

University Avenue (RR 57) Improvements PCC #2



March 2022



Purpose of the Public Consultation Centre



To provide stakeholders with an opportunity to participate in the planning and decision-making process

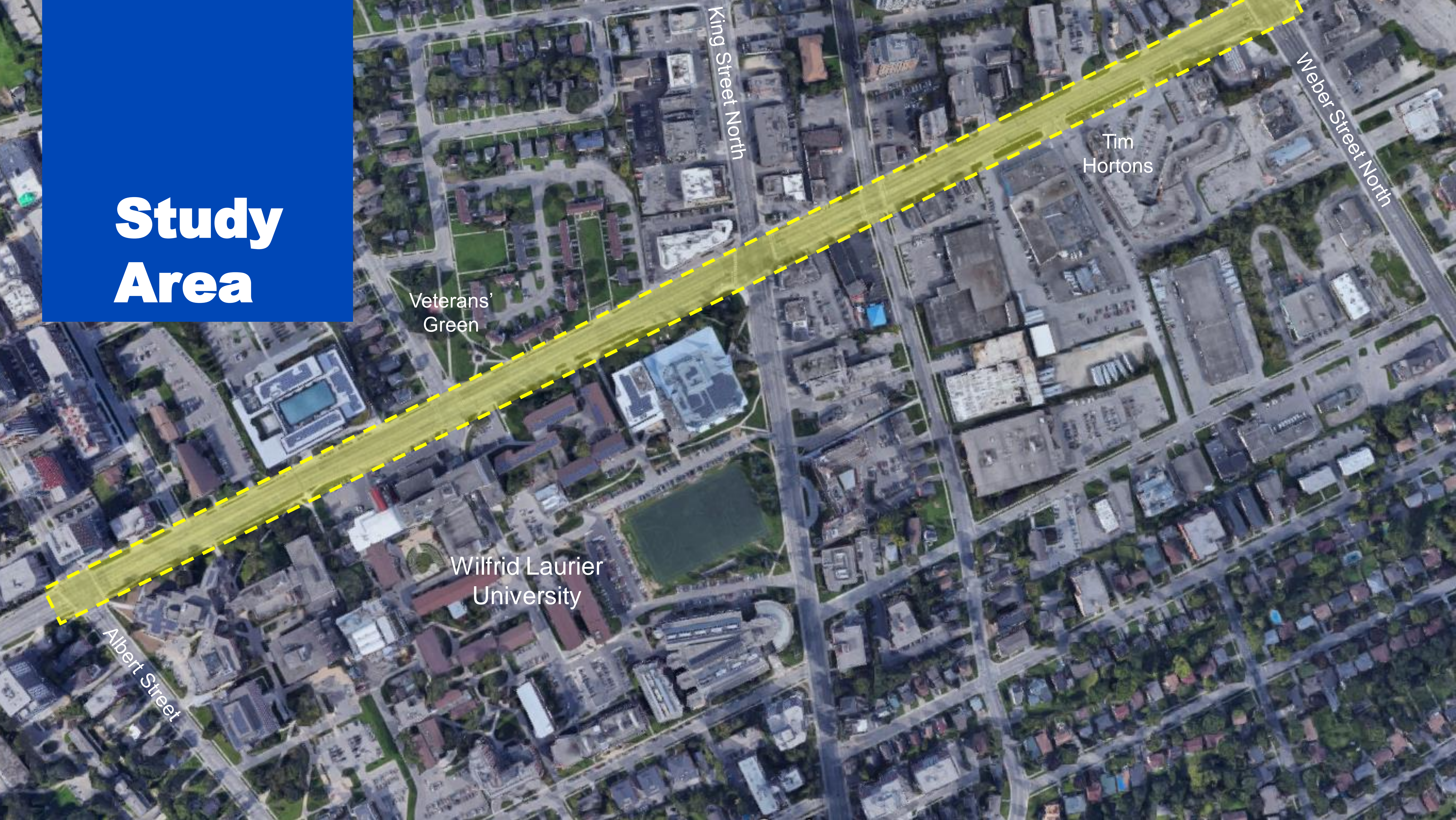


To present and receive input on the needs and opportunities, the project environment, alternative solutions and future opportunities



For participants to ask questions and provide comments, concerns or additional information

Study Area



Purpose of the Study

— “

Investigate the need for capacity, safety and operational improvements to **University Avenue** between **Albert Street** and **Weber Street North** in the City of Waterloo.

” —

Municipal Class EA Study Process

Enables the planning and implementation of municipal infrastructure projects

August 2019

Fall 2020

Winter 2022

July 2022

PHASE 1: Problem or Opportunity

- Problem identification
- Project Initiation
- Public notices (newspaper & mail-outs)
- Letter to agencies

PHASE 2: Alternative Solutions

- Inventory natural, cultural and economic environment
- PCC #1: Public input on problem and opportunity and possible concept solutions
- Identification of alternative solutions
- Identification of opportunities and constraints
- Identification of evaluation criteria
- Select preferred alternative solutions

PHASE 3: Alternative Design Concepts

- Evaluation of alternative design concepts
- Evaluate natural, cultural and economic environment impacts
- **PIC#2: Public input on preliminary preferred design concept**
- Select preferred design concept

Current
Stage

PHASE 4: Documentation and Study Completion

- Prepare Environmental Study Report
- Notice of Study Completion
- 30-day review period

PHASE 5: Implementation

- Construction, budget permitting, is scheduled for 2023 (construction may be phased).

Problem Statement

— “

To improve the roadway and underground infrastructure, active transportation facilities and traffic operations to the **University Avenue (Regional Road 57) corridor.**

” —

Public Feedback

Public Consultation Centre #1

Hosted virtually on the Regions EngageWR Website between August 12 and October 2, 2020

Participants were encouraged to:

- Complete PCC#1 Public Survey
- Submit questions via the Question and Answer (Q&A) page
- Submit comment forms/emails
- Call the Study Team by phone

324 Site Visits

- The Study webpage on EnageWR was visited times during PCC#1

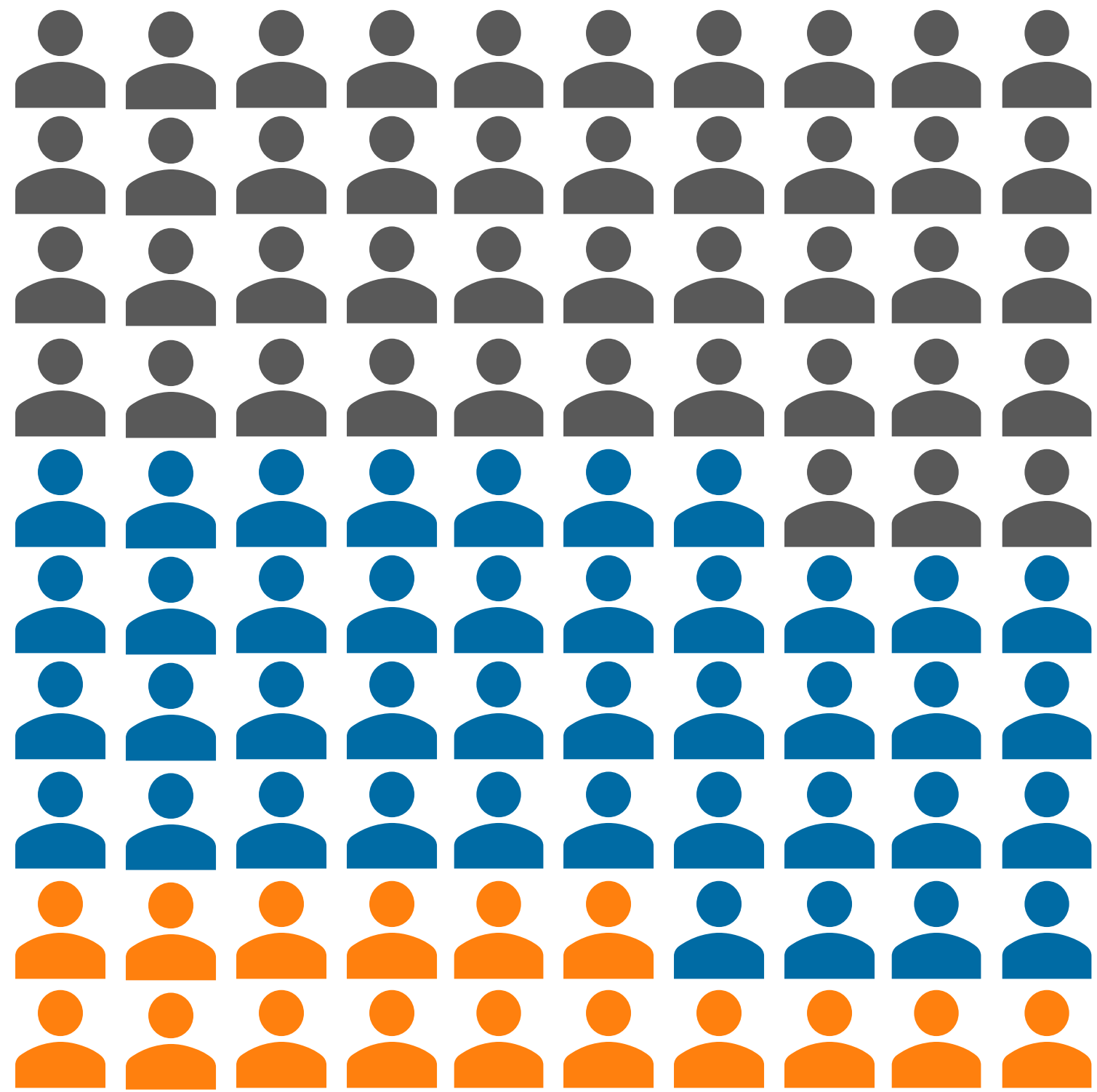
85 Surveys and Comments received

- Through EnageWR website and by email

The screenshot shows the 'Waterloo: University Avenue Reconstruction' project page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Engage Cambridge', 'Engage Kitchener', 'Engage Waterloo', and 'Engage Region of Waterloo'. Below this is a large image of the street. The main content area includes a title 'Waterloo: University Avenue Reconstruction', a brief description of the project, and a 'Project Survey' section that is marked as 'CLOSED'. To the right, there are sections for 'Videos', 'Key Dates', and 'Key Documents'. The 'Key Dates' section lists 'CANCELLED: Public Consultation Centre #1 March 24 2020'. The 'Key Documents' section lists several PDF files related to the project.

Public Feedback

Public Consultation Centre #1



324 Informed Visitors

Viewed documents, images or multiple pages (Includes Engaged Visitors)

90 Engaged Visitors

Participated in the online survey, submitted mapped feedback and/or asked a question

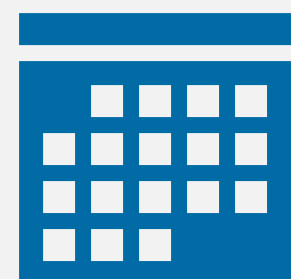
85 Participated in the PCC #1 Survey



54 Viewed the PCC #1 Presentation



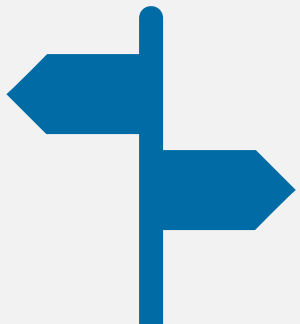
14 Visited the Key Dates page



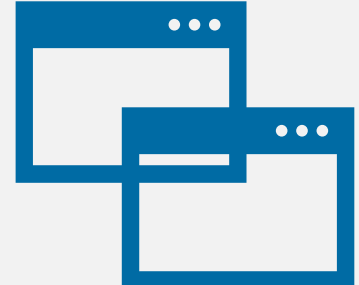
2 Submitted Questions to the Q&A



28 Viewed the Detailed Study Area Map



207 Visited Multiple Project Webpages



9 Placed Pins on the Map



133 Downloaded a document



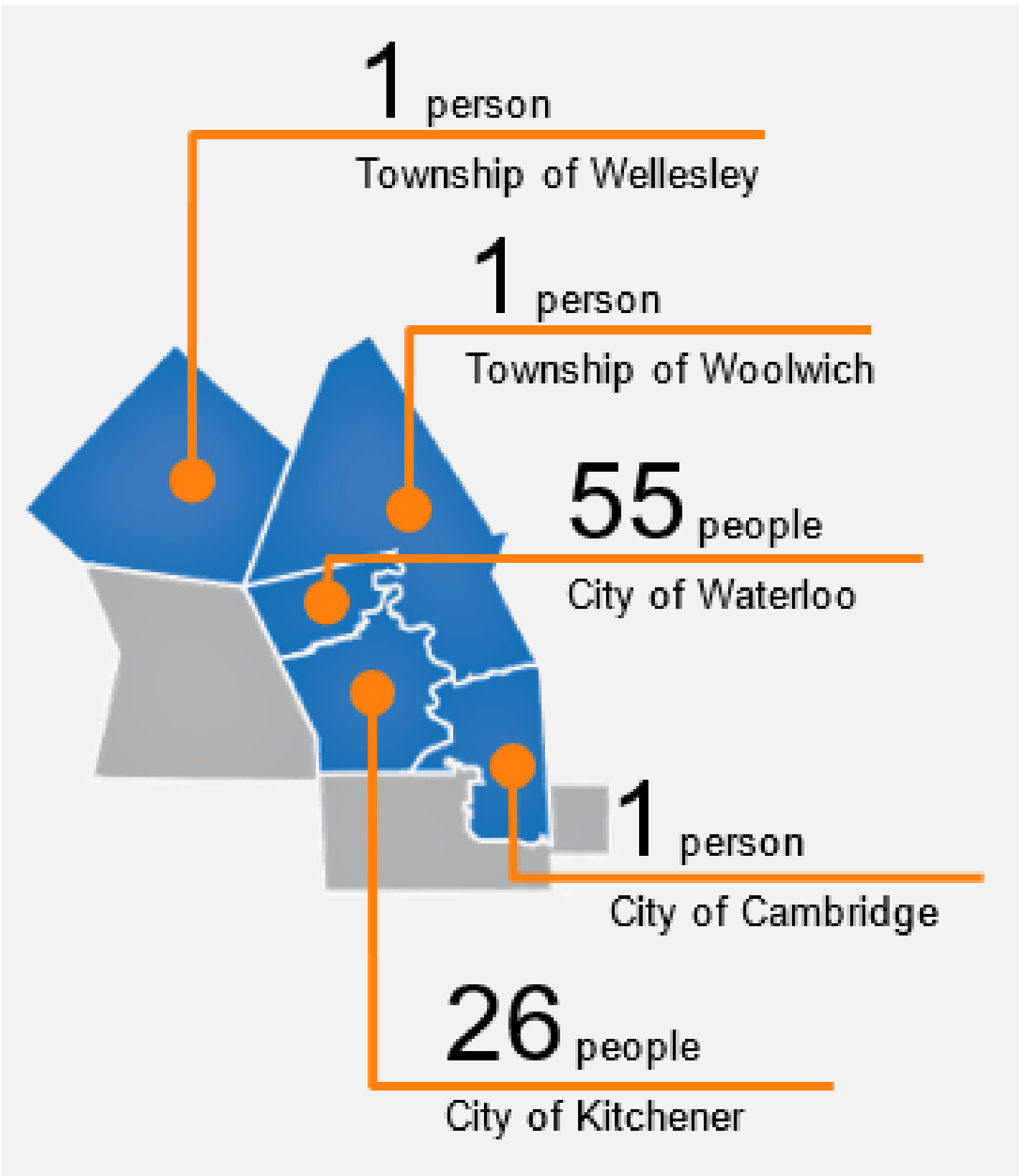
568 Visited Project Webpage



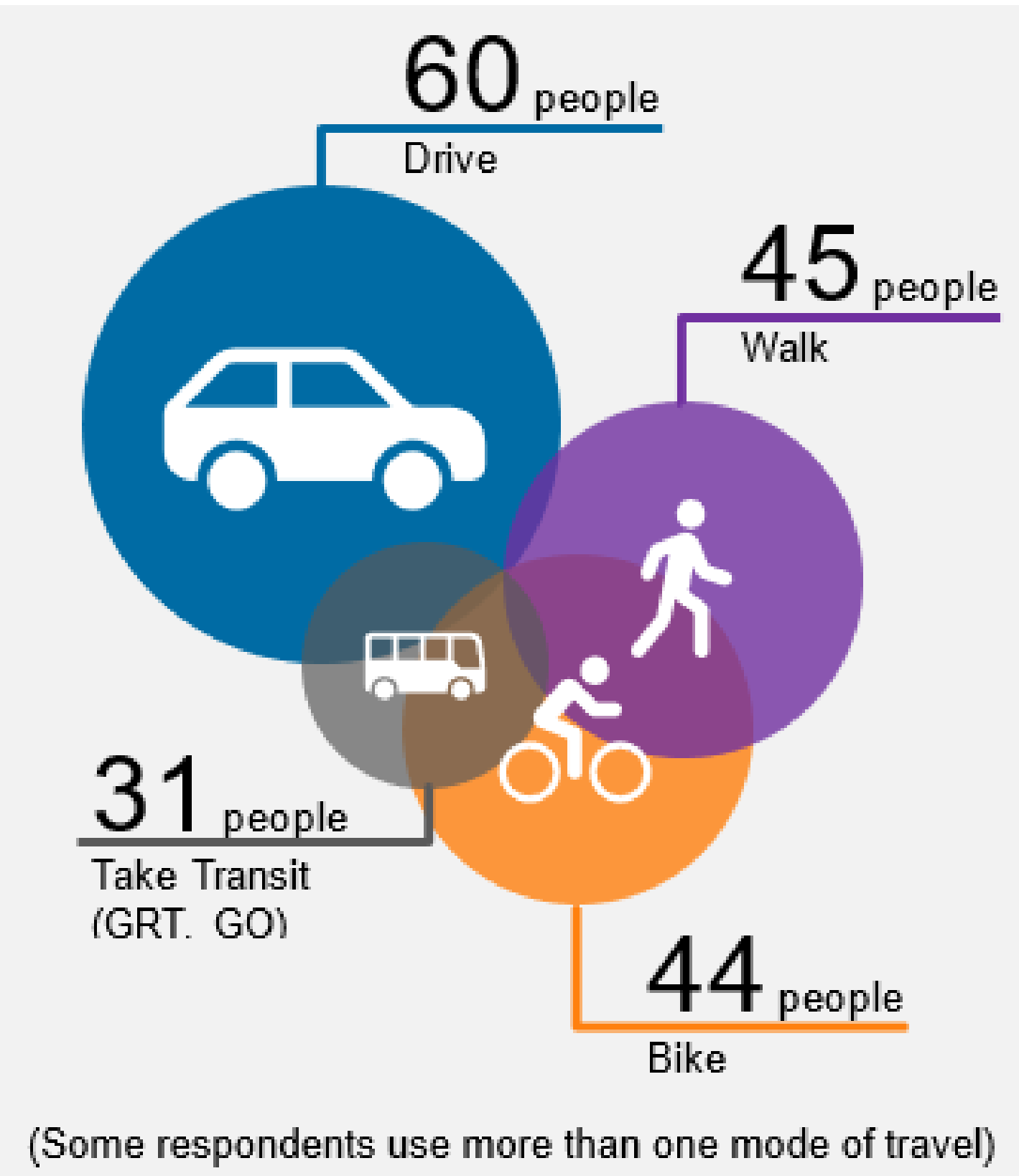
Public Feedback

Public Consultation Centre #1 – Respondent Profile

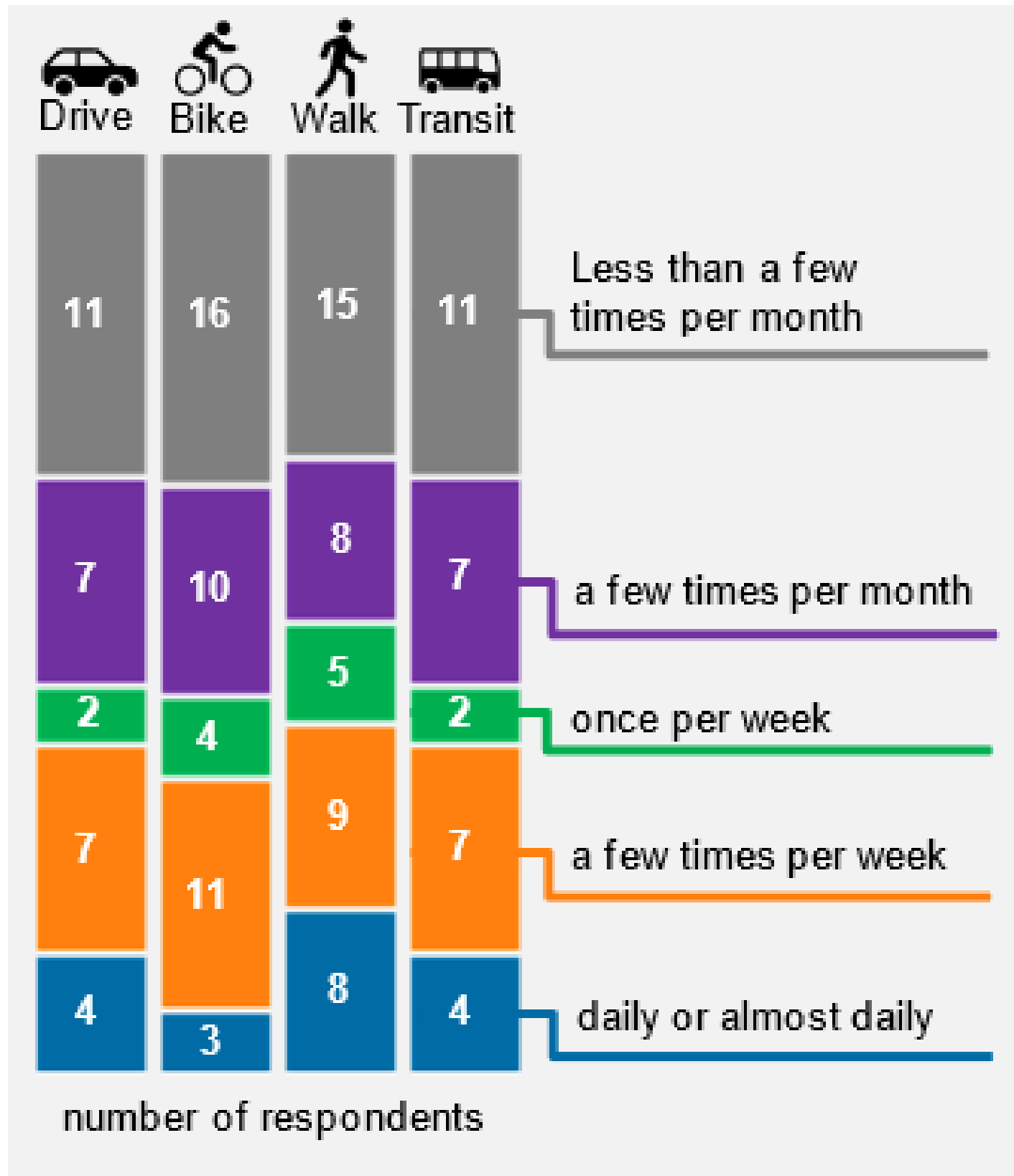
Where do you live?



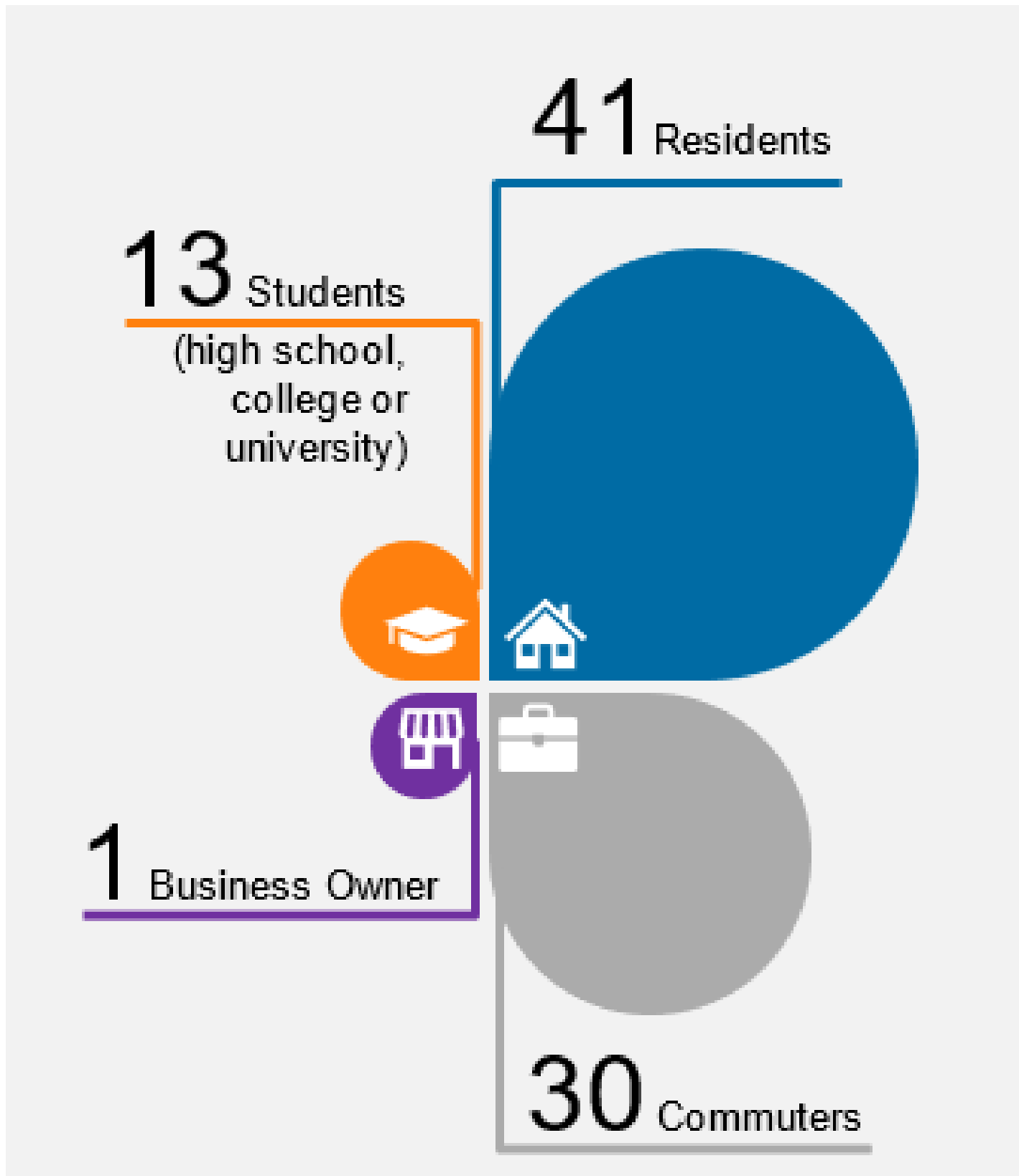
How do you most often travel?



How often do you travel along University Avenue?



Which of the following best describes how you live or interact with the University Avenue area?



Public Feedback

Public Consultation Centre #1 – Community Priorities



Longer crossing times for pedestrians



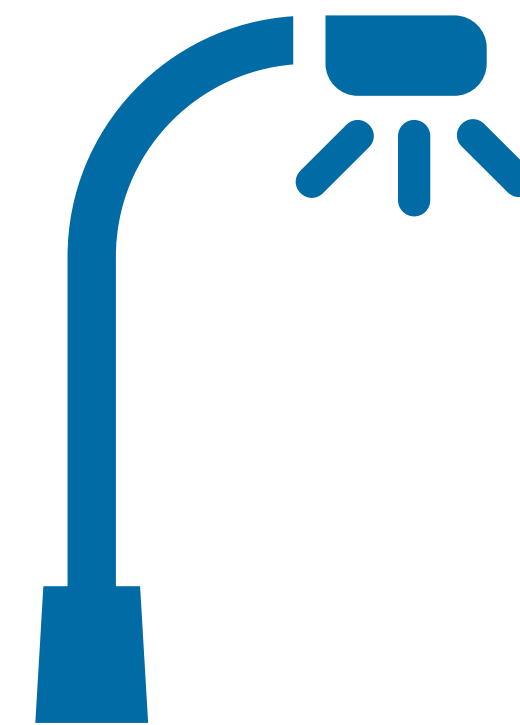
Longer turning lanes for vehicles



Longer advanced turning signals for vehicles



Improvements to visibility at intersections



Improvements to lighting on sidewalks

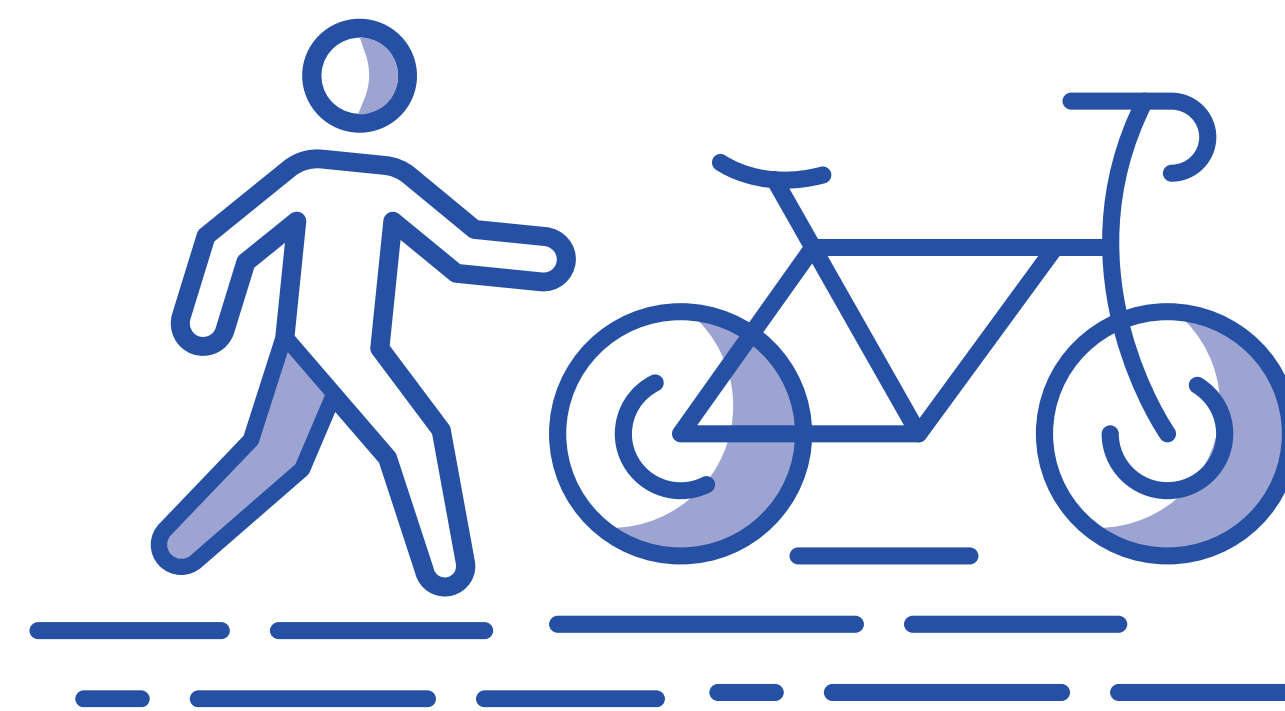


Traffic Calming Measures

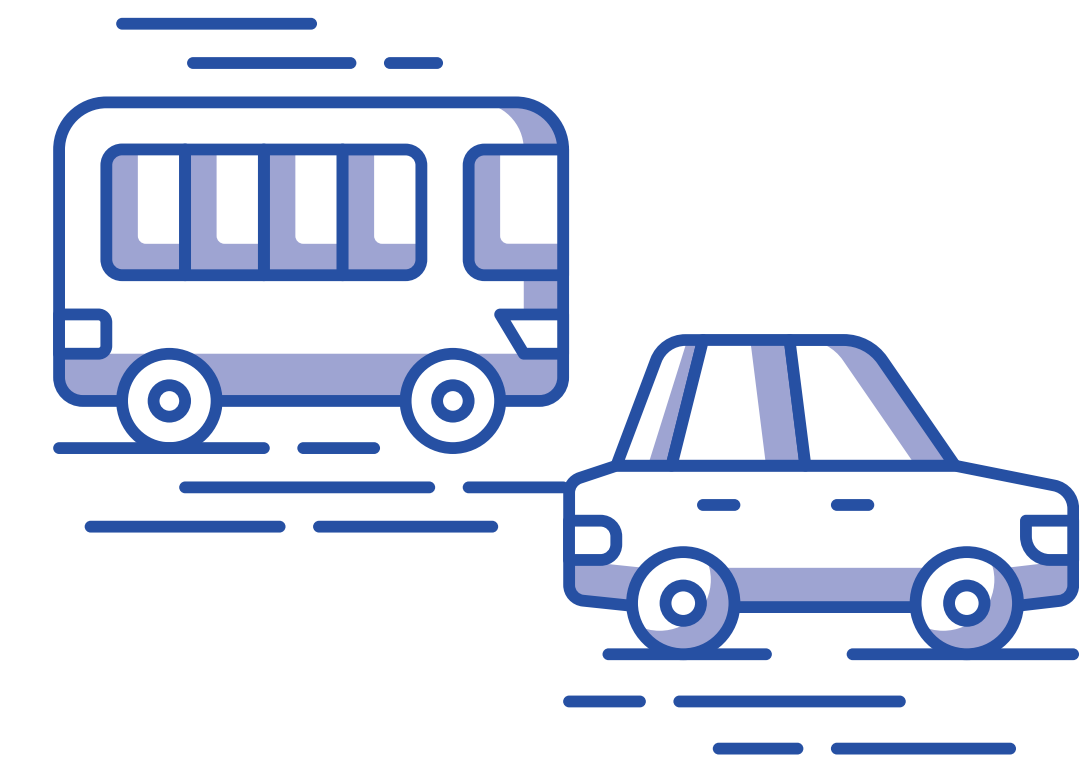
Studies Undertaken



**Environmental
Impact Study**



**Stage 1
Archeological
Assessment and
Cultural heritage
Resource
Assessment**



Traffic Impact Study

The Region Considered four (4) Alternatives

1

**Do Nothing
(Maintain Existing
Conditions)**

3

**Separated Bike
Lane with Flexible
Bollards**

2

**Separated Bike
Lane with Painted
Buffer**

3a

**Separated Bike
Lane with a
Physical Barrier
(Preferred
Solution)**

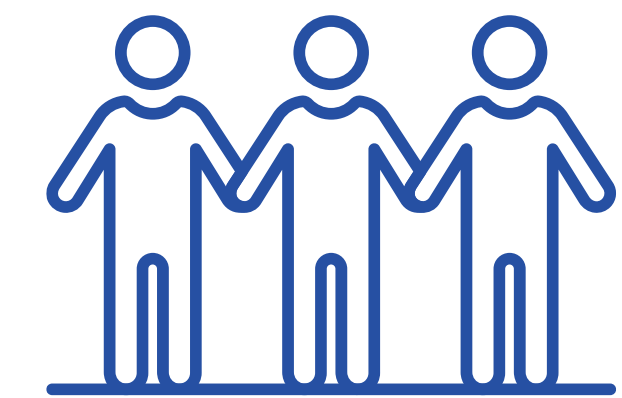
Alternative Designs Evaluation Process Criteria



Traffic Operations and
User Comfort on
University Avenue



Natural
Environment



Socio-Culture
Environment





Economic
Environment


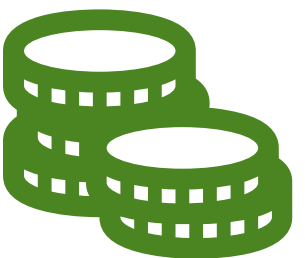



Regulatory
Environment

Evaluation Process





Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Least Preferred	Most Preferred
Natural Environment 	Aquatic Species & Habitat	Significant impact to aquatic species or habitat	No impact to aquatic species or habitat
	Terrestrial Species & Habitat	Significant impact to terrestrial species or habitat	No impact to terrestrial species or habitat
	Floodplain	Significant expansion or construction into floodplain area	Improvements to floodplain storage
	Wetlands	Significant loss of, or impact to wetlands	No loss of, or impact to, wetlands
	Trees & Landscaping	Significant loss of existing trees and landscaping	Improvements to trees and landscaping
	Wildlife	Significant impact to Species at Risk	Improvements to conditions for Species at Risk
	Property Contamination	Exposure of contaminated materials	Avoidance of contaminated materials
	Drainage	Detrimental Impact on storm water management and drainage	Maintenance or improvements to existing storm water management and drainage
Social Environment 	Cultural Heritage & Archaeology	Significant loss or impact to cultural heritage or archaeological sites	No impact to cultural heritage or archaeological sites
	Culture & Recreation	Significant loss or impact to cultural or recreational facilities	No impact to cultural or recreational facilities
	Businesses	Reduced access to businesses	Improved access to businesses
	Construction	Lengthy construction duration with traffic delays and/or reduced access	Limited construction duration, traffic delays and/or access restrictions
	Streetscaping	Reduced opportunity to provide space for improvements to streetscaping elements (e.g. plantings, decorative paving materials, decorative streetlights)	Enhanced opportunity to provide space for improvements to streetscaping elements (e.g. plantings, decorative paving materials, decorative streetlights)
	Air Quality & Noise	Increased air and noise emissions	Reduced air and noise emissions
	Private Property	Greater impacts on property and need for land acquisition	Lesser impacts on property and need for land acquisition

Evaluation Process (Continued)

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Least Preferred	Most Preferred
Traffic Capacity, Operations and Safety 	Traffic Level-of-Service	Increased congestion	Reduced congestion
	Safety	No improvement to safety for all users	Improved safety for all users
	Access Management	Diminished access to driveways and side roads	Improved access to driveways and side roads
	Transit	Diminished transit service, reduced access to transit stops, and potential conflicts with other road users	Enhanced transit service and access to transit stops, and reduced potential conflicts with other road users
	Cycling	Diminished opportunity for improvement to existing facilities	Enhanced opportunity for improved cycling facilities and pedestrian space
	Pedestrians	Reduced potential space and separation of pedestrian facilities from other vehicular uses	Increased potential pedestrian space
	Emergency Services	Increase to emergency response time	Minimize emergency response time
Costs 	Utility Relocations / Conflicts	Greater need for utility relocations	Lesser need for utility relocations
	Initial Capital Costs	Higher construction cost	Lower construction cost
	Life-Cycle Costs	Higher maintenance and operation cost	Lower maintenance and operating cost
Public Support 	Public Preference	Lesser public support	Greater public support

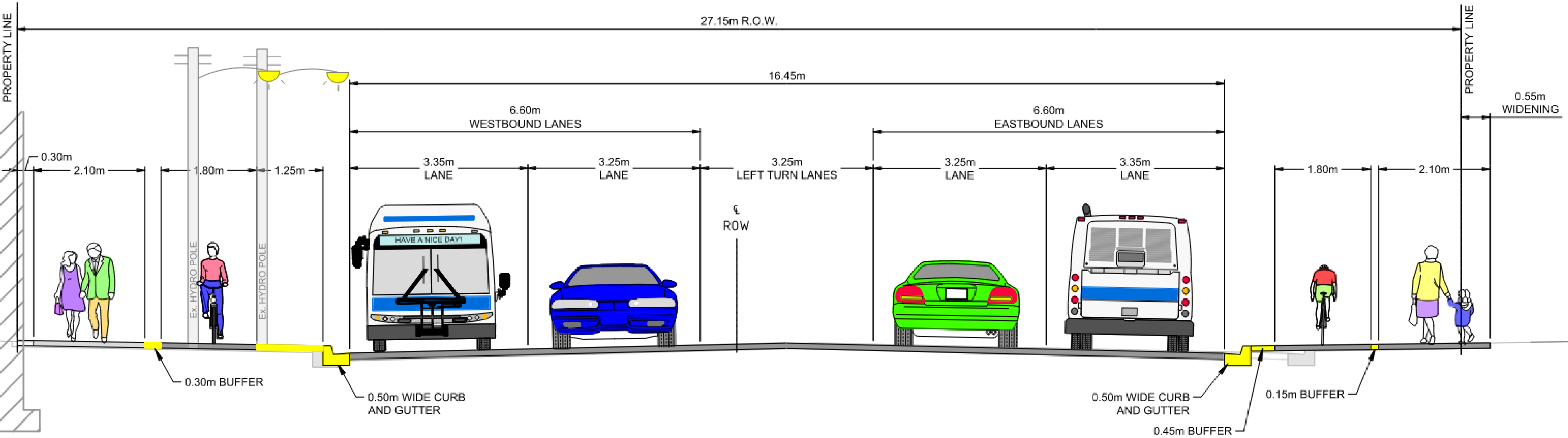
Alternative Designs Evaluation Summary

For more information on how each alternative was evaluated visit the documents section at www.engagewr.ca/University-Ave

Design Alternative 1 Do Nothing – Retain Roadway Cross-Section in its Current Configuration	Design Alternative 2 On Road Buffered Bike Lane	Design Alternative 3 Separated Bike Lane with Enhanced Sidewalk	Design Alternative 3a Separated Bike Lane with Physical barrier
Does not address safety and design deficiencies identified in the problem/opportunity statement for this study.	This alternative fails to adequately address operational and safety deficiencies. It does not address the parameters laid out in the active transportation master plan.	This alternative does not address all pedestrian and cyclist conflicts that exist with this alternative.	This alternative balances transportation needs and enhances safety of pedestrians and cyclists while enhancing urban design / streetscaping along the corridor.
FAIR	GOOD	GOOD	VERY GOOD
4	3	2	1
			
Not carried forward	Not carried forward	Not carried forward	Carried forward as the preferred design alternative

Project Team Recommended Design Alternative

Alternative 3a: Separated Bike Lane with a Physical Barrier



Next Steps



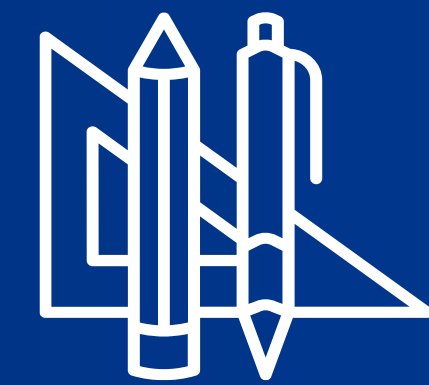
Public Review of Preliminary Preferred Design at Public Consultation Centre #2



Prepare Environmental Study Report including Preferred Design, identification of impacts and mitigation measures
(Spring 2022)



Issue Notice of Study Completion and hold 30-day public review of the Environmental Study Report
(Summer 2022)



Proceed to Detailed Design and Construction Phases subject to council approval
(2022/2023/2024)

Contact Information

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Visit the University Avenue Reconstruction Project
website at

<https://www.engagewr.ca/University-Ave>

