

SCOOP

Strathcona County ITMP

DATE: June 9, 2021



Strathcona County is updating our **Integrated Transportation Master Plan (ITMP)**. The goal of this initiative is to create a prioritized plan that will guide transportation investments now and into the future.

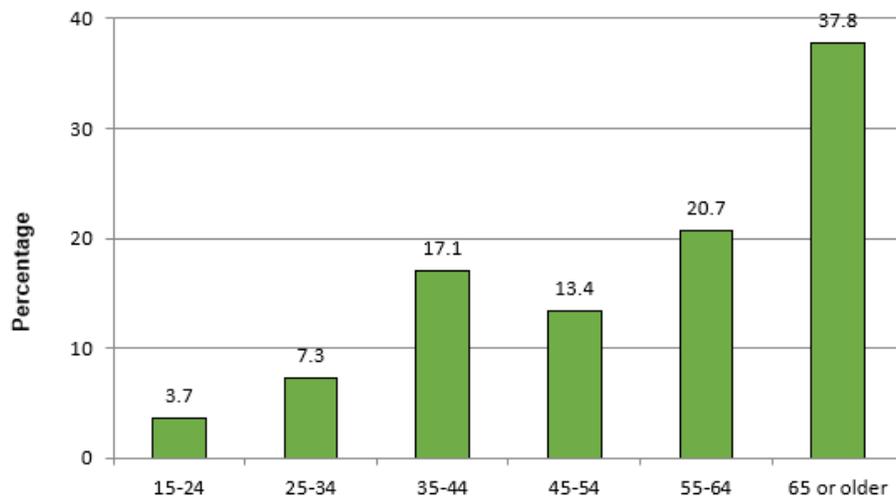
For this first step in public engagement for the process, we wanted to understand resident perspectives on how transportation relates to Strathcona County's Strategic Goals and community priorities.

Survey Highlights

For approximately two weeks beginning on April 20, 2021 Strathcona County residents were invited to share their thoughts on six different discussion boards on the SCOOP platform. Each board had a different topic: Transportation and Healthy Active Communities, Transportation and Strong Communities, Transportation and Economic Development, Transportation and Accessibility, Transportation and the Environment, and Transportation and Safety.

Throughout all six boards, a total of 86 participants provided comments. Many users provided comments on several boards. Approximately 73% of respondents lived in Sherwood Park while 27% lived in rural Strathcona County. The age demographic breakdown of participants is shown below.

FIGURE 1
Age of Respondents



Transportation and Healthy Active Communities

This topic board drew a total of 63 comments from 32 different participants. The topic most extensively discussed was the interaction of the various active modes on shared use pathways, sidewalks and the roadways. Residents expressed concern on cycling on the same pathways as pedestrians, particularly when children are present. Another theme was the lack of trail and sidewalk connectivity. Residents expressed that they would like to be able to travel much further without having to cross roadways or use at-grade crosswalks, both for walking and biking. There were also many comments indicating residents particularly enjoyed using active modes as a means of exercise and leisure during the COVID-19 pandemic; however, this did result in some congestion on the shared use pathways.

Transportation and Strong Communities

A total of 47 comments were received on this board from 30 different people. The primary focus area was again on active mode interaction with roadways. Residents expressed a desire to access regular amenities with active modes, such as biking or walking, in more efficient manner. Some residents felt that residential communities were too far away to easily access regular errands such as shopping centres. Suggestions included improving transit; some residents would be more willing to use transit after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transportation and Economic Development

A total of 23 responses from 17 users were received on this board. The focus of the responses on this topic centered around keeping large vehicles away from residential areas. Some residents requested improved transit systems to commute to workplaces throughout the greater Edmonton area. There was a mix of support and opposition to speed limit changes throughout the community.

Transportation and Accessibility

Seventeen different people commented on this board for a total of 21 comments. There was significant discussion on this board on rural public transit. While some users expressed significant interest in a regularly scheduled or on-demand transportation system others expressed that this was not appropriate use of County transportation investment.

Transportation and the Environment

This was the third most used discussion board, with 42 posts from 29 different users. Residents largely agreed that excessive idling of vehicles contributes to increased emissions and as a result more pollution. Some solutions users had included reducing the size of public transit buses (several felt that County buses are rarely full), improving signal timing and implementing more variable signal timing to reduce idling of vehicles on the roadways. There was interest in connectivity-- creating walkable communities throughout the county. Other solutions to reduce environmental impact were stricter penalties on illegally modified vehicles, LRT connection to Sherwood Park and more support and incentives for electric vehicles and bicycles.

Transportation and Safety

This board created the most discussion with 71 posts from 41 different users. There was extensive discussion on this page, like other boards, on the interaction between all modes of transportation. Many residents feel that cyclists on shared use pathways are a safety risk to users on foot. In addition, cyclists feel unsafe on roadways as vehicles are not properly passing them, especially on rural roads. Drivers felt there is the potential for serious collisions when encountering cyclists on rural roadways. Many people felt that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, trails were much more congested, and the safety issues were therefore a larger concern. Another concern was sidewalk and roadway maintenance. Other requests included safer cyclist travel into Edmonton, improved educational programs for all road and sidewalk users, and improved maintenance of signage and landscape features near intersections.

What's Next?

Engagement will continue with several focus groups planned with business and industry, agriculture, youth, and accessibility groups, as well as groups of seldom heard voices. An online survey will go out in June 2021 to further discuss the transportation priorities of Strathcona County residents. Following the completion of this round of engagement, the project team will analyze both the quantitative and qualitative data and prepare a comprehensive What We Heard Report. These findings will be integrated into a draft Integrated Transportation Master Plan. There will be another round of engagement in the late fall of 2021 to offer feedback on the proposed plan.

What we learned from SCOOP



Bicycle interactions with pedestrians and traffic could be safer

Providing safe places in rural areas for cyclists



Improved trail and sidewalk connectivity

Longer trails without having to use cross walks

Improved safety of crosswalks



Continuing to create walkable communities

Improve connections between communities

Improve connectivity to Edmonton via active modes



Improved transit strategies to increase number of users per bus.

Consider more on call bussing for seniors or rural residents



DID YOU KNOW: FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE STRATHCONA ITMP HERE:

<https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/plans-and-reports/strategic-documents/transportation-roads/integrated-transportation-master-plan/>

More Information

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