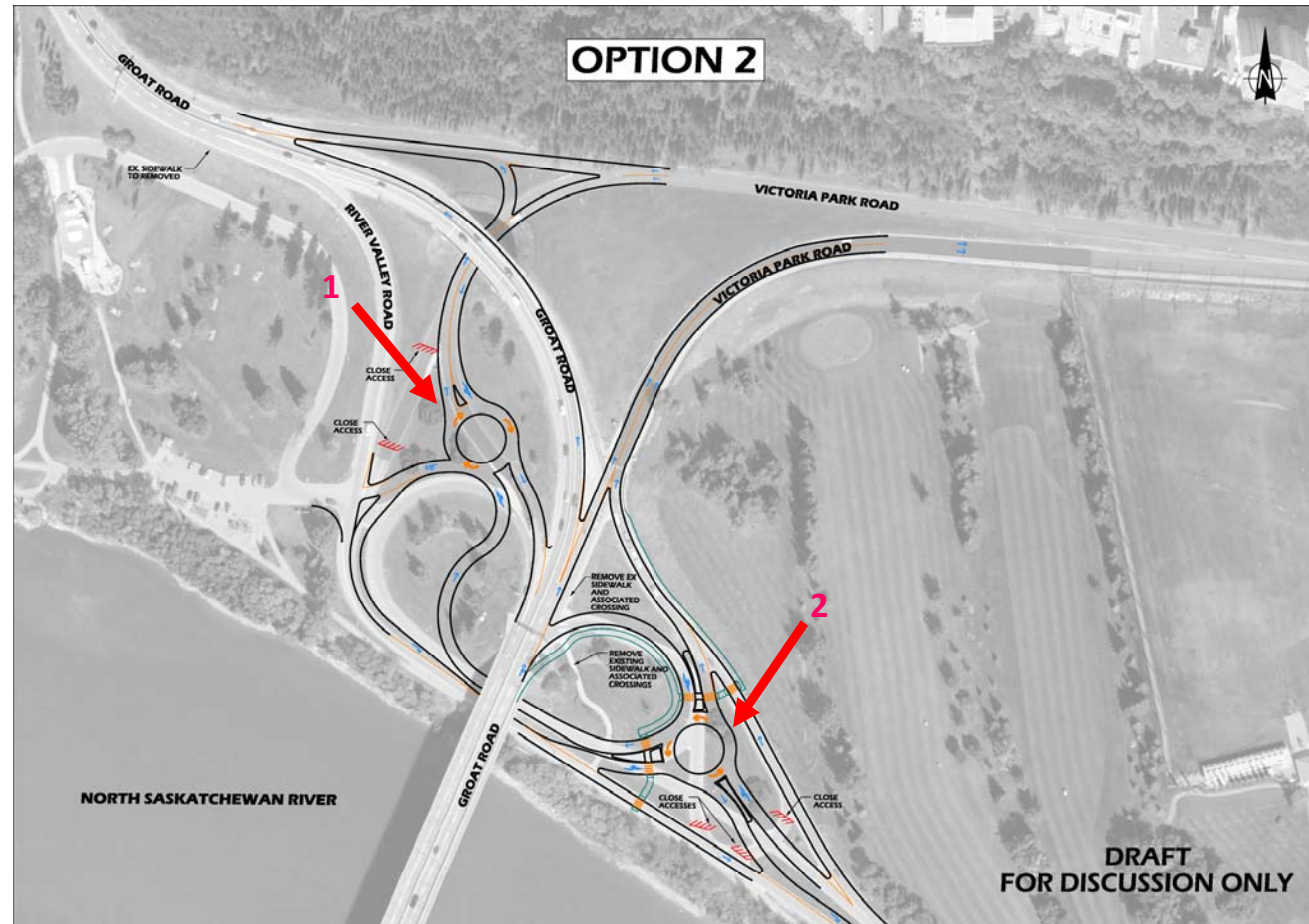
- Westbound right-turn lane onto Victoria Park Road added at existing signalized intersection
- Removal of roadway connection between Groat Road Bridge and River Valley Road
- Modification of merges to improve safety
- Widening of shared-use-path along Victoria Park Road
- Relocation of the pedestrian crossing on River Valley Road
- Realignment of the shared-use path from Groat Road Bridge to River Valley Road



Note: large scale roll plan available at table

Option 2

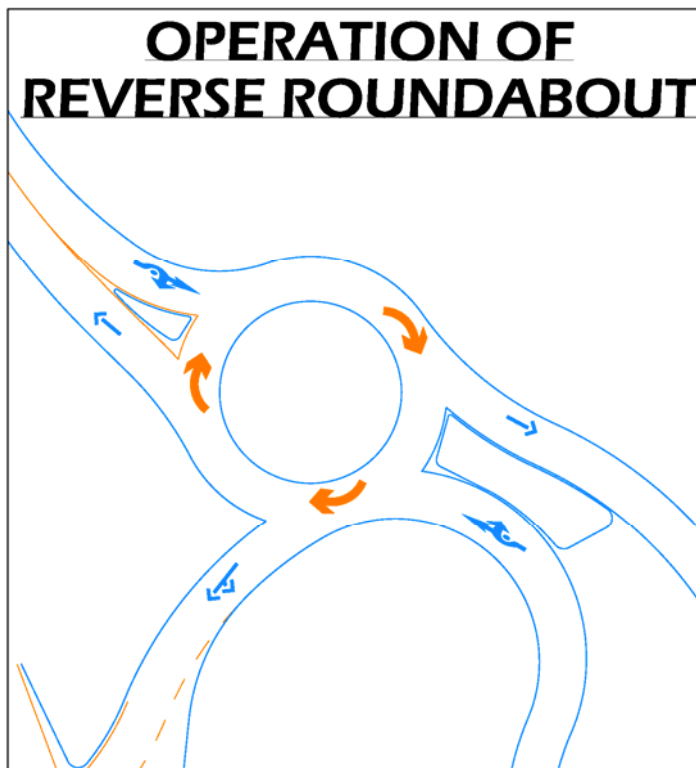
- Single lane roundabouts at 1 and 2 to replace signalized intersections and other points of direct conflict
- Maintains all directions of travel
- Modification of merges to improve safety
- Shared-use-path realignment
- Relocation of pedestrian crossings



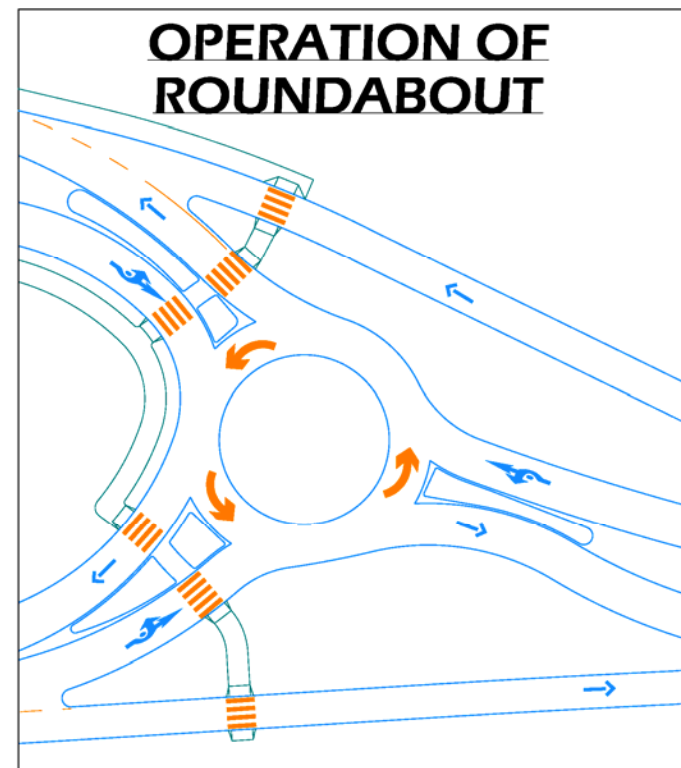
Note: large scale roll plan available at table

Option 2 – Roundabout Operation

1. West Side of Groat Road

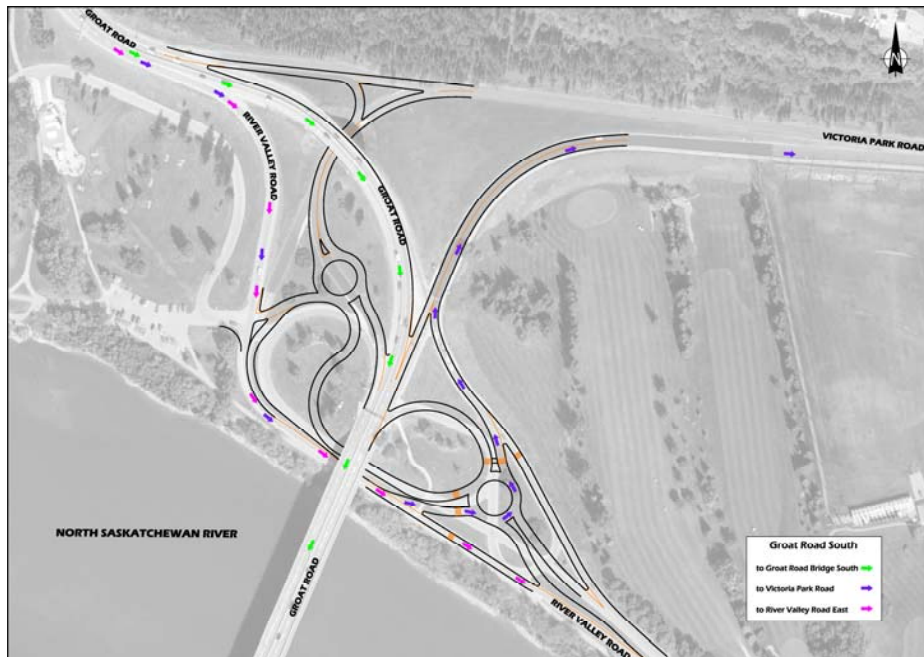


2. East Side of Groat Road

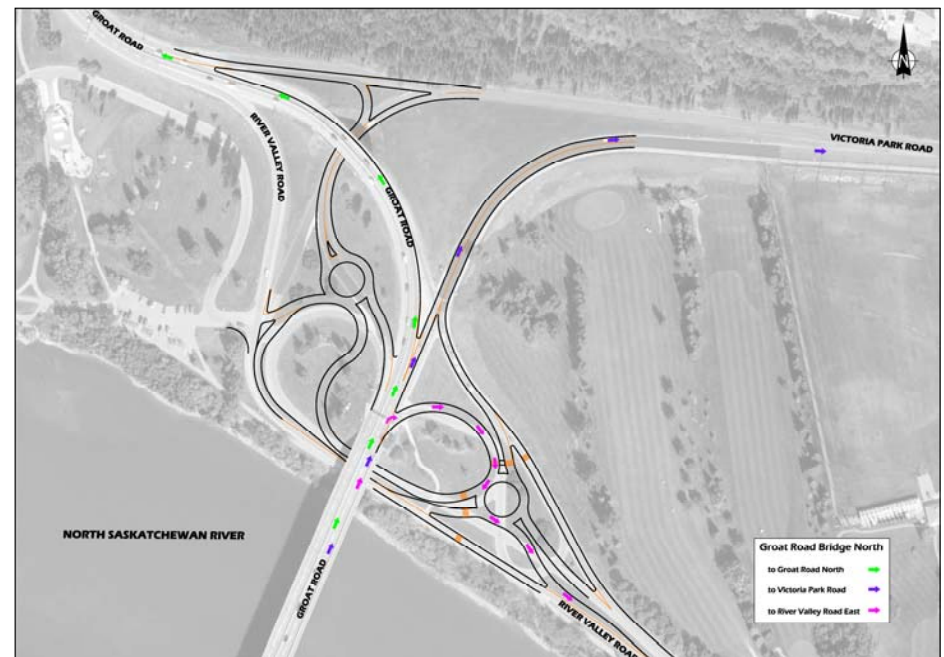


Option 2 – How Do I Get There?

Driving Southbound on Groat Road

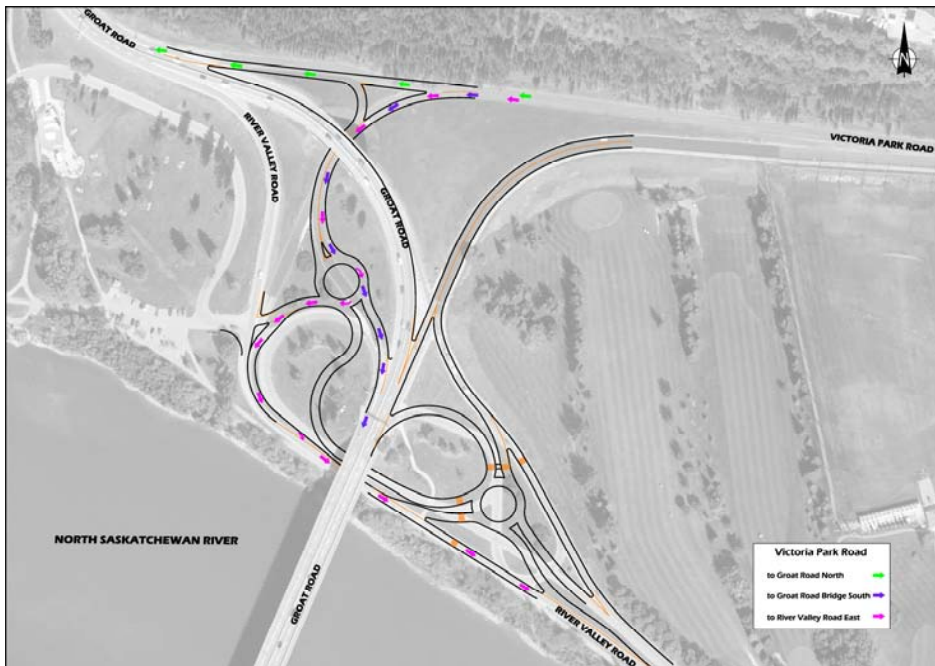


Driving Northbound on Groat Road

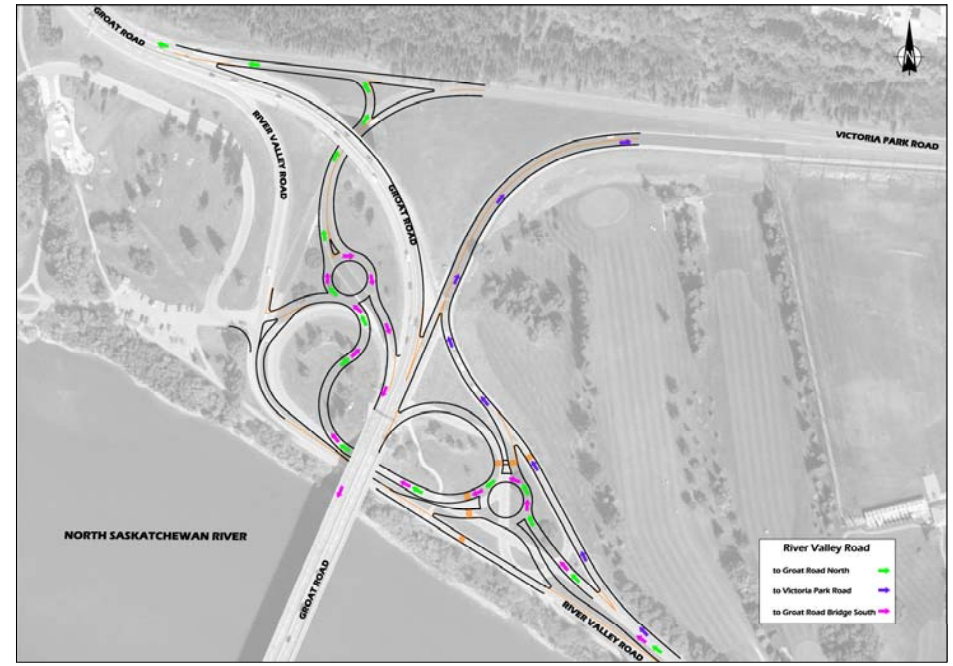


Option 2 – How Do I Get There?

Driving Westbound on Victoria Park Road



Driving Westbound on River Valley Road



Weighing the Options

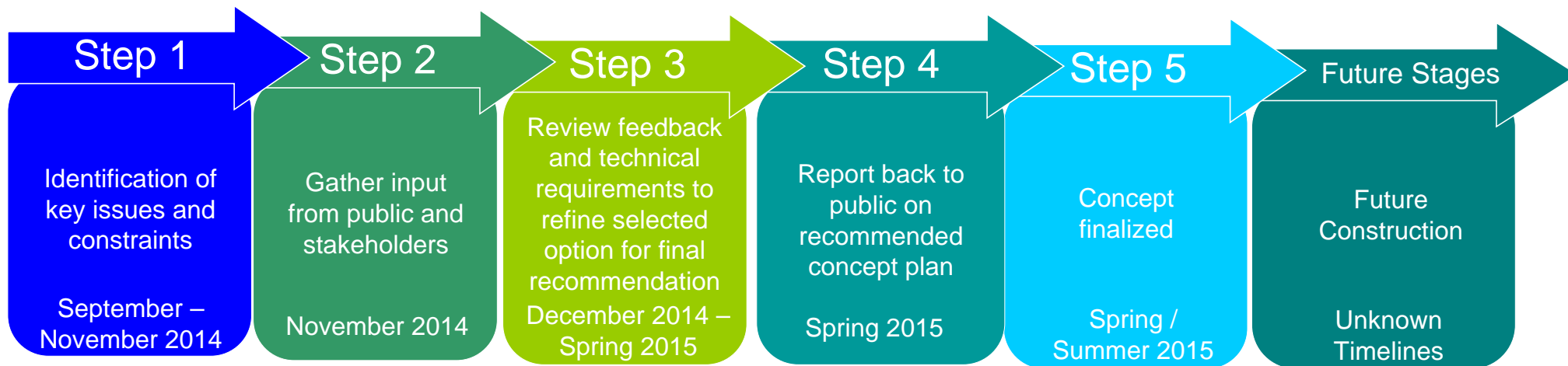
Options	Existing	Option 1 - Connection between Groat Road Bridge and River Valley Road Removed	Option 2 - Double Roundabouts
Bike / Pedestrian Safety	○ - Pedestrian crossings at the traffic signal, at the ramp north of Groat Road Bridge and mid-block on River Valley Road	● - Remove and/or relocate pedestrian crossing locations where drivers are making several decisions - Slope of pedestrian/bike facility is reduced	● - Pedestrian crossings take place at roundabout approaches - Slope of pedestrian/bike facility is reduced
Bike / Pedestrian Connectivity	○ - Shared-use-path connections on south side of River Valley Road to south side of Victoria Park Road and through Government House Park	○ - Shared-use-path along Victoria Park Road is widened to 3 meters - Movement from north end of bridge to shared-use-path along River Valley Road is less direct	● - Movement from north end of bridge to Victoria Park is less direct
Vehicular Conflict / Safety	○ - Multiple intersections and high angle merges - High collisions at the merge from Victoria Park Road to Groat Road northbound, and at back-to-back left turns on River Valley Road	● - Unsignalized back-to-back left turns on and off River Valley Road eastbound are removed - Complicated unsignalized intersection at park entrance is improved - Free flow movement from Victoria Park Road westbound to Groat Road north	● - Signal removed - Intersections and merging locations are replaced with roundabouts, reducing direct vehicular conflicts - Free flow movement from Victoria Park Road westbound to Groat Road north
Vehicular Operations / Delay	○ - Signalized intersection - Lack of turn lanes - Delay during AM and PM peak hours	● - Right-turn lane added for westbound River Valley ramp to Victoria Park Road - AM peak delay is reduced by 50% - PM peak delay is reduced by 80%	● - Signal removed - Improved traffic flow and reduced delay - AM peak delay remains the same - PM peak delay is reduced by 45%
Vehicular Connectivity	○ - All directions of travel provided	● - Movement from Groat Road northbound to River Valley Road and the park is removed	● - Some movements require less direct travel paths - Movement from River Valley Road westbound to Groat Road northbound goes through two roundabouts

- Please note that both options are high level concepts and pieces from both could be used in a final recommended plan.

Legend:

Impact ←----- No Change -----> Improvement
 ● ○ ● ● ●

Project Timelines



Current
Stage

- 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.



Thank you

THANK YOU

Tell us how we did!

Please take a few minutes to complete a feedback form and place it in the box at the welcome desk tonight before leaving. If you need more time to consider the information provided, please complete the feedback form available online via the project website until December 3, 2014.

Website: www.edmonton.ca/RiverValleyGroatInterchange