Project Overview

Vision Zero Street Labs is a program designed to address traffic safety concerns at the neighbourhood level by installing traffic calming measures. Each Street Lab is tailored to the unique needs of the neighbourhood and its road users in order to address concerns such as speeding, shortcutting and other unsafe driving behaviours.

Between July 11 to August 8, 2023, the City invited the Newton neighbourhood to share concerns and ideas to improve neighbourhood traffic safety. The City then used the public feedback along with collected traffic data, City design standards, federal and provincial transportation infrastructure legislation and engineering technical expertise to create a Street Lab plan for Newton. Read the What We Heard report for more details.

The <u>Street Lab plan</u> included curb extensions, centre medians, rubber speed humps and a one-way street conversion. These traffic calming measures were installed in October 2024. An evaluation survey was available from February 25 to March 11, 2025, which gathered feedback from community members and organizations on the lived experiences with the new traffic calming measures.



Evaluation Summary and What We Decided

Area 1: 123 Avenue

Traffic Calming Measure

Curb Extensions



- o 123 Avenue and 51 Street
- o 123 Avenue at 53 Street
- 123 Avenue at 55 Street
- 123 Avenue at 57 Street

Evaluation Summary & What We Decided

Although some respondents felt the curb extensions decreased speeding, others thought they did not slow down speeding vehicles enough in the neighbourhood. Respondents shared concerns that the measures impacted snow and ice clearing from the roads in the winter.

Curb extensions:

- ✓ Prompt drivers to slow down.
- ✓ Enhance visibility of intersections.
- ✓ Shorten pedestrian crossing distances, thus decreasing the time needed to safely cross the street.

All curb extensions will remain in place to continue enhancing pedestrian safety.

Safe Mobility works closely with the Snow and Ice Control (SNIC) teams to ensure all designs comply with SNIC requirements to allow for adequate snow and ice removal. In response to the feedback shared, Safe Mobility will monitor the locations of these measures after snow has accumulated on the roads and continue to collaborate with SNIC operations.

Rubber Speed Humps



123 Avenue between 55 Street and 57 Street

Speed humps:

✓ Slow vehicle speeds by 6 to 13 km/h (*Transportation Association of Canada's Canadian Guide to Traffic Calming, 2018*).

Respondents appreciated the speed humps and felt that they slowed traffic. Some respondents felt the speed humps

- ✓ Discourage shortcutting through the neighbourhood.
- ✓ Reduce the risk of serious crashes.

were ineffective during the winter when it snowed.

✓ Increase safety for people walking, biking and rolling.

The rubber speed humps will be upgraded to asphalt speed humps in 2026, resources permitting. Asphalt speed humps are more durable than adaptable speed humps, resulting in improved winter maintenance.

Centre Medians



On either side of the intersection at 54 Street and 123 Avenue

Respondents felt the centre medians increased crosswalk safety by slowing down drivers, while others felt the centre medians did not adequately address speeding concerns. Many felt that centre medians narrowed roads to an unsafe degree, especially in winter.

Centre medians:

- ✓ Narrow the street.
- ✓ Slow vehicles and encourage safer speeds.
- ✓ Provide an enhanced visual indication of the crosswalk.
- ✓ Reduce pedestrian-vehicle conflicts by providing clear vehicle lanes.

Centre medians will remain in place adaptively to continue keeping drivers in the proper lane and slowing vehicles to enhance the safety of all road users. The centre medians will be **upgraded to permanent concrete centre medians** in 2026, resources permitting. Compared to adaptive centre medians, the durability of permanent medians results in improved winter maintenance.

Area 2: 54 Street

Centre Medians

Traffic Calming Measure



 On either side of the intersection at 54 Street and 120 Avenue

Evaluation Summary & What We Decided

Respondents raised concerns about the centre medians impacting snow and ice clearing. However, drivers also felt the centre medians encouraged safe speeds by reminding drivers to slow down.

Centre medians:

- ✓ Narrow the street.
- ✓ Slow vehicles and encourage safer speeds.
- ✓ Provide an enhanced visual indication of the crosswalk.
- ✓ Reduce pedestrian-vehicle conflicts by providing clear vehicle lanes.

Centre medians will remain in place adaptively to continue keeping drivers in the proper lane and slowing vehicles to enhance the safety of all road users. The centre medians will be **upgraded to permanent concrete centre medians** in 2026, resources permitting. Compared to adaptive centre medians, the durability of permanent medians results in improved winter maintenance.

Area 3: 58 Street

Traffic Calming Measure

58 Street One-Way Northbound between 118 and 123 Avenue



Signage including one-way signs along 58 Street at:

- o 118 Avenue
- o 119 Avenue
- o 120 Avenue
- 121 Avenue122 Avenue
- o 123 Avenue

Curb extensions at:

- o 58 Street and 118 Avenue
- 58 Street and 119 Avenue
- o 58 Street and 121 Avenue
- 58 Street and 123 Avenue

Evaluation Summary & What We Decided

Respondents shared concerns about drivers travelling in the wrong direction of traffic after the one-way street conversion and traffic being directed to other areas of the neighbourhood. Data collection along 58 Street showed that 98% of drivers complied with the direction of travel.

The Transportation Association of Canada's (TAC) Transportation Impact Assessment Guidelines (2016) outlines the acceptable number of vehicles per day that can travel on a road based on its classification. Local roads are designed for up to 1,000 vehicles per day and collector roads may accommodate 5,000 to 15,000 vehicles per day. To assess how the one- way conversion impacted traffic volume on nearby roads, traffic volumes were monitored at key locations.

- Volume on 58 Street north of 121 Avenue decreased from 1,106 vehicles to 613 vehicles per day which indicates that the change was effective in reducing shortcutting through the neighbourhood. This change brings the traffic volume on 58 Street into an acceptable range, as it is a local road (local roads are intended to carry less volume than collector roads).
- 57 Street is also a local road and should carry less volume. On 57 Street, traffic volumes increased from 170 vehicles to 387 vehicles. Though this is an increase, it is well within acceptable volumes for local roads.
- 54 Street is a wider collector road, intended to carry higher volumes of traffic. Traffic volume increased from 1,027 vehicles to 1,301 vehicles per day, illustrating that traffic has shifted to the intended locations of travel.

In short, our assessments demonstrated that traffic volumes are now within acceptable ranges for the road classifications, illustrating that the diversion was successful in addressing shortcutting without adding excessive volume to alternate routes.

One-way street conversions:

- ✓ Discourage drivers from using 123 Ave/58 Street as a shortcutting route.
- ✓ Reduce conflicts between vehicles. Collision history showed higher numbers of struck parked vehicle collisions on 58 Street compared to typical local roadways.

Curb extensions:

- ✓ Support the new one-way operations.
- ✓ Improve safety and visibility of the pedestrians crossing the roadway.
- ✓ Slow vehicles and encourage safe driver speeds.
- \checkmark Prohibit people from parking close to the crosswalk.

The one way street conversion and curb extensions will remain in place to continue reducing traffic volume and potential conflicts between vehicles on 58 Street.

Area 4: 121 Avenue

Traffic Calming Measure

Curb Extensions



- o 121 Avenue and 52 Street
- 121 Avenue between 53
 Street and 52 Street
- 121 Avenue and 53 Street

Evaluation Summary & What We Decided

Respondents appreciated the curb extensions and felt safer biking, walking, and driving through the neighbourhood. Some respondents were concerned the measures reduced the amount of roadway for cars to drive on, especially near a local business.

Safe Mobility assessed traffic volumes on 121 Avenue west of 50 Street (a local road) in response to resident feedback about increased volumes and congestion due to the opening of YourSpot Gas Station.

- In 2024, a full signal was installed at 50 Street and 123 Avenue to encourage vehicles to use the collector road of 123 Avenue between 50 Street and 54 Street. As a result, volumes on 123 Avenue increased by 328 vehicles to 3,058 vehicles per day. There was a smaller increase on 121 Avenue by 187 vehicles to 1,388 vehicles.
- After the Street Lab measures were installed, volumes increased slightly on 123 Avenue and 121 Avenue. On 123 Avenue, volumes increased by 82 vehicles to 3,140 vehicles per day. On 121 Avenue, volumes increased by 156 vehicles to 1,546 vehicles.

The increase in traffic volume on 121 Avenue may be associated with the opening of the gas station. The amount of traffic volume that a road can safely handle depends on the type of road it is (local or collector). Other important factors may include parking availability, yield and stop signs, driveway locations and bus routes. Our assessments show that despite the higher traffic volumes, traffic flow and safety are operating as intended and benefitting from the traffic calming measures installed in Newton. Compared to 58 Street, 121 Avenue has lower parking utilization which allows the higher volumes to be accommodated.

Curb extensions:

- ✓ Prompt drivers to slow down.
- ✓ Enhance visibility of intersections.
- ✓ Shorten pedestrian crossing distances, thus decreasing the time needed to safely cross the street.

In Edmonton, local streets typically operate with yield conditions. This means that drivers in both directions share a single travel lane and need to pull over to let each other pass. When you see a curb extension, slow down and be aware of others.

All curb extensions will remain in place to continue encouraging the local road function operating with yield conditions.

Next Steps

The Safe Mobility team will continue to monitor traffic data in the area to determine if any adjustments are needed to the existing measures in place. Community members can inform the City about any operational challenges or maintenance needs related to the installed Street Lab measures by calling 311.

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