

INFORMATION NOTE

Title:	Canada Drive What We Heard Report
Date Prepared:	October 21, 2019
Report To:	Committee of the Whole
Councillor and Role:	Councillor Jamie Korab, Development
Ward:	Ward 3

Issue: Provide Council with a summary of what was heard through public and stakeholder engagement for the Canada Drive active transportation streetscape improvement project.

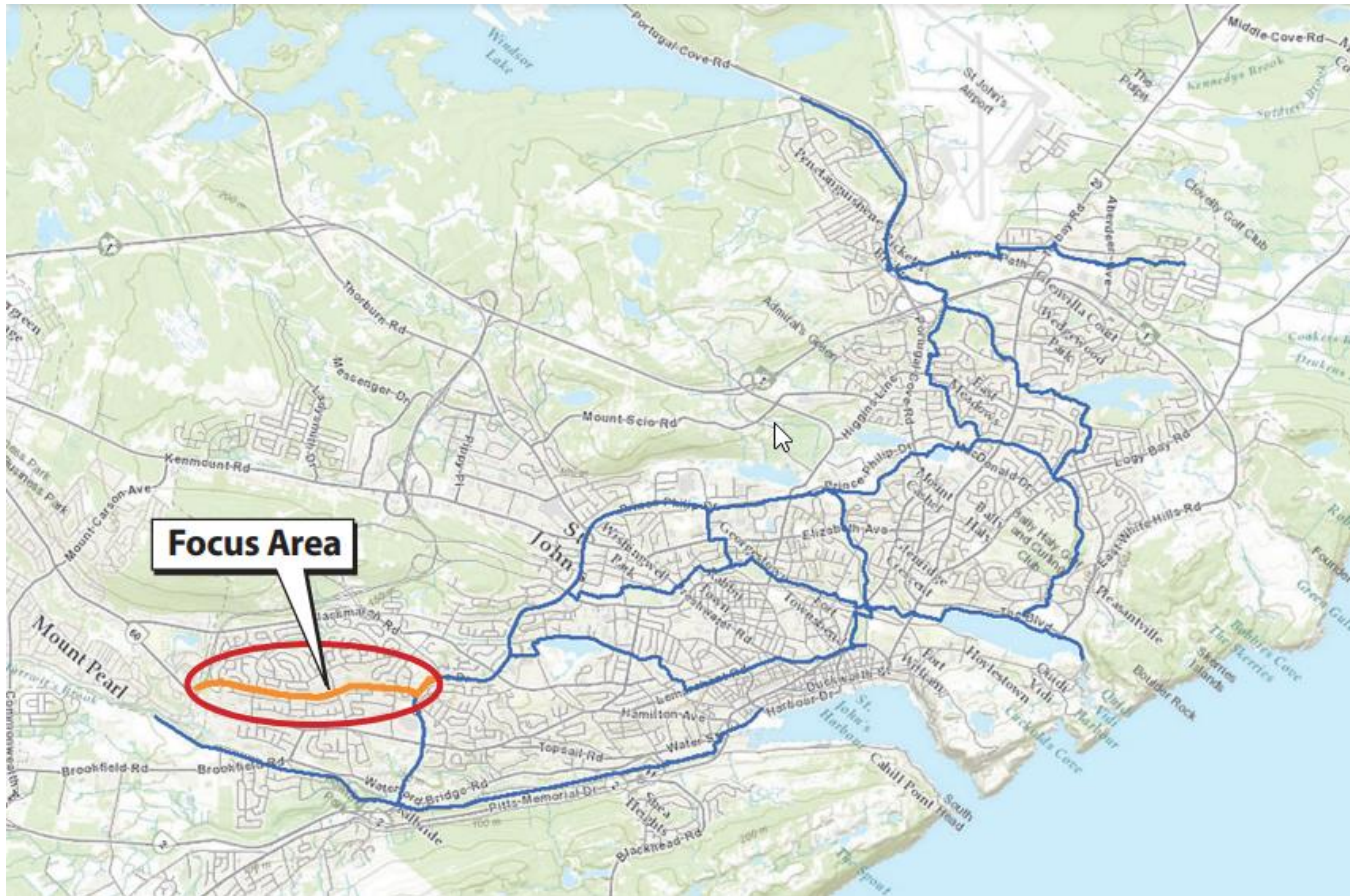
Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Over the years, the City has received a lot of feedback from the public regarding cycling lanes and safety for active transportation. In 2016 a cycling task force was created, launching a long process of public and stakeholder engagement to create a plan for cycling in the city. This process included in-person consultation with residents of Cowan Heights and resulted in the development of a new Bike St John’s Master Plan adopted by Council in 2019.

The vision of the plan is to build “a safe, inclusive, and convenient cycling network that is well-connected, attractive, and reflective of the City’s unique topography and climate. As part of an integrated mobility network, this is supported by policies and programs that promote a cycling friendly culture.”

Canada Drive is identified as one of the corridors in the “backbone cycling network.”

As shown in the following figure, an active transportation route along Canada Drive will connect the shared-use path on Columbus Drive to the shared-use path at the Team Gushue extension in Mount Pearl. It will ultimately connect with Kelly’s Brook trail via Columbus Drive to create an important east-west route at the core of the cycling backbone network.



Public Engagement Process

The purpose of public and stakeholder engagement was to collect feedback about two conceptual design options for Canada Drive:

- A bi-directional bike path on one side of the street, sidewalks on both sides of the street, with parking on one side only (option 1); or
- A Shared Use Path (SUP) on one side, sidewalk on the other side, with parking allowed on both sides (option 2).

Public engagement took place from April 26 to May 31, 2022. Input from the public and stakeholders was collected in the following ways.

- 23 people attended the virtual engagement session via Zoom.
- 19 residents of Canada Drive attended an in-person drop-in meeting.
- City staff met with administrators at two primary/elementary schools on Canada Drive.
- 268 people posted questions/comments or voted on the poll on the project's engage.ca webpage.
- 33 emails about the project were received.
- 4 phone calls were received.

What We Heard

Attached for your information is the detailed “What We Heard” document. The following is a summary of key findings from all feedback.

- There is no definitive agreement on which option is preferred. Those who live on the street mostly prefer a shared use path. Citywide, there is an overall preference for the dedicated bike lanes.
- Sidewalk snow clearing is a major concern regarding the project. Among people living on Canada Drive, the extra width of SUP/sidewalk/bike lanes in front of their homes puts an additional strain on those clearing their driveways. Among people who want to use the new active transportation route, there are questions about its usefulness if it is not adequately maintained in the winter.
- Parking is reported as very important among the people who live on Canada Drive. This is an important factor in their preference for the shared-use-path option.
- There are concerns about sightlines and sidewalk snow clearing priority on the north side of the street and some concerns about connectivity and safety throughout the street.
- Active transportation is important to the schools. Many students walk or bike to school. Most students live close enough to school that they do not qualify for busing.
- Most people are generally happy to hear about streetscape changes to improve active transportation. Some people suggest the city is not going far enough to implement safe and comfortable active transportation infrastructure. Others suggest bike lanes are not needed and are not a good use of taxpayer money.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications:
 - Since sections of Canada Drive are identified for street rehabilitation in 2023 and future years, any changes to the use of the street are best made during the design and construction phase. Piggybacking on rehabilitation work, will help reduce overall cost and avoid extra construction along the corridor.
 - The City of St. John’s has applied for funding for this project under an active transportation cost-shared program available with the federal government.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:
 - Schools on Canada Drive (St Matthews and Cowan Heights Elementary)
 - Residents of Canada Drive and Cowan Heights
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:
 - Active transportation facilities are an integral part of the strategic direction “A City that Moves.” This direction is described as follows with emphasis added on mode share-related language:

Changing demographics mean the way people move around the city is shifting. Our transportation network needs to provide all people and businesses access to options for travelling where they want to go. By focusing on safety and balance this direction attempts to make a safer transportation network for everyone, regardless of their mode of travel.

- In the 2019 Bike St John's Master Plan, Canada Drive is identified as one of the corridors in the “backbone cycling network.”
- Council has committed to working towards a sustainable mode share target of 16% to be achieved by 2030 and 22% by 2050 ([Decision Note November 2022](#)). To achieve this target, the City must continue to invest more in transit, pedestrian, and bike facilities.

4. Legal or Policy Implications:

n/a

5. Privacy Implications:

n/a

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:

- Public engagement plan which considered all stakeholders was developed and implemented. The What We Heard report is being communicated publicly and with project stakeholders and will be posted to project page at EngageStJohns.ca.
- Once completed, final design will be communicated with the public and stakeholders prior to construction.

7. Human Resource Implications:

n/a

8. Procurement Implications:

n/a

9. Information Technology Implications:

n/a

10. Other Implications:

n/a

Conclusion/Next Steps:

The discussion above is provided for information only. Review the What We Heard report and consider the findings when decisions related to the topic are brought forward for consideration at a future council meeting.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Canada Drive What We Heard Document.docx
Attachments:	- FINAL Canada Drive 2022 WWH Report.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 22, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Scott Winsor - Jun 21, 2022 - 4:02 PM

Jason Sinyard - Jun 22, 2022 - 11:17 AM