

Council Meeting Date: January 22, 2013
Agenda Item #: 12.1

RANGE ROAD 233 DESIGN PROJECT

Report Purpose

To provide Council with an update of the Range Road 233 design project.

Council History

June 27, 2006 – Council directed Administration to proceed with engineering design of Range Road 233 (Wye Road to Highway 628) based upon roundabout intersection control.

Background/Justification

Strategic Plan: (mark beside the applicable sections)

Governance			Community Well Being		X
Community Sustainability		X	Economic Viability		
Service Delivery	X	Stakeholder Communication		X	Resource Management

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Economic: Transportation services and infrastructure benefit the economy

Social: Mobility is an essential component of well-being

Environmental: Effective and efficient multi-modal travel

Stakeholder: County residents and businesses

Interdepartmental: Capital Planning & Construction, Planning & Development Services, Transportation & Agriculture Services

Summary

Range Road 233 between Wye Road and Highway 628 is currently serving over 600 residences in nine developments and is one of three commuter connections between Sherwood Park and Highway 628. The challenge that the County faces is how to safely, effectively, and sustainably improve this road in the future while ensuring both commuters and residents are properly served.

2003 – 2004: A Functional Planning Study (FPS) was undertaken for Range Roads 231, 232, & 233 from Wye Road to Highway 628 to review long-term improvements. The FPS report concluded that all three roadways would require additional lanes and upgrades to the country residential intersections.

2005: The new higher-density (estates residential) developments of Balmoral Heights and Sherwood Golf & Country Club Estates were proposed. The requisite traffic analysis identified that intersection control beyond two-way stop signs would be required to allow residential traffic to safely enter onto the roadway.

2006: The budget approved the detailed design and land acquisition for Range Road 233. Various alternatives for lane requirements and intersection controls were reviewed and on June 27 Council approved roundabout intersection control.

2008 – 2009: Consistent with that design philosophy, the first roundabout was constructed at the new intersection of Balmoral Way (Balmoral Heights) and Clubhouse Drive (Sherwood Golf & Country Club Estates, Stage 1).

2009 – 2012: Land acquisition continued. Due to the uncertainties with respect to future developments and resultant traffic, the design was deferred.

2012: With additional clarity to future developments, the design project resumed. Further analysis confirmed that roundabouts provide better safety characteristics, less delay, are less expensive to construct and maintain, and that potential for traffic migration to Range Roads 231 and 232 is negligible.

Once the design was 85% complete, two Public Information Sessions were held on September 19. The purpose of these sessions was to re-familiarize the public with the project; informing them of the work done to date and seeking to ascertain their level of support for the design. Based on the responses, it appears that there is positive support for roundabouts. See Enclosure I for the summary report findings.

2013: We continue to proceed with design and road right-of-way acquisition. Potential development in Stage 2 of Sherwood Golf & Country Club Estates is likely to commence within the next two years, which will introduce a second roundabout at the intersection of Fountain Creek Way and the future Greenside Drive.

Enclosure

- I Range Road 233 Public Information Session report (4046683)
- II Range Road 233 Design Project Map (4098790)

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Director: Dan Schilbe, Acting Director, Capital Planning & Construction
Associate Commissioner: Peter Vana, Infrastructure & Planning Services
Document #: 4053544

Date: January 8, 2013



**Range Road 233 Improvements
from Ash Street to Highway 628**

Public Information Session Report Summary

Prepared by



For



October 2012

Executive Summary

In order to notify adjacent land owners and interested road users of the planned improvements to RR233, Strathcona County sponsored a set of information sessions on September 19, 2012 at the County Community Centre. Landowners adjacent Range Road 233 from Ash Street to Highway 628 were invited by letter to a meeting September 19, 2012 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

As well, a publically advertised open house continued in the same venue from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Both information sessions featured a presentation that provided an opportunity to inform participants of the background configuration of the intersection and the manner in which the roundabout would operate. Representatives from Strathcona County, Al-Terra Engineering and Lovatt Planning Consultants were in attendance to assist with the presentations and logistics.

Almost 100 individuals participated in the landowner information session with fewer than a dozen at the public event.

To ensure the broadest possible communication with area residents an advertisement (see Appendix A) was placed to in the Sherwood Park News once a week for the two weeks prior to information session.

Each event participant was asked to sign in and fill out a comment sheet (see Appendix B) prior to leaving the venue. Thirty (30) comment sheets were returned.

The responses received to the two questions on the comment sheets have been documented with a list of project team members to provide the following record of the event.

**RANGE ROAD 233 IMPROVEMENT FROM ASH STREET TO HIGHWAY 628
LANDOWNER INFORMATION SESSION
COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTRE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 – 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.**

COUNTY COUNCIL

**Mayor Linda Osinchuk
Strathcona County**

**Councillor Linton Delainey
Strathcona County**

**Councillor Vic Bidzinski
Strathcona County**

**Councillor Roxanne Carr
Strathcona County**

**Councillor Peter Wlodarzak
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PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

**Dawn Green
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Sadiq Pirani
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Dana Leithead
Al-Terra Engineering
Bogusia Stapor
Al-Terra Engineering
Jim Lovatt
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MEETING REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The landowner information session on September 19, 2012 at the Strathcona County Hall ran from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The well attended information session provided an opportunity for interested area residents to learn about roundabouts and how they may be implemented on Range Road 233.

Each participant was asked to register and fill out a comment sheet to be returned prior to leaving the venue.

Dana Leithead from Al-Terra made a detailed presentation beginning at 6:00 pm and answered a few questions post-presentation. The formal portion of the session was called to a close at 6:35 pm with participants encouraged to stay and ask specific questions to team members. A sampling of some of the questions is appended at the end of this summary report.

The presentation was attended by 58 residents that formally signed-in. A head count was performed to verify attendance. A total of 97 audience members were counted at the peak of the presentation.

Team members felt that there was general support for the short-term and long-term plans presented (comment sheet questions 2 and 3) with unanimous support for trails (comment sheet question 4). Most supporting comments cite safety as the primary motive for support of roadway improvements.

Additional comments (comment sheet question 5) provided by participants reiterate either support or concern for the proposal with participants voicing views regarding:

- Speed limits/speeding traffic;
- The implication of the proposed improvements on taxes;
- The desire to preserve existing landscaping;

- The lack of fencing adjacent the golf course; and,
- A flawed or inadequate consultation process.

COMMENT SHEET RESPONSES

Following are the responses collected from the 28 comment sheets received at the landowner meeting.

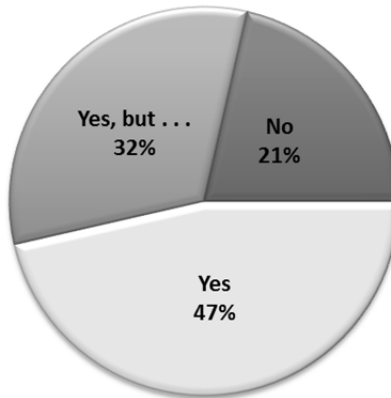
1. Please provide your postal code

- T8B = 25
- T8H = 2
- No response = 1

2. Given that traffic on Range Road 233 will continue to increase in the future, which will impact safe access both into and out of the adjacent residential neighbourhoods, do you see the benefit of the construction of a roundabout at Fountain Creek Way?

Yes Yes, but . . . No

13 9 6



Yes

- Slow speed at turning intersections is in my view “great”
- Since there is a foot/bike path the roundabout drivers are allowed to focus on other vehicles, also good
- Safety should be the major consideration
- We need to slow traffic down after vehicles leave the roundabout at Balmoral and Golf Course the noise factor is also a concern for residents backing onto RR 233
- Will benefit access at FCW but will also slow traffic from south at Balmoral which is a problem now.
- Safety issues would say yes
- For pedestrian and bike safety. Also should control speed along RR 233 – The noise from speeding and continuous traffic is a problem
- We’ve waited too long for this

Yes, but

- Do all the circles now, single lane. This will discourage traffic volume increases. With 216 being completed in a few years people will use that road, and 233 will become a quiet neighbourhood road.

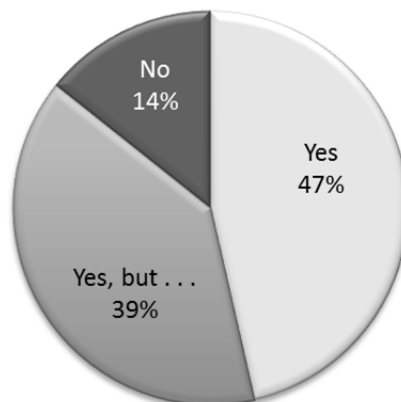
- The round will help but there should be one set of lights on that stretch of road
- Agree w/Roundabouts but 6 in total may be too many
- How will construction of these roundabouts affect traffic on adjacent roads? (232, 231)
- Focus should be on reducing traffic 233 in the future. Roundabouts make more sense and eliminate stopping traffic.
- Would like to discourage traffic from the area. Even though the speed limit is lower people use 233 as a highway with no concern for area residents
- Do not construct too many roundabouts you will destroy our community. Example- Beanavista Drive has too many speed bumps it has become a nightmare for local residents]
- 4th road not finished. Built it at Fountain Creek Blvd & Chrenek Drive – roads complete (all 4) will have more of an impact of slowing down traffic
- In due time. Traffic circles make far more sense than lights as they still allow traffic to flow. This will also limit noise as engines will not be revving from stop to go

No

- There are no benefits. There are more accidents in winter. More upkeep repairing curbs that are damaged by snow removal. Snow plows can't clean. Summer upkeep of grass and shrubs. 6-8 people weekly sanding truck at any snow fall to prevent crashes, etc.
- In winter time it is very icy + slippery and more accidents . It cannot properly be cleaned with snow plows and they then bring out bobcats-at one time there was at the entrance blocking traffic so that we had to go backwards in the circle to pass
- Too close to the roundabout for the golf course and Balmoral
- The current deceleration lane (built by Al-Terra) should suffice
- The new residents benefit from the new development roundabouts – the existing residents @ Chrenek Estates have to wait til the end (higher traffic levels) to get any benefits from the plan.

3. Do you see the benefits of constructing additional roundabouts at the other intersections along Range Road 233 when warranted by increased traffic volumes and delays?

Yes Yes, but . . No
13 **11** **4**



Yes

- Benefits of traffic safety reduced congestion reduced environmental impacts, warrant the use of roundabouts
- One other for far apart from each other
- Possibly a few good speed bumps would slow traffic down
- To help control vehicles speed and pedestrian safety
- Do it, better than lights
- Can we have one closer to 628 next
- Wish that there were more of them

Yes, but

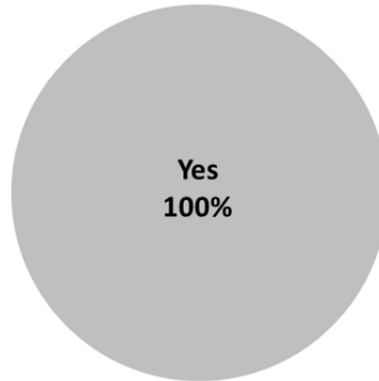
- As traffic warrants and budgets allow
- Yes, but build the traffic circles now single lane which will discourage heavy traffic now and in the future. It is time to stop the patch work. The County needs to acquire the land and move ahead with completion. We have paid our dues and inflation will continue to eat away at our dues and in time will cost more in taxes.
- If planning is to build 6 then why not 7 to include Chrenek Estates South entrance?
*There is to be an "emergency access" road here. Does Enbridge know about this?
- Place them apart to better control overall flows of traffic
- We are strongly against the 4 leg circle at South Chrenek Acres & Victoria Park Estates. There is no road in S. Chrenek to that location and we do not want an additional road built to that location. That road would need to be built through the environmental reserve and impact the wetland there
- 6 roundabouts in total along this road seems excessive, especially when considering the long term solutions/traffic flow/residential growth along this road and potentially even further south
- As a traffic deterrent to reduce 233 traffic flow.

No

- It will not have the effect that you want. Trucks will use their jake brakes to slow down and more noise will result. Demand lights will do a better job + move traffic
- It cannot be benefit if our fire trucks & police have trouble coming around this circle Just look at the edge & see how many times trucks are running on top of cement. This is done by vehicles that cannot make the turns
- Absolutely not. Two roundabouts are plenty if you build too many, traffic will come to a crawl.

4. Do you support the construction of a 3.0m wide paved multi-use trail for pedestrians and cyclists alongside Range Road 233? Please check one

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, but . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
	28		0		0



Yes (All)

- Strongly encourage. I see ped/bikes on the road almost daily. Plus in order for a child to bike to school or work a path is life-saving, accident-preventing
- The separation of pedestrians from traffic increases safety
- It would keep the bike riders + people walking off the road
- It would be nice to see that people would not be in danger as a lot of bicycles are becoming more popular. A wider road it would be a better answer than these circles
- Trails are always excellent for safety
- Long overdue
- Agree with it & feel it should be approved. There are quite a few pedestrians and cyclists so safety would be better with trails in.
- It's about time
- Absolutely! Current pedestrian, bike and other traffic is hazardous due to narrow shoulders and lack of trails. Will this trail be lit? Will it be cleared/maintained in winter?
- This is one of the priorities.
*The 4 lane roadway is not necessary and a diversion
- Can we have this sooner rather than later
- Long over due
- Definitely yes I support it wholeheartedly. I can use my bike on the trail if developed.
- This should have been done years ago! There are a lot of kids riding bikes and people walking their dogs in Fountain Creek. This would make it easier and safer for them to get to retail stores on Wye Road as well.
- A second option for a bikeway would be to extend the trail from within Balmoral, north, through to acreages and east to south of Home Hardware and Walmart. Do not stall any longer with the construction of a bike trail. It is 15 years overdue. We have no bus service and no trails that go anywhere.
- It is very dangerous to walk and drive a bicycle on the RR 233

- Wish that there were more trails too!

5. All Additional Comments Received

- Thank you for commissioning the study. Please proceed!
- Excellent presentation, well done.
- Speed limits? should be reduced from 70
- All you will do is move more traffic onto 232 + 231
- The traffic on this road is at 70km/h and is not the problem – the road should be widened and would not be as problematic as the roundabouts width.
- More benefit of traffic lights
- A question and answer period is essential! Whoever together was certainly amiss!! Six roundabouts? Ridiculous!
- Need a “large” no exit sign on Ash Street just west of the new light position on 233
- Really like the roundabout concept. I believe it fits in more eye appeal & character than street lights & believe it keeps speed
- Should solve Wye/RR233 intersection issue in a timely fashion & not get too far ahead on west of RR233
- Am concerned with speeds on 233. Circles will help but also need enforcement of failure to yield at circles
- In previous development phases of the golf course, there was to be a chain link fence (built by the golf course) to adjacent properties in Chrenek Estates, etc. It still has not happened. Why? I haven't received a straight answer in over a year! I spoke to (County official), amongst others
- Thank you for the excellent visual maps/plans. Estimated dates of completion for each phase would be helpful and informative
- Over the last 6 months I personally was almost run down by a speeding half-ton. We also witnessed a young lady run off the road and faceplant (riding bicycle) because of speeding traffic
- Please try and keep as many trees as possible. Sound walls to be built to shield homeowners from noise of additional traffic!
- It would be nice to have info on cost & implication to taxes
- Where is the plan for RR 232 + 231? How do they fit into this plan?
- It seems that because the County don't have to pay for the new development roundabouts but would have to fund one at Chrenek Estates so they get delayed til highest traffic levels.
- 4 Lanes is unacceptable and will only encourage traffic. RR 231 & 232 make more sense as an arterial since 233 has much more residential houses on the road
- County informs the resident AFTER THE FACT. It seems that sessions are held only for information and not to seek real public input
- Why don't you have an overall plan for RR233, 232 and 231 instead of just one for RR233?
- Roundabout greatly improve traffic flow and RR233 is becoming very busy. However, 6 roundabouts on RR233 would actually slow down traffic too much. They should only be implemented at “T”-intersections. South Avenue and Victoria Drive do not need roundabouts.
- This section of the County is paying some of the highest tax, with some of the poorest roads. How many more decades will residents need to wait for a properly completed road. Do the 2 miles now including bikeways

QUESTIONS ANSWERED DURING THE PRESENTATION

- *Will this presentation be available?*
Yes, on the Strathcona County website.
- *Who pays for the construction of the roundabouts, either at Fountain Creek Way or others?*
The roundabout at Fountain Creek Way will be paid for by the developer with County contribution as the construction of the roundabout is required as an intersection improvement in conjunction with Stage 2 of the Golf Course Development. The County would pay for the remaining roundabouts at other existing intersections.
- *The project applies to the roadway from Ash Street south. Why not resolve the section between Ash Street and Wye Road first?*
The County and consultants are working with the business to resolve an appropriate solution. However, the issue is with intersection capacity and not roadway capacity. Improvements to the north section of RR233 will not alter the roadway capacity requirements to the south.
- *Will adjacent resident be contacted regarding the improvements between Ash Street and Wye Road?*
At this time no. None of the roadway improvements being considered will alter access to any of the nearby residents. At this time only the affected business owners are being engaged.
- *Why were residents not informed of the Council decision in 2006 to construct roundabouts?*
Council sessions are open to the public for attendance.

**RANGE ROAD 233 IMPROVEMENT, FROM ASH STREET TO HIGHWAY 628
PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION
COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTRE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 – 7:30 – 9:30 P.M.**

COUNTY COUNCIL

**Councillor Linton Delainey
Strathcona County**

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

**Dawn Green
Strathcona County
Sadiq Pirani
Strathcona County
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MEETING REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The open house on September 19, 2012 at the Strathcona County Hall ran from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. The open house provided an opportunity for interested area residents to learn about short-term and long-term improvements to RR233 and how they may be implemented in their community.

Dana Leithead from Al-Terra made a detailed presentation beginning at 8:00 pm.

Each participant was asked to register and fill out a comment sheet to be returned prior to leaving the venue. The number of registered participants totalled five (5). Two (2) comment sheets were submitted.

COMMENT SHEET RESPONSES

Following are the responses from open house participants to the two comment sheet questions.

1. Please provide your postal code: both T8B

2. Given that traffic on Range Road 233 will continue to increase in the future, which will impact safe access both into and out of the adjacent residential neighbourhoods, do you see the benefit of the construction of a roundabout at Fountain Creek Way? Please check one.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but...	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2	0	0

- We've waited too long for this
- We need to slow traffic down after vehicles leave the roundabout at Balmoral and Golf Course. The noise factor is also a concern for residents backing onto RR 233

3. Do you see the benefits of constructing additional roundabouts at the other intersections along Range Road 233 when warranted by increased traffic volume and delays? Please check one.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, but...	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
	1		1		0

- Wish that there were more of them: Hwy 628, RR233/RR232/RR231

4. Do you support the construction of a 3.0 metre wide paved multi-use trail for pedestrians and cyclists alongside Range Road 233? Please check one.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, but...	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
	2		0		0

- Wish that there were more trails too!
- It is very dangerous to walk or drive a bicycle on the road 233

5. All Additional Comments Received

- None received

Appendix A – Ad Copy

Roadway Improvements Range Road 233
Wye Road to Highway 628

Strathcona County invites citizens to find out more about plans to improve Range Road 233 from Wye Road to Highway 628. Short term improvements include some road widening and the construction of a roundabout at Fountain Creek Way. Drop in to learn more at the open house.

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

7:30 PM to 9 PM

Presentation at 8 PM

Strathcona County Community Centre
401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park

Project team representatives will be available to answer questions. If you are unable to attend, the displays will be available the County's website at www.strathcona.ca on September 20.

For more information:

Jim Lovatt

780-452-8326

lovattplanning@shaw.ca

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Appendix B – Comment Sheet

Range Road 233 Improvement from Ash Street to Highway 628

Please provide your comments and suggestions below. Your comments help us fully understand your concerns. For any specific information please speak to a project representative. There is a map on the reverse side of this comment sheet.

1. Please provide your postal code _____
2. Given that traffic on Range Road 233 will continue to increase in the future, which will impact safe access both into and out of the adjacent residential neighbourhoods, do you see the benefit of the construction of a roundabout at Fountain Creek Boulevard? Please check one.
- Yes Yes, but ... No

Comments: _____

3. Do you support the construction of a 3.0 metre wide paved pedestrian and cyclist multi-use trail alongside Range Road 233? Please check one.
- Yes Yes, but ... No

Comments: _____

4. Do you have any additional comments?

Comments: _____

Please complete and submit the questionnaire by **Friday, September 28, 2012**

1. Drop it off on your way out 3. Scan and e-mail: lovattplanning@shaw.ca
2. Fax: (780) 452-3820 4. Mail: 9711 – 141 Street NW, Edmonton, AB, T5N 2M5

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Government Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). It is managed in accordance with the provision of FOIP. This information will be used to determine the impact of the roadway improvements. If you have any questions about the collection or use of your information, contact the Supervisor of Design and Surveys, Capital Construction and Planning at 780-416-6763.



Thank you for your time.



