167 Avenue and 66 Street Intersection Upgrade Project FAQ

Q: What is this project all about and why is it happening?

This project involves upgrading the intersection of 167 Avenue and 66 Street in northeast Edmonton to a modern 2-lane roundabout. This upgrade is necessary due to the significant and ongoing growth in the surrounding communities of Schonsee, McConachie, Ozerna, and Matt Berry. These neighbourhoods are expanding, leading to increased traffic volumes that the existing signalized intersection can no longer efficiently handle. A comprehensive traffic analysis concluded that a roundabout is the optimal solution, offering superior traffic flow management and enhanced safety for both current and future traffic demands. Additionally, the roundabout design allows for simpler construction staging and lower long-term infrastructure costs while adhering to current Canadian roadway design standards. The goal is to create a safer, more efficient intersection that supports the continued development and connectivity of these growing areas.

Q: Why was a roundabout chosen over a traditional traffic light (signalized intersection)?

A comprehensive traffic analysis demonstrated that a roundabout design offers superior traffic flow management and enhanced safety compared to a signalized intersection. It also allows for a simpler staging plan and lower long-term infrastructure costs while meeting current Canadian roadway design standards.

Q: What are the benefits of this roundabout project?

The completed roundabout will improve traffic flow, enhance safety, accommodate growth in vehicular traffic, and improve connectivity within the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Q: Who is leading and funding this project?

This project will be exclusively funded by the private land developers in Lake District and Pilot Sound through the <u>ARA program</u>. Collegewoods II is facilitating and leading construction of the intersection upgrade on behalf of the City of Edmonton.

Q: What are the key changes and what will be built?

The existing signalized intersection will be completely removed and replaced with a new 2-lane roundabout. This includes the construction of the roundabout itself, as well as significant supporting infrastructure improvements. These include new sewer systems, the construction of new arterial road surfaces within the project limits, the installation of new power and street lighting, upgrades to shallow utilities, the creation of shared-use pathways for pedestrians and cyclists, and landscaping to integrate the new infrastructure. Construction of four lanes divided cross section will specifically occur on 167 Avenue approximately 200 meters to the east and west of 66 Street, and on 66 Street between 165 Avenue and 170 Avenue. The new construction will tie in with the existing at the project limits.

Q: Will this project cause any disruptions, and what are the timelines?

Yes, temporary road closures will be necessary to facilitate the construction. Segments of both 167 Avenue and 66 Street are currently planned to be closed starting in June 2025, with the expectation that the intersection will be fully open to traffic again by November 2025. While these closures are in place, detours will be established, and efforts will be made to minimize inconvenience as much as possible.

Q: What about future road widening in the area?

As part of the overall development in the area, developers have been mandated to undertake further road widening. Specifically, 66 Street north of the new roundabout will be widened to four lanes, and 167 Avenue west of the roundabout will also be widened to four lanes. These widening projects are scheduled to commence after the roundabout construction is fully completed. It's important to note that future upgrades to 167 Avenue east of the roundabout and 66 Street south of the roundabout are the responsibility of the City of Edmonton and currently do not have dedicated funding allocated. The construction of the roundabout and the developer-led widening projects are significant steps towards accommodating the increasing traffic demand in this rapidly growing part of the city.