

# What We Heard

## Wolf Willow Traffic Calming Installations

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## INTRODUCTION: PROJECT OVERVIEW

Wolf Willow residents have expressed concerns of an increase in traffic volume, speeding and parking congestion along Wolf Willow Crescent due to visitors accessing the Wolf Willow stairs and the River Valley. In July 2020, Traffic Operations began working with a group of Wolf Willow residents to address these concerns. A one-year [Residential Parking Pilot Program](#) started in November 2021 and was re-evaluated in late 2022. Public Engagement results, supported by other sources such as 311 data, showed that the majority of participants were not in favour of the pilot program. In order to align with City Policy and based on the review of the technical requirements, the program trial was lifted in November 2022. As part of the next steps, residents were encouraged to explore a [Vision Zero Street Lab](#) to help address traffic safety concerns.

On February 17, 2023, a neighbourhood site visit was coordinated by Ward sipiwiyiniwak Councillor Sarah Hamilton's office and included Councillor Hamilton, City staff from Safe Mobility and local residents. The intended focus of the visit was to identify traffic safety concerns rather than solutions in order to leave room for flexible and creative problem solving.

Through the above channels, we heard that Wolf Willow residents continued to experience a number of traffic safety concerns such as speeding, traffic volume, parking congestion and crosswalk safety. In order to help address these concerns, Safe Mobility engineers created a proposed safety plan, which included speed humps, curb extensions, and no-parking zones.

We have also heard that some residents did not feel included in the engagement process or felt they did not have an opportunity to provide meaningful feedback on the safety concerns they were experiencing in the neighbourhood. To promote inclusive and equitable engagement, the City engaged with residents living along Wolf Willow Crescent and Wolf Willow Point through an online survey. This gave residents the opportunity to share their perspectives on the traffic safety concerns they are experiencing and provide insights and feedback on the proposed safety plan, as well as their comfort level with each measure. This feedback is presented in this report.

The feedback obtained through the engagement in May was used in conjunction with the City's engineering expertise and technical data, to determine if the proposed safety measures of speed humps and curb extensions would be installed along Wolf Willow Crescent and Wolf Willow Road. This decision is outlined in this report.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The City of Edmonton's public engagement spectrum defines the public's level of influence in engagement processes. **The role of the public during this engagement was at the ADVISE level on the City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum** and residents were invited to share their feedback and perspectives on the proposed safety measures. Visit [edmonton.ca/publicengagement](https://edmonton.ca/publicengagement) for more information on the City's public engagement process.



### Communications Activities

To ensure residents were aware of the engagement process, and to support inclusive participation of the most impacted residents along Wolf Willow Crescent and Wolf Willow Point, the City communicated the engagement activities in the following ways:

- Public notices were hand-delivered to 98 of the 99 households (one dwelling is under construction) along Wolf Willow Crescent and Wolf Willow Point on May 2, 2023. The public notice included information on the proposed safety measures, engagement opportunities and information on how to register for an upcoming information session.
- An information session was held on the evening of May 9, 2023. Ward Councillor Sarah Hamilton and nine Wolf Willow residents were in attendance. The purpose of the information session was to:
  - Address the Wolf Willow Resident Parking Pilot Program and the reasons for ending the trial.
  - Summarize traffic concerns and review proposed solutions to address these concerns.
  - Provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed safety plan.
- A second public notice was hand-delivered on May 12, 2023 to the same 98 households along Wolf Willow Crescent and Wolf Willow Point, to remind residents of engagement opportunities.

## Engagement Activities

Online engagement opportunities were provided to ensure a diversity of voices and equitable participation in the engagement process. An open link online survey was available from May 2-16, 2023 and was targeted to residents along Wolf Willow Crescent and Wolf Willow Point.

To help categorize the feedback received and analyze the results, respondents were asked if they lived in Wolf Willow, and if so which street they lived on.

**Fifty three (83%) of the 64 survey respondents indicated they live in Wolf Willow.** The table on page 13 indicates where Wolf Willow respondents live.

## What We Asked

The goal of the survey was to provide Wolf Willow residents with the opportunity to share their perspectives on traffic concerns in the Wolf Willow neighbourhood and their insights on the proposed traffic calming measures along Wolf Willow Crescent and Wolf Willow Road.

## WHAT WE HEARD

### Online Survey Results Summary

The data from the online survey was analyzed and themed. Results have been presented as overall responses (64 responses) and the responses of those living in Wolf Willow (53 respondents).

**Question 1: In the past 12 months, have you observed any traffic safety concerns in the neighbourhood?**

The majority of respondents (83%) stated they have observed traffic safety concerns in the neighbourhood.

Response	Overall		Wolf Willow Residents	
	N=64	%	N=53	%
Yes	53	83%	47	89%
No	9	14%	6	11%

Unsure	2	3%	0	0%
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**Question 2: Which of the following [traffic safety concerns] have you observed? Select all that apply.**

The top traffic safety concerns in the neighbourhood included: speeding, high traffic volume, illegal parking and poor crosswalk safety. There were 55 responses to this question and the table below summarizes the responses.

Response	Overall		Wolf Willow Residents	
	N=55	%	N=47	%
Speeding	46	84%	42	89%
Poor crosswalk safety (such as the visibility of crosswalks)	38	69%	34	72%
Illegal parking	39	71%	34	72%
Drivers not yielding to pedestrians	34	62%	28	60%
Drivers not coming to a full stop	23	42%	20	43%
Poor driver attention or distracted driving	36	65%	30	64%
High traffic volume	41	75%	37	79%
Traffic noise	36	65%	32	68%
Other	12	22%	10	21%

Other comments included:

- Community safety: key concerns included after hours use of the river valley and illegal activities. Respondents also noted that the gate to the stairs is often left unlocked, resulting in vehicles driving up to the stairs.
- Pedestrian and child safety: several residents shared that dangerous driving behaviours, such as speeding, were impacting the safety of children playing.
- Cleanliness: dog waste and littering.
- Noise: an increase in noise from people visiting the area and also noise from car locking systems.

- Traffic safety: vehicles racing and drifting down the street and impeded sightlines due to cars parked on both sides of the street.

**Question 3: Do you have any other specific comments regarding the above safety concerns?**

Respondents shared a number of additional comments. The top themes included:

- Traffic safety concerns
- Traffic volume
- Pedestrian and crosswalk safety
- Residential parking program

A description of each theme is provided in the table below.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Description</i>
Traffic safety concerns	Excessive speeding, which has caused several collisions and impacts the safety of children playing.
Traffic volume	High traffic volume, congestion and parking in the neighbourhood.  One comment was made regarding the ability of emergency vehicles to safely navigate the streets due to parked cars.
Pedestrian and crosswalk safety	Poor crosswalk visibility, primarily due to parked cars, along the corridor.  Sightline issues are further exacerbated by the curved nature of the road and drivers speeding, which impacts the safety of children, walkers and cyclists in the neighbourhood.
Residential parking program	There were a number of responses relating to the Residential Parking Pilot Program, both in support of, and opposing, the end of the trial.
Other	Other comments included suggested traffic calming measures such as bike lanes and raised crosswalks.

**Question 4: Looking at the proposed measures of permanent asphalt speed humps, what is your comfort level with having these measures?**

The data includes the overall survey responses (64 responses) and a breakdown of the respondents who stated that they live in Wolf Willow (53 respondents).

Response	Overall		Wolf Willow Residents	
	N=64	%	N=53	%
Very comfortable	34	53%	30	57%
Comfortable	8	13%	4	8%
Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable	1	2%	1	2%
Uncomfortable	6	9%	4	8%
Very uncomfortable	15	23%	14	26%

**Question 5: Why are you comfortable or uncomfortable encountering these measures on a daily basis?**

Participants provided a number of responses as to why they are comfortable or uncomfortable with the proposed speed humps. Comments have been themed, with a summary and description of each theme presented below.

<b>Comfortable with speed humps</b>	
Theme	Description
Reduces speeding	Reduced speeding was the main reason for many respondents feeling comfortable or very comfortable with speed humps.
Improves safety	Participants noted that speed humps will help address safety in the neighbourhood, particularly improving the safety of children and pedestrians as drivers will be encouraged to slow down.
Additional measures	Some respondents highlighted that speed humps were a good start, but they would like to see additional measures in conjunction with the speed humps.
<b>Uncomfortable with speed humps</b>	
Theme	Description



Does not address traffic volume or parking	Participants commented that the speed humps do not address the concerns of high traffic volume or parking along the corridor.
Unnecessary	Some participants noted that the speed humps are unnecessary or ineffective, and therefore are not comfortable with these measures.
Financial impact	Respondents' concerns regarding the financial impacts of speed humps include: reduced property values, damage to vehicles and the cost of the installations.
Impact to residents	Speed hump noise, the inconvenience to residents when driving or backing out of their driveway and aesthetics.
Other	Concerns regarding the ability of City crews to remove snow and ice and the impact on cyclists when biking on the road.

**Question 6: The City's plan includes curb extensions next to two crosswalks, to reduce the crossing distance and draw drivers' attention to the crossing. It also prevents parking next to crossings to increase visibility. What is your comfort level with having these measures?**

The data includes the overall survey responses, and a breakdown of the respondents who stated that they live in Wolf Willow.

Response	Overall		Wolf Willow Residents	
	N=64	%	N=53	%
Very comfortable	37	58%	33	62%
Comfortable	6	9%	4	8%
Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable	3	5%	2	4%
Uncomfortable	9	14%	7	13%
Very uncomfortable	9	14%	7	13%

**Question 7: Why are you comfortable or uncomfortable encountering these measures on a daily basis?**

Participants provided a number of responses as to why they are comfortable or uncomfortable with the proposed speed humps. Comments have been themed, with a summary and description of each theme presented below.

<b>Comfortable with curb extensions</b>	
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Description</b>
Improves crosswalk safety	Increased visibility of the crosswalk will improve sightlines and crosswalk safety.
Pedestrian safety	Curb extensions would make pedestrians more visible to drivers and increase safety for children.
Reduces speeding	Curb extensions will reduce speeding and also encourage drivers to slow down when approaching the crosswalks.
Other	Curb extensions are a good start to traffic calming measures and they won't damage vehicles.  There were a number of suggestions to include flowers/planters inside the curb extensions.
<b>Uncomfortable with curb extensions</b>	
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Description</b>
Congestion	Respondents are concerned that the curb extensions do not address congestion, may cause more congestion or make the road impassable.
Snow and ice removal	Curb extensions may make winter driving and snow and ice clearing difficult, building up windrows.
Aesthetics	Curb extensions are an eyesore as they are not integrated into the existing infrastructure.
Other	Concerns around cost, that curb extensions are unnecessary or may be confusing to drivers.

**Question 8: Do you have any additional comments?**

Respondents shared a number of additional comments. These have been analyzed and themed as presented below.

Theme	Description
Traffic calming suggestions	<p>Respondents suggested a number of other traffic calming measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No parking zones adjacent to crosswalks</li> <li>● Limiting parking in some areas</li> <li>● Raised crosswalks</li> <li>● Wayfindings signs informing visitors of additional parking</li> <li>● Adding planters to the curb extensions</li> <li>● Enforcing noise and traffic violations</li> </ul> <p><u>No Parking Zones</u> No parking signs will be installed adjacent to one crosswalk along Wolf Willow Crescent. Curb extensions also prevent parking at either side of the crosswalks.</p> <p><u>Raised Crosswalks</u> Safe Mobility engineers reviewed the suggestion of a raised crosswalk. It was decided that it will not be further explored at this time due to cost implication.</p> <p><u>Wayfinding Signs</u> Wayfinding signage at various locations throughout Wolf Willow, and parking information signs will be installed along northern portions of Wolf Willow Road.</p> <p><u>Adding Planters to the Curb Extensions</u> Safe Mobility can provide planters and plants, but residents are responsible for the maintenance of the planters. If you are a resident of Wolf Willow and would be interested in providing upkeep for the planters, please email <a href="mailto:saferoads@edmonton.ca">saferoads@edmonton.ca</a>.</p> <p><u>Enforcing Traffic Violations</u> There are currently no approved <a href="#">Automated Enforcement locations</a> for Wolf Willow for speed enforcement.</p> <p>As per the <a href="#">Government of Alberta's Automated Enforcement guidelines</a>, Automated Enforcement is only allowed at approved sites and no new sites are being approved at this time.</p> <p>To report traffic complaints, contact Edmonton Police Service at <a href="mailto:trafficcomplaints@edmontonpolice.ca">trafficcomplaints@edmontonpolice.ca</a>.</p> <p><u>Enforcing Noise Violations</u> Enforcing noise violations is out of Safe Mobility's scope. If you are experiencing persistent noise, please call 311.</p> <p>If you are witnessing any illegal behaviour, contact Edmonton Police Service.</p>

	<p>A number of participants want additional measures, in conjunction with the proposed safety measures. City staff will continue to monitor the situation to see if additional measures are required in the future.</p>
Residential Parking Pilot Program	<p>Respondents provided a number of comments, in support of and opposition to the conclusion of the Residential Parking Pilot Program.</p> <p>Those in support of the program ending believe it is important to maintain equitable access to the River Valley for all Edmontonians.</p> <p>Those who oppose the conclusion of the trial feel their traffic safety concerns were alleviated when the pilot program was in place.</p>
Comments on the proposed traffic safety measures	<p>Participants provided a number of comments both in favour of and opposing the proposed traffic safety measures.</p> <p>Those in favour of the measures noted they are an effective solution in improving traffic safety, and ensuring equitable access to the River Valley.</p> <p>Others who oppose the measures do not feel there are any safety concerns to address.</p>
Trust and relationship building	<p>A number of respondents do not feel their concerns have been heard by the City and parking congestion and traffic volume are not being addressed.</p> <p>Some respondents consider the Wolf Willow stairs a public attraction and feel the City is responsible for addressing their concerns. There were several comments concerning the gate to the stairs being left open, which leads to vehicles driving up to the stairs.</p>

**Question 9: Do you live in Wolf Willow?**

<i>Response</i>	<i>N=64</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	53	83%
No	11	17%

**Question 10: If yes, where in Wolf Willow do you live?**

<i>Response</i>	<i>N=53</i>	<i>%</i>
Adjacent to a planned speed hump on Wolf Willow Crescent	6	11%
Adjacent to a planned speed hump on Wolf Willow Road	4	8%
Wolf Willow Crescent	27	51%
Wolf Willow Road	2	4%
Wolf Willow Point	10	19%
Other	4	8%

Other respondents stated they live on Wolf Willow Crescent adjacent to a proposed curb extension and Wolf Willow Way.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The Safe Mobility team considered a variety of inputs when determining next steps. Inputs include thoughts and perspectives gathered from public engagement, technical requirements such as speed and traffic volume counts, and alignment with the Safe Mobility Strategy.

After reviewing the public feedback, in which the majority of respondents expressed comfort for the proposed safety measures, the City has decided to move forward with the installation of permanent speed humps and adaptable curb extensions. These measures will address speeding and crosswalk safety, both of which were highlighted as concerns by respondents in the online survey.

Following installation there will be periodic monitoring to assess the impact of the traffic calming measures and to determine if further actions may be needed. Included in this monitoring will be the review of all related inquiries from residents that the city may receive.

Installation of the speed humps and curb extensions is scheduled to take place in mid-June, weather permitting. A public notice will be hand-delivered to Wolf Willow Crescent and Wolf Willow Point residents prior to the installation.

**CONTACT:** Please direct any questions or comments to [saferoads@edmonton.ca](mailto:saferoads@edmonton.ca).