



22nd Street West & Confederation Drive Intersection Improvements

What We Learned - Engagement Summary
July 24, 2024



Project Overview

The City of Saskatoon is examining the intersection of 22nd Street West and Confederation Drive to identify a permanent design that addresses safety and operational issues that exist in the eastbound direction.

This location has long-standing concerns with the operation of vehicles attempting to maneuver from Fairmont Drive to the eastbound left turn bay at 22nd Street West and Confederation Drive. In the past, several measures have been implemented, and ultimately removed, along 22nd Street West to prevent this movement. Measures included concrete barriers, low profile barrier, and Tuff Curb with delineator posts. These measures were not effective at resolving the issue.

Currently multiple improvements are being proposed to address these issues, including:

- The construction of an eastbound slotted left turn bay at the intersection of 22nd Street West and Confederation Drive
- A formalized eastbound right turn lane at the intersection of 22nd Street West and Confederation Drive to access the Circle Drive southbound on-ramp
- Construction of a shared-use pathway on the south side of 22nd Street West
- Relocating the existing guide sign on the south side of 22nd Street West that will be impacted by the proposed changes, and
- Changes to the road alignment and traffic control at the intersection of 22nd Street West and Fairmont Drive

Engagement Summary

From May to June 2024, engagement activities took place for the proposed improvements for the 22nd Street West and Confederation Drive intersection.

The goal of the engagement activities was to involve and consult with the community and businesses on the proposed changes. A description of engagement events is outlined in Table 1 (see next page).

Table 1: Summary of Engagement Events

Engagement Activity		Engagement Purpose	Targeted Audience	Engagement Goal
1	Open House May 30, 2024	Communicate the proposed changes and gather feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairhaven Residents/Businesses Parkridge Residents/Businesses Fairhaven Community Association Parkridge Community Association Confederation Suburban Centre General Public 	Share the proposed changes to the intersection of 22nd Street West and Confederation Drive and gather feedback.
2	Online survey May 22 to June 14, 2024	Gather feedback	General Public	Gather feedback on the proposed changes to the intersection of 22nd Street West and Confederation Drive.

Flyers were mailed to residents and business owners in the Parkridge and Fairhaven neighbourhoods and in the Confederation Suburban Centre. The flyer described the engagement activities, how to participate in them, and had a QR code linked to the engage page and online survey. The Community Associations for Parkridge and Fairhaven were contacted through the City’s community consultants. The engagement activities were also promoted through the City’s social media accounts and on the project’s [Engage Page](#).

Open House

An open house was held at St. Marguerite School Gym on May 30, 2024. Eighteen people attended the meeting. Engagement boards outlining the proposal and a roll plan were set up in the meeting space. Project team members were available to discuss the project and answer questions. Sticky notes were used to capture attendees’ thoughts on the proposed changes to the intersection. Attendees were provided with evaluation forms to share their comments on the project and to let us know how the event went for them.

What We Learned

Most attendees provided their feedback directly to project team members. Some people wrote their comments on sticky notes and pasted them on the roll plan. Attendees who provided their feedback to the project team were also invited to submit comments on the evaluation form. Eleven evaluation forms were filled out. Those who filled out a form were either business owners, employees, or residents.

Six of the evaluation forms had comments regarding the project. Two attendees expressed their support for the proposed changes. One attendee commented that the proposed changes will shift traffic onto Diefenbaker Drive. Another attendee indicated that they supported the proposed changes but had an unspecified reservation.

Common themes from the sticky notes were:

- Some advocated for the closure of Fairmont Drive at 22nd Street West.
- Keep Fairmont Drive open at 22nd Street West by extending the right turn lane past Fairmont Drive.

Other themes on the sticky notes were:

- To relocate Fairmont Drive exit like the Circle Drive West plan.
- Put a gate in the fence for cyclists.
- Ensure proper drainage at the proposed realigned crosswalk and pedestrian ramp on the 22nd and Confederation intersection because there are water pools when it rains.
- Making a longer merge lane from Diefenbaker Drive onto 22nd Street.
- A path to join the proposed multiuse pathway from Diefenbaker Drive.

In relation to the format of the open house, the attendees said that they were satisfied with the engagement event.

Online Survey

Another engagement tool that was used was an online survey. The survey was available between May 22 and June 14, 2024. During this time 124 people accessed the survey with 122 respondents completing the survey. The six-question survey was developed to gather feedback on the proposed changes to the intersection. Respondents were asked to review the project materials on the Engage Page before completing the survey. Not all the respondents answered all the questions, and respondents had the option to select more than one answer for some of the questions.

The majority of the respondents were residents that will be impacted by the proposed changes (n=116). Three respondents were business owners or employees impacted by the project, three were not going to be impacted by the project.

When asked why respondents travel through the intersection of 22nd Street West and Confederation Drive (n=121), 36% responded to using the intersection to get to shops and restaurants, 29% to travel to community services, 24% to travel to work and 10% use the intersection to travel to school or to other activities.

When asked the mode of transport and the frequency of travel the majority of respondents answered, “using driving -passenger vehicle about daily” (see Figure 1, next page).

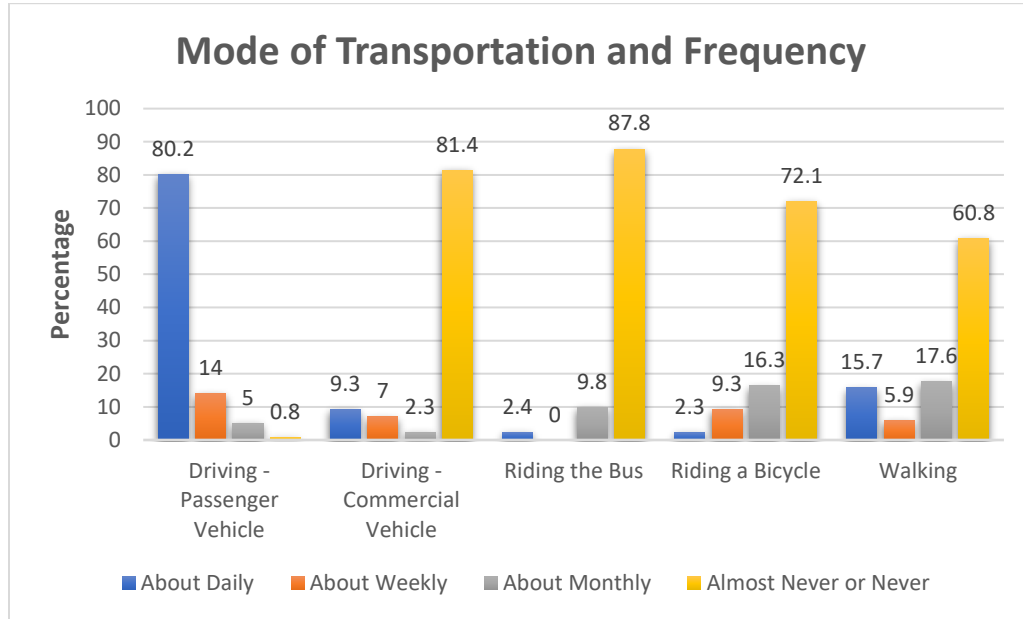


Figure 2: Summary of mode of transportation and frequency

What We Learned – Online Survey

Proposed changes to 22nd Street West between Diefenbaker Drive and Confederation Drive

When asked if respondents agree with the proposed option (n=113), 46% (n=53) supported the proposed changes, 34% (n=40) were not in support and 20% (n=20) were either unsure or proposed other options.

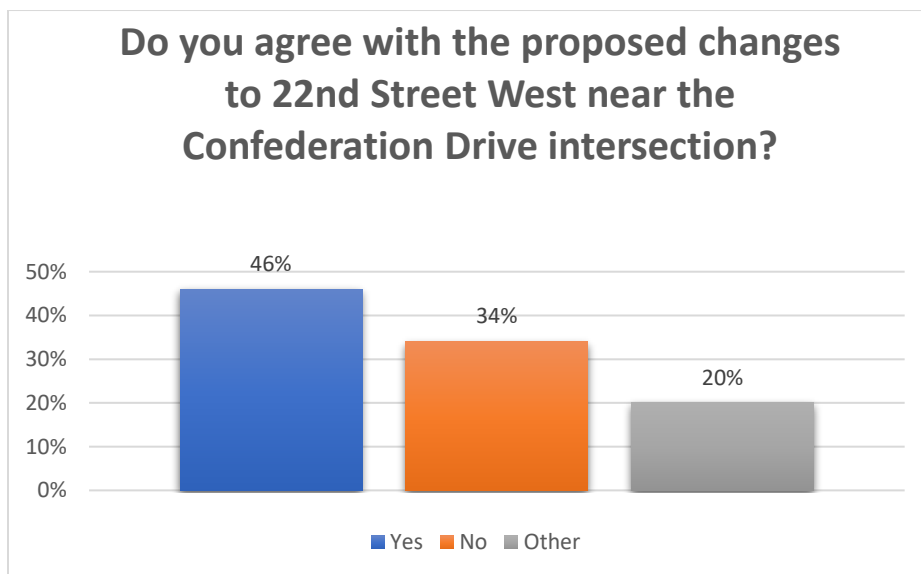


Figure 2: Summary of responses to proposed changes

Question five was an open-ended question that asked respondents to share their views on the proposed changes. Responses (n=75) were analysed for themes. Five themes emerged – why change is needed, why change is not needed, mention of Fairmont Drive and/or Circle Drive, alternatives to the proposed changes and links to other modes of transportation. The following is a sample of respondents answers.

Why change is needed

- “I am glad that there is a plan to address the shoulder that gets used as a third lane already. That will make it safer”.
- “Moving the merge lane back 2-3 blocks will allow drivers to merge and then slowly make there way over so they can turn left on Confed[eration] dr”.
- “Please do option 1, we need a left turning lane onto Confed. Dr. and a proper merge from Fairmont Dr”.
- “This would solve a lot of the issues! Thank you!! It’s been a TERRIBLE corner for way too long”!
- “I think this is a good more permanent plan to deter the long-term issues with this section”.
- “The fact that vehicles will not be able to be three abreast coming off of Fairmont Drive onto 22nd street and that Fairmont traffic can no longer shoot across four lanes of traffic to turn left onto Confederation Drive are huge improvements”.

Of those in support of the changes, some respondents also expressed concerns about how long it will take for construction to start.

Why change isn’t needed

- “It’s a waste of time, and more importantly taxpayer money. The intersection functions just fine as is”.
- “It will make it harder to enter and leave my community”.
- “I think the intersection should be left as it is now! When those pegs were up it...caused nothing but a traffic snarl. There is not enough room to do a proper circle so don’t make it any worse by doing what was done on Diefenbaker and 22nd”.

The reasons for why the changes are not needed included cost, other civic priorities, etc.

Mention of Fairmont Drive and/or Circle Drive

- “This is not addressing the issue of turning right off Fairmont onto 22nd and people crossing multiple lanes”.
- “My frustration is how Saskatoon designs access to Circle Drive”.
- “The cut through from Fairmont Drive onto 22nd street needs to be closed off completely as no matter whatever alterations are done, the DANGER of vehicles crossing multiple lanes of traffic to turn left at Confederation drive is extremely unsafe”.

Some of the respondents mentioned Fairmont Drive connecting to Circle Drive as being an issue. For example, ten respondents shared that a full closure of Fairmont Drive onto 22nd Street West would be a better option. Some of these respondents added that traffic can be rerouted to Diefenbaker Drive.

- “There is not enough change to make a difference with the flow of traffic trying to access circle drive which is the main issue with this intersection. Add into the mix the circle drive traffic having to come into a residential neighbourhood and then attempt to get through that traffic to get on to 22nd street. Its all a terrible design.”
- “I would like to see the exit from Tim Hortons onto 22nd street closed off”.
- “I concur with all changes however, I strongly believe that the Fairmont Drive access between 22nd Street and Fairlight Crescent should be closed. Traffic can easily re-route to Diefenbaker Drive”.
- “I think there should be more of an overpass built for east bound traffic to get onto Circle North and Circle South. If that was built then the traffic from Fairmont to get onto 22nd would not be as bad. Its the people trying to get onto Circle Dr that are causing the issue”.

Possible Alternative Solutions

- “The only time everyone is aware of the two lanes turning is for a couple of months after the lines are freshly painted on the roadway and thus visible. Simple signage facing the right lane on Confederation would deal with the problem year round”.
- “There should be 5 lanes. One specific to traffic traveling to south circle. One specific to traffic accessing north circle. Two for traveling downtown and one for left turning”.

Alternatives could be traffic light sequencing. Four respondents indicated that turning left onto Confederation Drive should be longer to get more vehicles through and keep the flow of traffic moving.

Linkage to other modes of transportation

- “The multi-use pathway should connect to the future Diefenbaker BRT station on the RED Line”.
- “Its not needed but the shown extra multi user path would be nice”.
- “Spend the \$ on better pedestrian & bike access”.

How did the respondents learn about the survey?

Most of the survey respondents (n=73) heard about the survey through the flyer, followed by information from a Community Association (n=23). See Figure 3, below for more details.

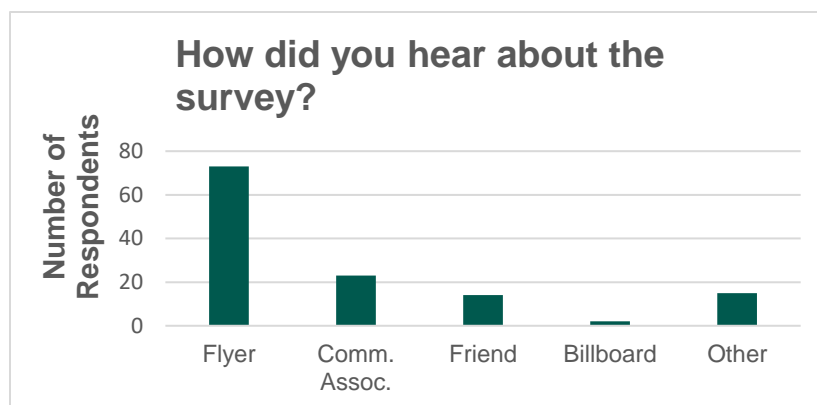


Figure 3: Summary of how respondents heard about the survey

Limitations

Some participants may have limited access to internet or technology that presented challenges in accessing the online survey. The number of attendees at the open house and survey respondents may not represent most people that use the intersection given the daily volume of traffic at that intersection.

Next Steps

Engagement results will be shared with the project team in the Transportation Department to determine next steps. The summary of this evaluation will also be provided to City Council in Fall 2024.