

McConachie Street Labs Public Engagement Summary

Date: June 2022

Prepared by: McConachie Street Labs Team

Background and Context

The McConachie Street Lab team has identified speeding as a major concern in our area. We are working to identify the Street Lab installations that will effectively reduce speeding and shortcutting. Based on concerns we've heard from residents, we have identified potential solutions through the new Vision Zero Street Labs program at the City of Edmonton. We have an opportunity to see how temporary, adaptable measures on our street can increase the safety and livability in our community.

What is Vision Zero Street Labs?

Vision Zero Street Labs combines the expertise and power of Edmontonians (YOU!) and City of Edmonton staff. Together, we will use temporary and adaptable measures to quickly and creatively address neighbourhood safety and livability concerns.

Vision Zero Street Labs provide a neighbourhood and residents with:

- An opportunity to trial new solutions using temporary materials
- New experiences and conversation around street safety and neighbourhood liveability
- Meaningful options when permanent infrastructure changes are not available
- A chance to influence change on your streets and develop lasting connections within your community

McConachie Street Lab Project

So far we have had success with getting road signs placed throughout McConachie to remind drivers that this is their neighborhood and that kids are crossing.

We are hoping to make the following improvements with our Street Lab:

1. Add vibrant crosswalks to existing school and playground zone crosswalks to increase the visibility of those crossing at Christ the King, Soraya Hafez and "Airplane Park."
2. Deploy driver feedback signs at the above locations to slow traffic and encourage safe speeds.
3. Paint "no parking" on the concrete at specific problem corners.
4. Install speed humps along 167 C Ave. to address speeding concerns.

Our project team is also working with the City to determine the feasibility of installing lights on McConachie Blvd and 167 Ave.

The public engagement process for this project was initiated in April 2022. The City of Edmonton asked the project team to let community members know about Vision Zero Street Labs, and to gather your experiences and ideas. This summary is a report back on what we heard in the engagement process.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their insights, experiences and feedback to inform our Street Lab project.

Communication Activities

Information about Street Labs was shared in a number of ways including:

- Facebook Groups (4 different groups)
- Pamphlets
- Door to door canvassing
- Community Newsletters

Engagement Activities

Two online surveys were available from May 18 - June 18, 2022.

General Survey

The first survey was designed to gather feedback from the community about the poor traffic culture throughout the McConachie community. 46 people completed this survey.

167C Avenue Speed Humps Survey

The second survey was designed specifically to explore the installation of temporary rubber speed humps along 167C Avenue. The project team wanted to collect feedback to understand experiences and concerns of residents living on 167C Avenue and who would be directly impacted. A total of 14 people completed this survey.

Engagement Results

The data from the general online survey has been analyzed and themed. A summary of the findings is presented in this section.

Question 1: What is most important to you about walking, biking, or driving in our neighborhood?

Of the 46 respondents, 22 identified safety as being most important to them. Other ideas included:

- Visibility
- Accessibility
- Crosswalk safety
- Slower speeds

Question 2: What makes you feel unsafe when driving, biking, or walking in our neighborhood?

Participants overwhelmingly identified speeding as the behaviour that makes them feel unsafe. Other responses included:

- Unsafe driving behaviours such as ignoring stop signs
- Limited visibility (blind corners)
- Excessive street parking
- Vehicles parked too close to intersections

Question 3: Which location(s) would you see a benefit with trying a temporary Street Lab to be installed and which one?

- Soraya Hafez (McConachie Blvd & 170 Ave) - vibrant crosswalks, curb extensions near crosswalks
- Christ the King (McConachie Way & McConachie Dr), Airplane Park (60 St & McConachie Blvd.) - curb extension near crosswalks
- 167C Ave - Speed humps (3 ideally), four way stop or stop signs installed on 61 St, one side street parking, shared street

Question 4: With these locations have you seen the following? Speeding, failing to yield or stop, failing to obey signage, near misses and reckless driving/distracted drivers.

The table below summarizes the input received and the number of respondents who have seen the following behaviours at each location. Respondents could choose more than one option.

	Speeding	Failing to yield or stop	Failing to obey signage	Near misses	Reckless driving/distracted drivers
Soraya Hafez School	39	30	29	16	20
Christ the King School	40	27	26	15	21
Airplane Park - 60 St and McConachie Blvd	39	29	28	13	20
167C Avenue	36	20	13	6	13

Question 5: For the next two questions, please answer the following scale.

	Very safe	Safe	Neutral	Unsafe	Very unsafe
How safe do you feel when walking, biking, or driving in McConachie?	1	9	13	16	7
As a pedestrian how safe do you feel while crossing at crosswalks through McConachie?	2	3	9	19	12

Question 6: If you are a person with mobility challenges, please share any specific concerns you have about traffic safety in our neighborhood?

Those respondents that identified as having mobility challenges cited the following traffic safety concerns:

- Speeding - Failure to allow pedestrians to cross at designated crosswalks
- Visibility - Lack of visibility at crosswalks, or crosswalk with sound for the visually impaired
- Accessibility - People park across designated crossings blocking the ramp to the road to cross

Question 7: If you are a parent, please share any specific concerns you have about traffic safety in our neighborhood.

Crosswalk safety and speeding were the concerns most frequently expressed by parents. The table below summarizes the responses.

Theme	Comments
Crosswalk safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The airplane park crosswalk is not safe or visible and speeding • Some time kids trying to cross the road, people never stop • Light at the crosswalk is so important and its so needed for everyone's safety
Speeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The speeding especially around “airplane” park is horrible • People driving too fast and not stopping for pedestrians • There are so many speeders in my area alone (64st - 177 Ave) that it’s scary to have my kids be outside
Unsafe behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the U turns in front of schools and in crosswalks • People driving don't do full stops • People run the stop sign here as well to try and get onto 167 Avenue
Distracted driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scared of speeders or distracted drivers hitting children • Distracted driving, not pausing for pedestrians • People not paying attention to crosswalks or playground zones
Road rage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road rage when Christ the King school lets out

Question 8: Do you have any other ideas to increase traffic safety in our neighborhood?

Respondents shared other ideas to increase traffic safety in the neighbourhood including:

- More enforcement - photo radar and police presence
- Neighborhood watch program to take down some license plates and submit to EPS
- Speed humps
- Crosswalk lights at Soraya Hafez, Christ the King and Airplane Park

- No Parking zones near intersections on McConachie Drive
- Limit parking to only one side of main streets
- Driver feedback signs
- Pedestrian scramble at the school intersections
- 4-way stop at 55 Street and McConachie Drive

Engagement Results

167C Avenue Speed Humps Survey

Fourteen people responded to the 167C Avenue speed humps survey. All of the respondents live on 167C Street and believe there are speeding and traffic safety concerns on their road.

All of the respondents agree that speed humps will mitigate their speeding concerns. Other suggested additional measures included:

- Enforcement
- 4-way stop
- Lights
- Signage telling people to slow down
- On-street parking ban

Additionally we heard that people would like the speed humps to be installed year round. At this time the rubber speed hump installation would be temporary due to the blading to bare pavement in the winter season.

Proposed Feature Labs

Based on the engagement results, the project team is proposing the following Feature Labs projects for our neighborhood.

- Soraya Hafez (McConachie Blvd & 170 Ave) - vibrant crosswalks, curb extensions near crosswalks
- Christ the King (McConachie Way & McConachie Dr), Airplane Park (60 St & McConachie Blvd.) - curb extension near crosswalks
- 167C Ave - Speed humps (3 ideally), four way stop or stop signs installed on 61 St, one side street parking, shared street

Next Steps

The community project team has submitted our Street Labs plan to the City of Edmonton for review. The City's technical team will review the plan and work with us to make adjustments if necessary. Once our plan is approved, we will be ready to start preparing for installation. We will need your help to bring out Street Lab to life!

If you want to volunteer for installation day or if you want to learn more about the project, please connect with Matthew at matthew.slabysz@gmail.com or 780-700-0647.