

# Saskatchewan Drive and 99 Street Right Turn Improvement

## Project Fact Sheet

Edmonton

### **Scope of the project**

The scope of the project is to improve the southbound to westbound right turn design to slow down turning vehicles, and improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety at this location. This project scope does not include any capacity improvements for this intersection.

### **Project History**

In 2014, Edmonton City Council passed a motion at the Transportation Committee to investigate how to enhance pedestrian safety at the Saskatchewan Drive and Scona Road/99 Street intersection. Following this motion, two independent traffic safety assessments were initiated to study the intersection. In 2015, recommended countermeasures resulted in implementation of driver feedback signs, additional signal heads, and bus stop relocation. Meetings were held in 2015 regarding the implemented and future safety measures. Additional concerns were raised by the community regarding the safety of pedestrians and cyclists at the west leg of the intersection. Feedback collected during this time informed a new concept sketch for the intersection, which was prepared and presented at the Public Open House in January 2016. The concept sketch design and a summary of other recommended countermeasures were subsequently presented to the Transportation Committee that same year. In 2017-2018, additional modifications to the concept were completed and the final recommended design was presented on April 19, 2018 at the Strathcona Neighborhood Renewal Public Information Session.

Detailed project history available at:

[https://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/on\\_your\\_streets/scona-road-safety-review.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/on_your_streets/scona-road-safety-review.aspx)

### **Purpose**

The Saskatchewan Drive and 99 Street intersection was selected for redesign as a response to a community desire to improve pedestrian and bicyclists safety at this location.

### **Design Features**

- Modification of the southbound to westbound right turn radius;
- Signalization of the southbound to westbound right turn lane;
- Removal of the multi-staged pedestrian crossing;
- Extension of the southwest corner of the intersection, eliminating eastbound to southbound right turn.

### **Design Benefits**

- Vehicle speed reductions for the southbound to westbound right turn as a result of a tighter turn radius;
- Increased visibility for pedestrian, cyclists and for southbound travelling vehicles;
- Removal of the multi-staged pedestrian crossing and reduction of the overall crossing distance;
- Increased pedestrian crossing safety at the west leg of the intersection.

### **Design Impacts**

- The new design will remove the eastbound to southbound right turn. This may bring additional traffic through neighbourhood roads to travel south along 99 Street. This project is coordinating with Building Great Neighbourhoods (BGN) and Community Traffic Management Group. Feedback will be taken into consideration to mitigate/improve neighbourhood roads during the 2019-2021 neighbourhood renewal. It should be noted that vehicle turning volumes for the eastbound to southbound movement are low.
- During the afternoon rush hour, it will take on average 30 seconds longer to travel from north of 95A Avenue through the Saskatchewan Drive - 99 Street intersection for southbound right turning vehicles;
- During the afternoon rush hour, the average queue length is expected to increase between 50 m - 120 m compared to the existing condition for the southbound right turning lane.

### **Eastbound to Southbound Right Turn Removal**

From previous engagement, it was noted that removal of the multi-staged crossing was a community interest. Removal of this island, combined with removal of the northwest corner channelization has the potential to increase last minute lane change maneuvers. One way to mitigate this potential issue is to retain visual guidance for southbound drivers to help them understand and visualize the termination of the right turn lane.

This recommended design has been selected in an effort to balance community feedback while ensuring the safety of traffic operations. This design removes the eastbound to southbound right turn which results in the southwest curb lines tying into the southwest island location.

This modification:

- Aligns with previous community feedback to remove the multi-staged crossing;
- Reduce overall pedestrian crosswalk distance;
- Retains some physical and visual guidance for southbound vehicles to reduce last minute lane changing at the intersection

Appropriate signage along Saskatchewan Drive will be installed to inform drivers about the right turn ban prior to the intersection. The City will also monitor traffic movements at this intersection

to check for compliance. Additional measures (signage, pavement marking or enforcement) will be taken, if deemed necessary by the monitoring process.

**Considerations for Potential Neighbourhood Shortcutting**

Feedback received from April 19 engagement event and from online survey will be collected and implemented, as needed, during the 2019 - 2021 neighbourhood renewal.

**Anticipated Construction Start Date**

Current target for construction commencement is late 2018, depending on tendering and other City processes.