

Foxboro and Area Traffic Safety Review

Phase 1 Public Engagement Summary Report
December 2022



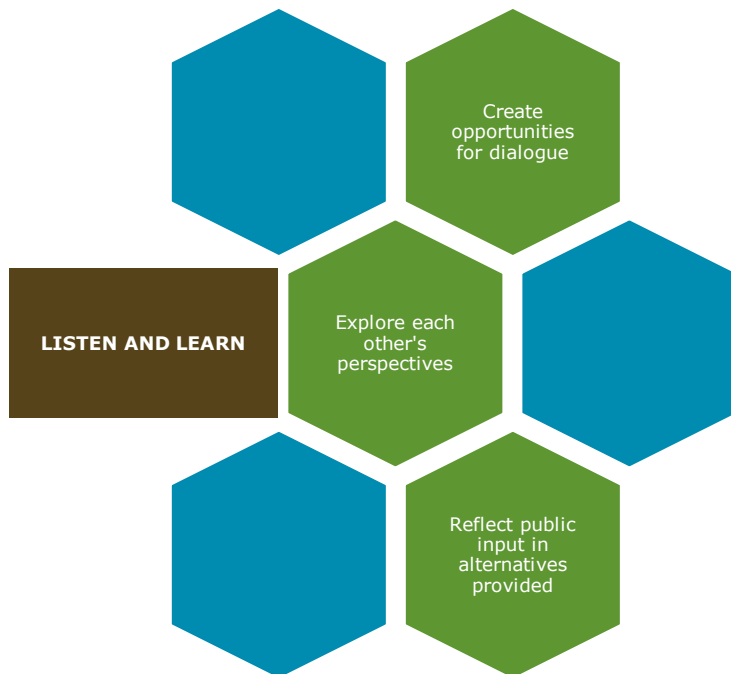
Strathcona County is reviewing traffic safety in the Foxboro, Regency Park and The Ridge neighbourhoods.

Introduction

In response to existing traffic concerns and in preparation for the new École Claudette-et-Denis-Tardif in Florian Park, the County is conducting a traffic safety review in the Foxboro (east of Clover Bar Road), Regency Park and The Ridge neighbourhoods. The review includes local and collector roads in the area, such as Foxboro Cove and Regency Drive; arterial roads and highways, such as Clover Bar Road, Wye Road and Highway 21, are excluded from the review.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMPONENTS

A few years ago, the Florian Park site was allocated to the Conseil Scolaire (École Claudette-et-Denis-Tardif school board). Since then, the school board has taken steps to move the project forward, which included their own community engagement endeavours and public hearings. The County's traffic safety review was set up proactively to gather input from residents in advance of the school opening to help the County understand current and future traffic safety concerns in the neighbourhood.



Public engagement for this project is undertaken at the "listen and learn" level, meaning the County will obtain feedback from citizens and stakeholders to test ideas or concepts, clarify issues, and identify possible solutions. Input from this phase of engagement will be used alongside engineering data to develop traffic safety improvement recommendations.

In September 2022, residents in the Foxboro and area neighbourhoods were invited via letter mail to participate in both components of this engagement. The first component was an open house held on September 29, 2022, at Florian Park (also advertised by roadside signs); the second component was an online survey available from September 29 to October 16, 2022. This report summarizes the input received from both components.

Open House

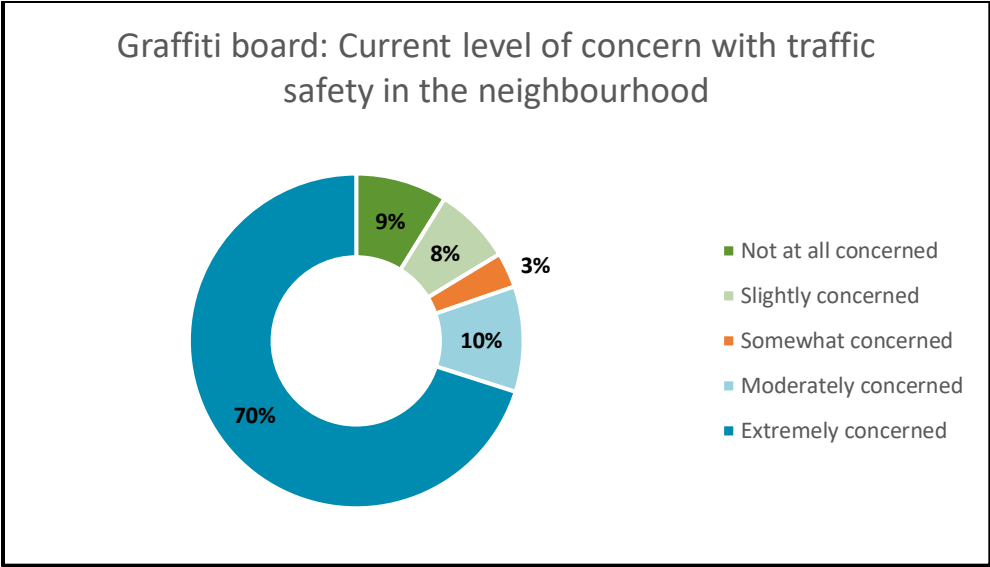
The open house saw well over 100 attendees and allowed for many discussions between residents and the County, as well as amongst residents themselves. Although the scope of the engagement was limited to understanding traffic safety concerns in the neighbourhood, many residents also expressed their opinions on the decision to build the new École Claudette-et-Denis-Tardif in Florian Park. The County heard attendee perspectives from both sides—some residents wanting to stop the school from being built and some residents looking forward to having a school in their neighbourhood.

INFORMATION PROVIDED

Information boards were set up at the open house, which displayed the purpose and next steps of the traffic safety review, the current conditions and traffic data for the area, the 10-year injury collision history for the area (excluding property damage only collisions), and the preliminary design of the school site.

GRAFFITI BOARDS

The open house included graffiti boards for residents to interact with. On the first board, when asked about their current level of concern with traffic safety in the neighbourhood, the majority (70%) of respondents placed a marker dot in the 'extremely concerned' category.



Please note that there may have been duplicate responses on this board, which could have skewed the results; also note that with rounding, percentages may not exactly total 100%.

The remaining three graffiti boards asked residents to write their comments on sticky notes and attach them to a map of the area.

First, attendees were asked about their current traffic concerns in the area. The most common concern was that drivers are travelling too fast, followed by concerns about high traffic volumes (number of vehicles) on the roads. Other common concerns were:

- High levels of noise
- Parking causing traffic flow issues and/or lack of parking
- Icy roads
- Safety of crosswalks

Next, attendees were asked what features of the roads in their neighbourhood work well. A few residents noted that they were happy not to have speed bumps on their road, while a few others mentioned enjoying the parks and/or open spaces in the area.

“Too much traffic – this is a family area.”

Open house attendee

The third board invited attendees to comment on future traffic concerns related to the new school. The most common concerns were:

- Increased traffic volume (number of vehicles on the road) and congestion
- Parking and/or school pick-up/drop-off

Other concerns included losing the park and/or open spaces, construction traffic during school construction, and increased crime, such as vandalism or hit and runs.

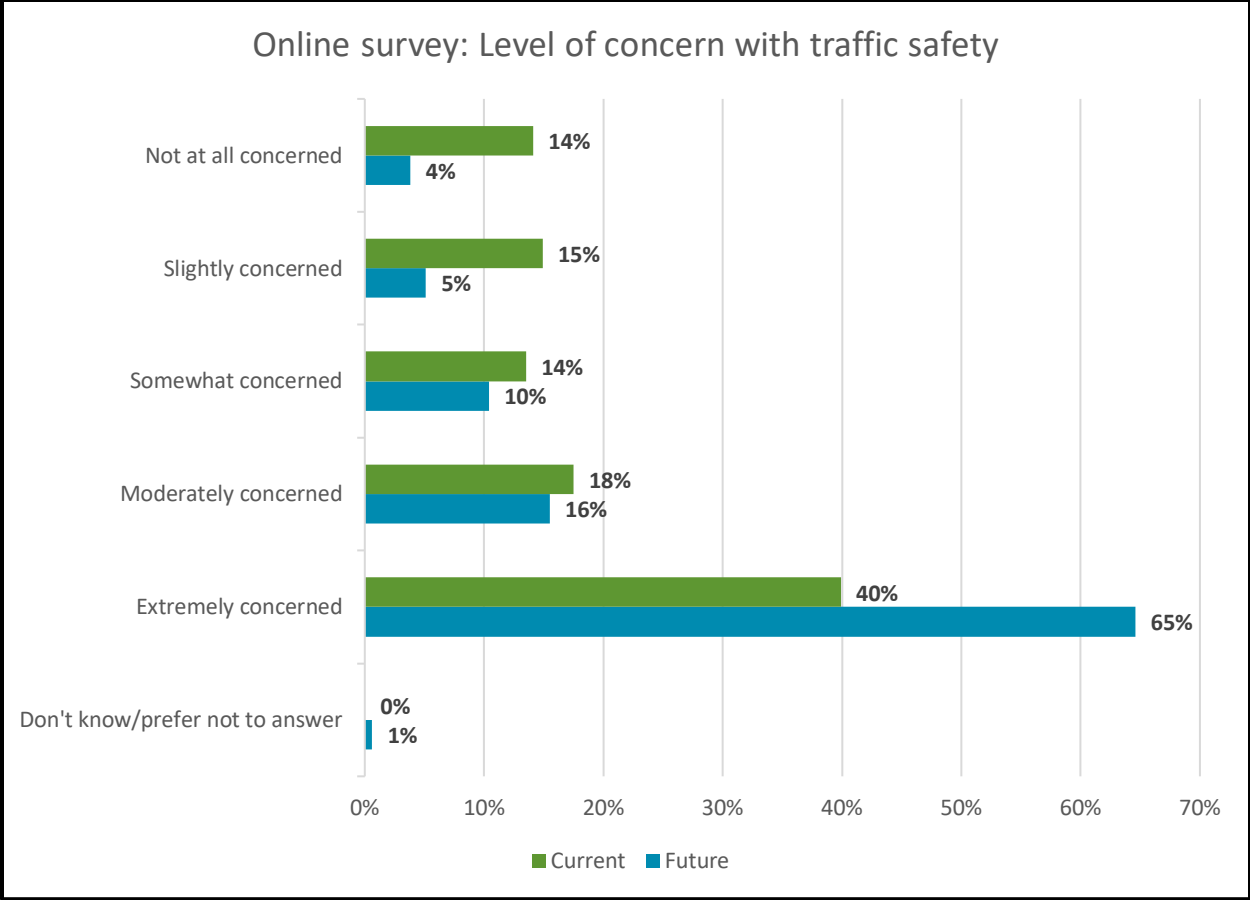
Online Survey

The County received 364 responses, representing 13% of homes in the neighbourhood; however, as questions were not mandatory, the number of respondents in each question varies. The survey invited input about traffic safety, traffic flow, active transportation, traffic speeds and pedestrian safety, in addition to what works well, current traffic and future traffic.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

In two separate questions, the survey asked residents about their current level of concern with traffic safety and their anticipated level of concern with traffic safety after the school is built. Of the responses received:

- 58% are currently extremely or moderately concerned with traffic safety
- 29% are currently not at all or slightly concerned with traffic safety
- 81% are extremely or moderately concerned with traffic safety after the school is built
- 9% are not at all or slightly concerned with traffic safety after the school is built



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TRAFFIC FLOW

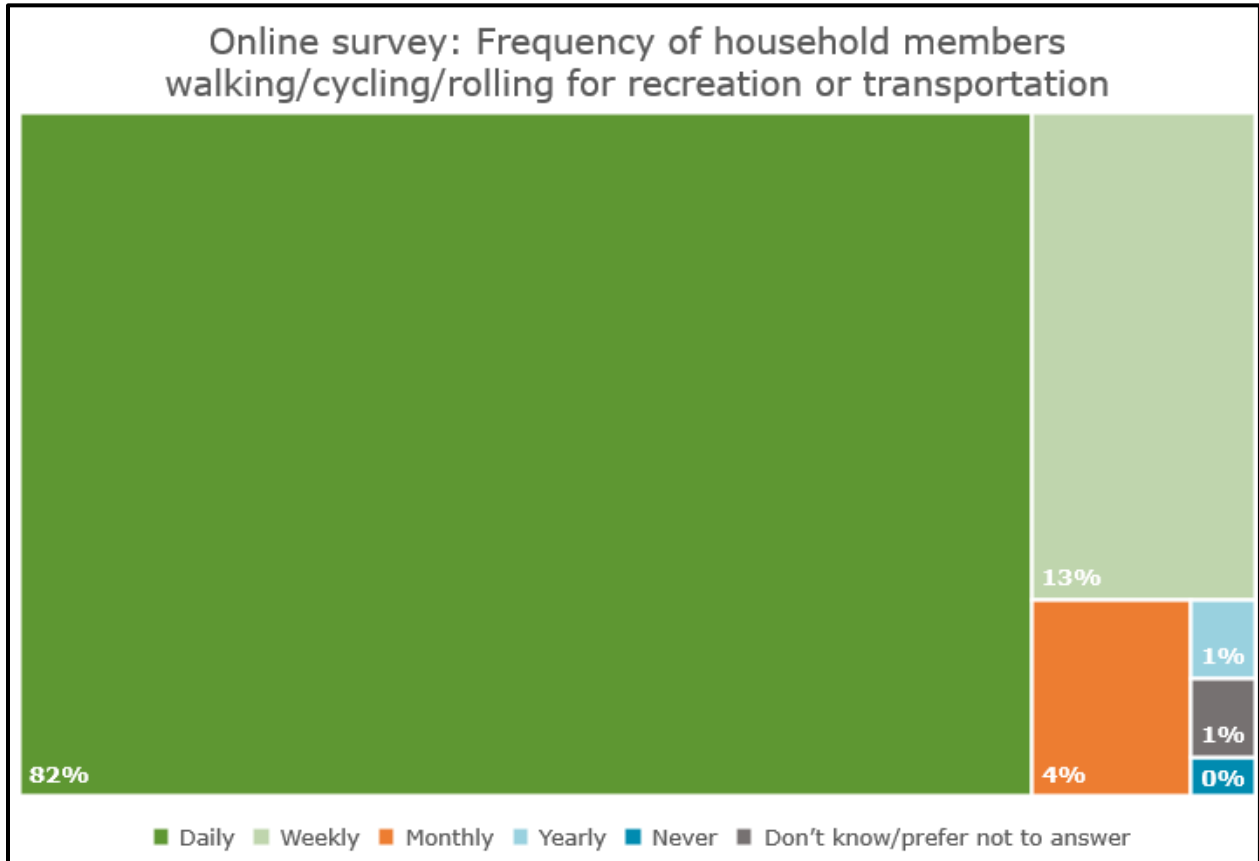
The survey asked residents about their current level of concern with traffic flow and their anticipated level of concern with traffic flow after the school is built. The key finding was that, overall, respondents will be more concerned with traffic flow after the school is built than they are now.

	Current (%)	Future (%)
Not at all concerned	21	3
Slightly concerned	15	4
Somewhat concerned	14	9
Moderately concerned	22	12
Extremely concerned	28	72
Don't know/prefer not to answer	0	1

Please note that with rounding, percentages may not exactly total 100%.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Respondents were asked how often members of their household walk/cycle/roll in the neighbourhood for recreation or transportation. Responses indicate the vast majority (about 95%) of households participate in some form of active transportation daily or weekly.



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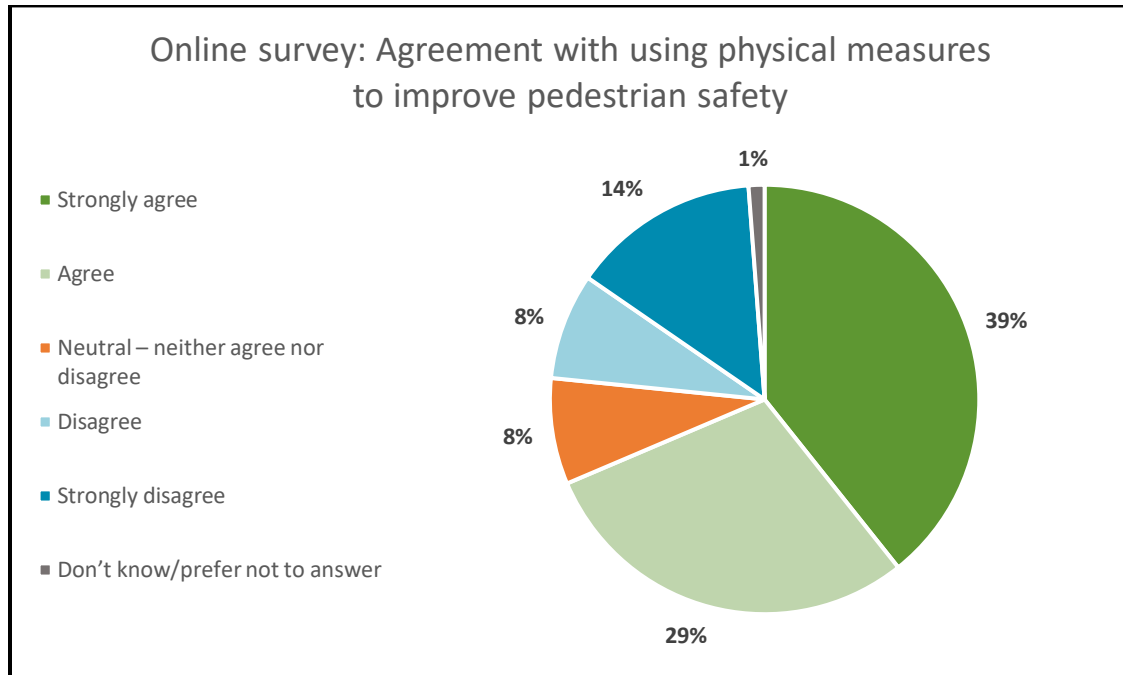
TRAFFIC SPEEDS

The County wanted to know how much residents agree with using physical measures (such as curb extensions, speed humps) on the road to manage traffic speeds. Results from the survey showed 55% in the agree category (agree and strongly agree) and 34% in the disagree category (disagree and strongly disagree). The remainder of respondents were neutral (10%) or selected 'don't know/prefer not to answer' (1%). Please note that with rounding, percentages may not exactly total 100%.

 **55%** of respondents agree with using physical measures to manage traffic speeds

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The County also wanted to know how much residents agree with using physical measures (such as curb extensions, raised crosswalks) on the road to improve pedestrian safety at key crossing points. There were 69% of respondents in the agree category (agree and strongly agree) and 22% in the disagree category (disagree and strongly disagree). Neutral respondents accounted for 8% and 'don't know/prefer not to answer' respondents for 1%.



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WHAT WORKS WELL

The survey asked respondents to write, in their own words, if there were any features of the roads in their neighbourhood that they did not want to see change. The key takeaways from 144 responses were:

- 26% do not want to see traffic calming measures added
- 13% do not want to see traffic volumes (number of vehicles on the road) increase
- 7% do not want parking to be changed/reduced
- 6% noted that traffic calming measures are effective, with some including locations that they would like new/additional traffic calming

CURRENT TRAFFIC

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide any other information about current traffic within the neighbourhood. Of 217 responses received, comments that came up most frequently (40%)

described concerns about traffic volumes (number of vehicles on the road), congestion and/or speeding.

“Not many people slow down in the playground zone. This is a busy congested road.”

Online survey respondent

The next most common theme (12%) was concerns about parking. Also mentioned by 10% of the respondents was the traffic signals leading to arterial roads (such as Clover Bar Road) or comments about the arterial roads themselves. A small number of respondents (1%) mentioned that they did not want traffic calming measures added.

FUTURE TRAFFIC

In another open-ended question, the survey asked respondents to provide details about their traffic concerns related to the new school. This had the most responses of the open-ended questions, with 274 respondents adding comments. By far the most common (79% of responses) was concern about traffic volumes (number of vehicles on the road) and/or congestion.

 **79%** of respondents are concerned about traffic volume/congestion with the new school

Some respondents voiced concerns about parking and pick-ups/drop-offs/turnarounds in undesignated locations (18% and 14%, respectively). Other responses included 12% mentioning concerns about speeding and 10% mentioning road geometry (for example, the road being too narrow) or sightline issues. A few responses noted respondents were concerned about increased loitering and/or crime (1%) and construction traffic (1%).

What's Next?

The input provided, along with the school's traffic impact assessment and up-to-date traffic data, will be used to develop potential traffic safety improvement recommendations. The County will explore and outline viable solutions based on engineering best practices, resident engagement and resource availability, and will request additional resident feedback in early 2023.



DID YOU KNOW: FIND MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT TRAFFIC SAFETY AT STRATHCONA.CA

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