

# 16 Avenue N. and 19 Street E. Interchange Functional Planning Study

## Phase 1 Stakeholder Input Summary

The City of Calgary is conducting a functional planning study to determine plans for a future interchange at the intersection of 16 Avenue and 19 Street N.E. A public engagement process is being implemented as part of the study to gather stakeholder and community input from the outset so it can be reflected in any future plans to the greatest extent possible.

The input received from stakeholders during Phase 1 was used to develop preliminary options, and the project team will work with stakeholders in Phase 2 to collaboratively refine options. The refined options will be presented to the external stakeholder group and larger community in Phase 3.

### Public engagement process

May – August 2013	September – October 2013		November 2013 – February 2014	
<b>PHASE 1</b> Needs assessment <i>Listen &amp; Learn</i>	<b>PHASE 2</b> Develop options <i>Collaborate</i>		<b>PHASE 3</b> Select preferred plan <i>Consult</i>	<b>PHASE 4</b> Reporting back <i>Inform</i>
<b>PROJECT TEAM</b> Technical review of issues	<b>STAKEHOLDERS &amp; PROJECT TEAM</b> Refine options collaboratively	<b>PROJECT TEAM</b> Refine options	<b>PUBLIC</b> Public open house and online survey to gather input on options	<b>PUBLIC</b> Public information session to present preferred option
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b> Meeting to gather input on issues and engagement process (April 30, 2013)	<b>PROJECT TEAM</b> Refine options	Summer and Municipal election	<b>ALL</b> Evaluate options	<b>PROJECT TEAM</b> Finalize preferred plan
<b>PUBLIC</b> Public open house and online survey to gather input on issues and engagement process (May 22, 2013)			<b>PROJECT TEAM</b> Select and refine preferred option	

The public engagement process includes meeting with key external stakeholders, including community, special interest group and business representatives, prior to gathering input from the larger public. The first external stakeholder meeting was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2013 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Calgary Airport (2120 16 Avenue N.E.). A total of 50 stakeholders were invited to the meeting and 27 attended. The focus of the stakeholder meeting was to gather information and understand more about the community's needs and current road use.

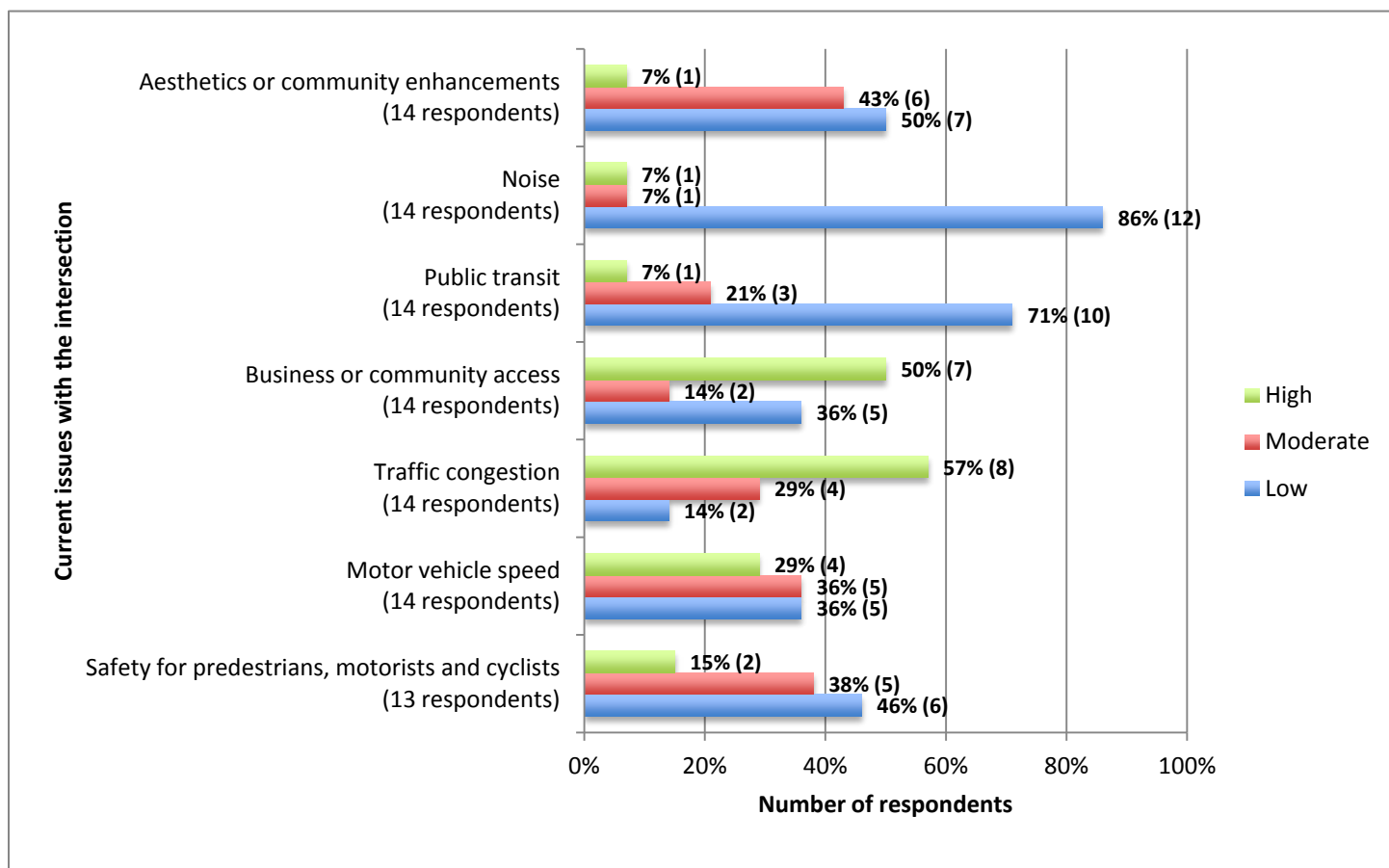
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## Online survey

Prior to the meeting, stakeholders were asked to complete a brief online needs assessment survey and 14 people responded.

**What are the current issues with this intersection? Please indicate your level of concern for each factor below using the *low*, *moderate*, or *high* options from the drop-down boxes.**

Respondents ranked *traffic congestion* and *business or community access* as their highest concerns and *aesthetics or community enhancements*, *safety for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists*, and *motor vehicle speed* as moderate concerns.



**Referring to the question above, please briefly explain each factor you rated as moderate or high.**

Respondents indicated traffic doesn't flow efficiently and the intersection becomes very congested in peak periods; all legs of the intersection were cited except southbound 19 Street. Respondents also indicated the intersection is not safe for non-motorized users, and the pedestrian overpass is not used. Congestion, speed and efficiency were concerns for large commercial vehicles.

**Do you have any other concerns about the intersection that were not listed above?**

Of the seven stakeholders that responded to this question, three indicated they did not have additional concerns and two indicated the surrounding intersections should be assessed to ensure any changes made at 16 Avenue and 19 Street are accommodated at the adjacent intersections.

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Other comments included 16 Avenue should be free-flow at 19 Street, and the signal cycles for 16 Avenue should be longer, particularly the advance left turns.

## **What are the key transportation issues that need to be addressed in the short-term (3 to 5 years) intersection improvements?**

Respondents provided several comments:

- Improve traffic flow and alleviate congestion (4 respondents)
- Improve safety and convenience for pedestrians and cyclists (1 respondent)
- Mandatory use of the pedestrian bridge (1 respondent)
- Construction delays will be worth it if traffic congestion is alleviated (1 respondent)
- Additional turn lane or longer turn signal from eastbound 16 Avenue to northbound 19 Street (1 respondent)
- Traffic calming measures have not deterred increased use of northbound 19 Street between 8 Ave and 16 Ave during the afternoon peak period (1 respondent)

## **Do you have any concerns about potential changes to this intersection or how changes may impact you, area businesses, adjacent communities, or other road users?**

Respondents provided several comments, listed below in order of frequency:

- No concerns or not applicable (3 respondents)
- Addressing traffic flow and congestion (2 respondents)
- Maintaining business access (2 respondents)
- Impact on surrounding intersections (2 respondents)
- Access to Mayland Heights is currently difficult (1 respondent)
- Transporting students safely and efficiently (1 respondent)
- Improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists (1 respondent)
- Incorporating public input and learning from past projects (1 respondent)

## **Feedback forms**

Following the meeting, stakeholders were asked to provide feedback on the public engagement process and the information presented at meeting. A total of 21 feedback forms were completed.

## **Stakeholder meeting evaluation**

All respondents *strongly agreed* or *agreed* the information presented at the meeting helped them understand the scope of the project and was presented in a format that was easy to understand. The majority of respondents (95% or 20 respondents) *strongly agreed* or *agreed* that the project team was able to adequately answer their questions; one respondent did not answer this question.

## **Preferred times for future meetings**

When asked about their preferred times for future stakeholder meetings, most respondents (48% or 10 respondents) prefer weekday evening meetings between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. An additional five respondents (24%) indicated they prefer evening meetings and a few respondents (19% or 4 respondents) would attend morning or afternoon meetings.

## **Public engagement process**

The majority of respondents (86% or 18 respondents) *strongly agreed* or *agreed* the proposed public engagement process provides enough opportunities for input and the levels of public engagement are appropriate; two respondents did not provide an answer. The majority of respondents (81% or 17 respondents) *strongly agreed* or *agreed* the

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opportunities for input are taking place at appropriate stages in the study; two respondents did not provide an answer and one respondent *strongly disagreed* saying they would like the engagement process closer to execution.

## **The following tactics are planned to gather input: stakeholder meetings, public open houses and online feedback.**

When asked about additional ways stakeholders would like to provide input, they said:

- Receive project newsletters to inform surrounding community/businesses (2 respondents)
- Consultation with experts (1 respondent)
- It is helpful to have models built for feedback (1 respondent)
- Engagement meetings are best (1 respondent)

## **Additional comments**

Respondents provided several comments about the meeting and public engagement process:

- Concerned about the timeframe for funding and interchange construction (2 respondents)
- The basics for the functional plan were covered in the stakeholder meeting (1 respondent)
- Would like to see more details in future meetings about reconstructing the intersection and surrounding areas (1 respondent)
- Timely project updates to stakeholders are important (1 respondent)
- An analysis done now may not be applicable in three to five years (1 respondent)
- This project affects one of ATCO Gas' main feeders to downstream stations. The project planning and design for ATCO Gas will require up to nine months. If 16 Avenue is re-classified it will affect federal approvals to work adjacent to the station. Concerned about the timeframe for federal approval, and cost and time for traffic accommodation. (1 respondent)
- Looking forward to upgrades required at the intersection (1 respondent)

## **Conclusions**

The information provided at the April 30, 2013 external stakeholder meeting was well received by attendees. The majority of stakeholders were pleased with the information presented at the meeting and the public engagement process for the functional planning study.

Stakeholders view *traffic congestion* and *business/community access* as the issues of highest concern. The issues most frequently identified as moderate concerns were *aesthetics or community enhancements*, *safety for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists*, and *motor vehicle speed*.

Stakeholders indicated the signal cycles at the intersection of 16 Avenue and 19 Street N.E. should be longer, specifically the advance left turns, as this results in increased congestion.

When asked about preferred times for future meetings, most respondents prefer weekday evening meetings between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.