edmonton.ca/Streetlabs
engaged.edmonton.ca/McConachieStreetLab
saferoads@edmonton.ca

Project Overview

Vision Zero Street Labs bring traffic safety improvements to your neighbourhood, using various traffic-calming measures.

Beginning in 2022, the engagement process for this Street Lab was led by the community and the feedback received was used to develop a plan for improving safety.

Using residents' feedback, the City's Safe Mobility team has installed a number of measures to make McConachie safer to move around, whether you choose to walk, roll, bike, take transit or drive. After supporting the community through this process, we are now able to celebrate the project by sharing results and confirming next steps.

Completed Project Steps

Intake

- In April 2022, the application for McConachie was received and reviewed by the City.

Engagement

- Social media distribution, pamphlets, door-to-door canvassing and community newsletters were methods used to advertise public engagement opportunities.
- Two online surveys were available from May 18 - June 18, 2022.
- Residents requested the addition of vibrant crosswalks, speed humps, updated pavement markings and shared traffic safety concerns as well as school drop-off concerns.
- Read the **What We Heard** report for more details.

Create a Plan

- The Street Lab plan included a centre median, curb extensions and adaptable speed humps to slow driver speeds into the neighbourhood and on local roads, improve pedestrian visibility and safety and improve sightlines.
- A **Street Lab Plan** was created and shared with the community.

Install

- Curb extensions were installed on June 6, 2023, and the vibrant crosswalks were painted on July 31 and August 14, 2023.

Street Lab Evaluation

What We Heard

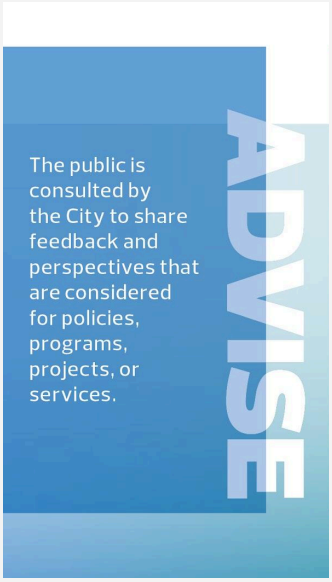
Communication Activities

The McConachie Street Lab measures were installed in May/June 2023. Approximately one year later, the City gathered residents' feedback between May 16-30, 2024 and combined their perspectives with traffic data and engineering expertise to evaluate the effectiveness of the McConachie Street Lab measures.

Neighbourhood residents were invited to complete a survey to share their feedback on the project through the following communications tools:

- 3,826 postcards were delivered to residents in the neighbourhood.
- Emails were sent out to the residents who signed up to receive project updates.
- A post was shared on the NextDoor app to residents in the neighbourhood.

Public Engagement Activities



At this stage of the project, the City has completed public consultation (Advise-level engagement) using an online survey to gather feedback on how the adaptable measures were working and how they impacted perceptions of traffic safety. **70 survey responses** were received.

What We Learned

Engagement Findings and Key Themes

Quantitative Summary Highlights

Perception of Traffic Safety Post Installations	Community Sentiment
Overall satisfaction with installed measures	54.3% satisfied, 5.7% neutral, 40% dissatisfied
Improved safety for walking, rolling or biking	52.9% agree it's safer, 7.1% neutral, 38.6% disagree
Impact of snow/ice on safety and livability in neighbourhood after measures installed	52.9% believe no impact, 7% neutral, 38.6% believe it has an impact

Installed **Measure**	**Community Sentiment** (Not all totals add up to 100% as some respondents indicated "I don't know" or "not applicable")
Adaptable speed humps on 167C Avenue	60% agree it slowed traffic while 24.3% disagree
Centre Median North of 167 Avenue on McConachie Boulevard	***Reduced speeding:*** ● 51.4% agree, 5.7% did not report a change, and 38.6% disagree ***Encouraged vehicle yielding and improved pedestrian safety:*** ● 48.6% agree, 41.4% disagree
Curb extensions on 170 Avenue (school drop-off area)	54.3% agree it improved sightlines, 30% disagree
Curb extensions on McConachie Way	50% agree it reduced speeds
Curb extensions on McConachie Boulevard and 170 Avenue, 167B Avenue, McConachie Way and 167C Avenue	***Improved pedestrian safety and visibility:*** ● 51.4 % agree, 8.6% found no change, and 37.1% disagree ***Slowed and calmed traffic:*** ● 50% agree and 41.4% disagree ***Discouraged parking close to crosswalks and created clearer sightlines:*** ● 55.7% agree and 40% disagree

Qualitative Summary Highlights

Respondents shared additional feedback on their experience with the Street Lab; common themes that emerged included:

- **Requests for additional measures**
  Many respondents wanted more street lab measures added, as well as improvements to existing ones to address winter challenges such as low visibility due to snow build-up.
- **Safety enhancements**
  Suggestions included more traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, increased enforcement and flashing crosswalks.
- **Concerns with curb extensions**
  While curb extensions were effective at slowing down traffic, some respondents worried that narrower roads could increase the risk of collisions. Additionally, curb extensions and centre medians were sometimes difficult to see in winter due to snow, poor lighting, and parked vehicles, causing some drivers to bump into curbs. Snow accumulation was also noted to limit turning radius.
- **Support for flashing crosswalks**
  Flashing crosswalks were a favored option to improve pedestrian visibility, particularly in winter months.

Overall Sentiment: The feedback was largely positive. Many respondents felt that the Street Lab measures effectively reduced speeds and improved pedestrian safety and some showed interest in expanding these safety efforts across the neighbourhood.

Technical Findings and Summary

Staff evaluated the changes in traffic volumes and speeds before and after installation of the traffic calming measures via multiple speed surveys. The table shows a summary of results across all locations.

Metric	Pre-installation	Post-installation	Change
Total Average Daily Traffic Counts (all locations)	2,997	2,927	-2.4%
Average Speed	36.7	33.0	-10.0%
Average Speed (85th Percentile*)	43.8	38.8	-11.4%
Average % Speed Compliance	72.2%	80.2%	8.0%

**The speed at or below which 85% of drivers were observed traveling*

Following the installation of the traffic calming measures, the results show that:

- **All the speed indicators showed improvements.** Specifically, the average speed decreased by 10%, and the average compliance rate with posted speed limit increased by 8%.
- Even though there were some technical difficulties with gathering pre-installation data at McConachie Way North of 167 Ave, the after data shows that all speed indicators are within target levels.

As a result of these improvements, all the surveyed locations are now among the top-performing 40 km/h roads in the city.

What We Decided and Next Steps

Insights Worth Celebrating!

The feedback received, combined with the City's engineering expertise and technical data, has demonstrated that the adaptable measures are working to reduce speeding and improve pedestrian safety. The following decisions have been made regarding the measures:

Type and location of measures	Decision
Curb extensions at the following locations: • McConachie Blvd at 170 Avenue (2) • McConachie Blvd at 167B Avenue (2) • McConachie Way at 167C Avenue (1)	Will remain in place given the resulting speed reduction and improved perceptions of traffic safety.
Curb extensions at 170 Avenue between McConachie Boulevard and 64 Street (2)	
Curb Extensions on McConachie Way between 167 Avenue and 167C Avenue (2)	
Centre median at McConachie Blvd north of 167 Avenue	
Three adaptable speed humps on 167C Avenue between McConachie Way and 62 Street	Converted to permanent measures in August 2024 based on speed reduction and positive community feedback.

Next Steps

After a detailed review of all the data summarized in this report and other Safe Mobility programs implemented or planned, it was determined that a second phase of the lab will not proceed. Traffic safety improvements have been completed at Christ the King School through the **Safe Routes to School Program**.

McConachie Boulevard between 174 Avenue and 66 Street has been identified as a project area in the **Towards 40 program**, which is focused on improving safety in areas where speeding and road safety issues have been identified. The program will encourage safer driving habits and increase speed limit compliance using adaptable measures. Stakeholders including residents will be notified of the start of the project, anticipated to begin in 2025, through mailouts and signage in the project area.

Thank you to all who participated and shared feedback throughout the Street Lab process. The City's Safe Mobility team is committed to working with Edmontonians, understanding lived experiences and ensuring that we all play a part in achieving Vision Zero!

To access project information, please visit **edmonton.ca/StreetLabs**.

To learn more about how Edmonton will reach Vision Zero through safe and livable streets visit **edmonton.ca/visionzero**.

For all other inquiries please contact us by email at **saferoads@edmonton.ca** or by calling 311.