

Motor Vehicle Act Speed Reduction Pilot
Engagement Summary

November 2020

Introduction

The City of Victoria is working with municipalities across the Capital Region to explore a three-year 40 km/h default speed limit pilot project. The Region and City conducted stakeholder engagement from local residents, regional stakeholder groups and agency partners on the pilot project. Public engagement on the speed reduction pilot used techniques of *consult and inform*, as identified in the spectrum of public participation.

The information in this engagement summary focuses solely on the local level of engagement. A separate engagement summary will be developed to include findings from the regional level – including discussions with Police Departments, BC Transit and School Districts.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Consultation

The local consultation process included:

- An open-ended survey on the City's engagement portal page (200 responses)
- Email correspondence submitted to the City (130 emails received)
- Information provided on the City's Engagement website, including a video describing the proposed 40km/hr pilot project (532 visitors to Engagement portal page)
- A presentation and discussion with the City's Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Promotion

Opportunities for stakeholders and members of the public to participate in the consultation process were promoted through:

- The City's engagement portal
- Social media channels
- Direct email invitation distributed to stakeholder groups including Parent Advisory Committees, school principals, Downtown Victoria Business Association and Neighbourhood and Community Associations

Engagement Findings

Public engagement was open to the public from October 13 to October 30, 2020. Below are key findings sorted by the survey questions from the portal.

Question 1: What benefits or risks do you see of reducing speed limits to 40 km/h on residential roads?

- **Safety Benefits**
 - Increased comfort for pedestrians, cyclists and children
 - Quieter streets, less noise
 - Limit the risk of collisions
 - Better chance of safety in speed reduction is 30km/hr on residential streets
- **Education and Enforcement**
 - Concern that motorists will still not reduce speeds without proper enforcement
 - Need to start with driver education to change behaviours
- **Not Supportive of Pilot**
 - Not supportive of spending resources on pilot when behaviour still won't change
 - Not supportive of spending resources on a pilot that reduces default speed limit by 10km/hr
- **Increased Traffic**
 - Concerns that reducing speed limits will increase travel times
 - Need to consider synchronizing traffic lights to accommodate increased travel times
- **Road Rage**
 - Concern that reduced speed limits will cause motorists to be frustrated and increase road rage behaviours

Question 2: What considerations are top of mind for you?

- **Increased Safety**
 - Safety and comfort for pedestrians, children and cyclists on residential streets
 - Increasing walkability of neighbourhoods
- **Traffic Calming**
 - Need to consider other traffic calming interventions, including infrastructure, that will assist in reducing speeds on residential streets
- **Frustrated Motorists**
 - Concern of the number of interventions (bike lanes, traffic calming) being implemented on City streets and their impact on motorists and increasing commute times
- **Traffic Flow**
 - Concern from commuters that congestion and commute times are already increasing significantly
 - Simplicity of getting from origin to destination is becoming difficult

- **Enforcement Considerations**
 - Need to consider that enforcement is incorporated with the pilot to ensure compliance with new speeds
- **Implementation**
 - Need to consider the implementation of the pilot in terms of communication and how it will work regionally
 - Consideration for how to monitor the changing behaviours of motorists

Question 3: Is there anything you would like to see addressed or measured within the pilot program?

- **Monitoring and Data**
 - Traffic speeds before, after and during the pilot
 - Collision data
 - Track pedestrian counts
 - Travel times in peak hours
- **Traffic Calming**
 - Use other traffic calming measures such as speed humps to help enforce speed limits
 - Need better signage of speed limits to increase awareness for motorists
- **Enforcement**
 - Need stronger enforcement compared to how 30km/hr zones are currently monitored
 - Need to ticket speeding motorists to really create behaviour change
- **Not Supportive of Pilot**
 - Need more data on the importance of reduced speed limits
 - Does not feel that there are safety issues at current speeds