

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Erin Ridge Traffic Calming Neighbourhood Consultation Committee

August 5, 2017

BACKGROUND

On July 6, 2015, Council requested that a Neighbourhood Consultation Committee be formed to provide feedback on the implemented and planned Erin Ridge traffic calming measures. The Committee will provide annual feedback, in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 on the planned, proposed and implemented actions that will affect Erin Ridge traffic volume, speed, pedestrian crossing and other traffic related issues. The Committee consists of a maximum of 17 community members and an independent facilitator provided by the City of St. Albert. The meetings will take place quarterly through to the end of the second quarter of 2018. This is a total of 10 meetings (4 in 2016, 4 in 2017, and 2 in 2018).

In its first report to Council in June 2016, the Committee noted that it had met three times (March 8, 2016, May 3, 2016 and June 14, 2016) and noted the following accomplishments in the first four months: prepared a terms of reference and work plan, learned about the Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy and process and the 2016 Erin Ridge Traffic Mitigation Plan implementation, provided advice to Administration on 2016 consultation activities and traffic calming options in Erin Ridge; discussed options to accommodate the school opening in November of 2016; discussed preliminary traffic counts; and learned the five “E”s of traffic safety (engineering, enforcement, education, evaluation and encouragement).

This report is the Committee’s second report to Council.

THE COMMITTEE

At this time, the following people serve on the Erin Ridge Traffic Calming Neighbourhood Consultation Committee:

ERIN RIDGE CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

1. Karen Baniak
2. Carol Davis
3. Ryan Hierlmeier
4. Elaine Jensen
5. Murray Lambert
6. Chris Manners
7. Dave McConkey
8. Kari McKnight
9. Angela Miller
10. Bob Rae
11. Tim Saunders
12. Sandy Scott
13. Frank Vagi
14. Bill Van Hoof

SUPPORT

Host / Facilitator:

- Beth Sanders RPP, POPULUS

City of St. Albert:

- Dean Schick CET, Manager of Transportation

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Since the Committee's 2016 report to Council it met on September 14, 2016, October 26, 2016, June 7, 2017 and July 12, 2017.

The primary work of the Committee has involved learning about traffic calming and traffic data in Erin Ridge. As Administration has developed a draft Erin Ridge Traffic Calming Plan, the Committee has provided feedback and advice on: where traffic calming action is wanted and warranted; on consultation activities (i.e. community support survey and open houses); and reviewed and discussed the draft Erin Ridge Traffic Calming Plan.

In its work, the Committee has spent considerable time with D. Schick, who has made himself available to support the Committee's learning process and hear the opinions of the Committee. The Committee identified the following areas where they know and understand new things:

- About traffic calming
 - How traffic engineering decisions are made.
 - How and when enforcement and traffic calming practices work.
 - The City needs to have clear targets on these aspects of traffic calming: collision reduction, shortcutting, speeding and volume.
- About Erin Ridge
 - Traffic data (volume and speed).
 - Information on Ecole Alexandre-Tache.
- About the traffic system
 - Traffic calming needs to be looked at as a system rather than as a series of individual measures.
 - That this is complex work with no simple solutions.
- About development planning
 - How subdivisions are planned can cause problems; most other neighbourhoods are not designed to allow shortcutting between arterials.
 - The change to the ASP allowed driveways on a collector (Erin Ridge Drive) which has caused a safety hazard with vehicles backing out onto a collector road.
- About the Neighbourhood Consultation Committee process
 - Committee members represent different parts of the community and this has been of benefit to this process. Our experiences in the neighbourhood vary and we are learning from each other about the neighbourhood as a whole.
 - Committee members provide a trusted line of communication directly to the community.
 - It is not possible to make everyone happy.
- About other City projects
 - Residential permit parking pilot, reducing neighbourhood speeds city wide.
- About mistakes not to be repeated
 - The original plan for Erin Ridge Drive was as a collector, with no homes and driveways facing the road. Now that there are homes and driveways on the road, there is a safety issue, with vehicles backing out onto a collector. The change in plans has increased the issues of road safety with this neighbourhood. The winding road design compounds the safety issue with lack of sightlines. Drivers are ill prepared to slow or stop to allow vehicles to enter onto the road and this increases frustration within the neighbourhood.

- Erin Ridge is designed with a number of short collectors that allow easy shortcutting between arterials. Most other neighbourhoods in St. Albert are not designed this way. Adjacent major commercial, retail and residential development, and high arterial traffic around Erin Ridge exacerbate the shortcutting. Avoid short collectors between arterials and consider how to avoid shortcutting in subdivision planning.
- The original closure of Coal Mine Road has diverted traffic onto Erin Ridge Drive and other roads in the neighbourhood.

The Committee notes that there are some matters that have not been addressed in their work. In particular, it is not known yet if the chosen traffic calming measures will improve safety and/or reduce volume of traffic that comes from outside the neighbourhood. At this time, traffic volume and speeds in the neighbourhood are still an issue. For example, additional traffic calming measures are required on Eldorado Drive in order to realize volume reductions that have not been obtained thus far. Further, it should be noted that the mandate of the Committee is restricted to Erin Ridge, which impedes the amount of progress made because of existing surrounding roads and development that affect volume in Erin Ridge (namely St. Albert Trail and Boudreau Road intersection, north of Boudreau on S. Albert Trail (near Costco and Erin Ridge North retail developments, Bellerose Drive and Neil Ross Road).

RECOMMENDATIONS for MOVING FORWARD

The Committee offers the following recommendations for Council's consideration:

Committee and Neighbourhood Consultation Committee Process

1. That the Committee continues its work past 2018, as originally planned, into 2019 to take into account the evolving nature of both the neighbourhood and the additional development that is taking place around Erin Ridge.
2. That Council and Administration develop a plan to evaluate the neighbourhood consultation committee process.
3. That social media be a significant additional means of hearing from residents and getting information to residents. Surveys and open houses are not sufficient. A combination will reach older and younger residents alike.
4. That Council considers its threshold for the mandate to implement traffic calming in a way that is not a specific percentage (55% of households).

Traffic and Roadway Improvements

5. That Council support the Erin Ridge Traffic Calming Plan developed by Administration because it will start helping with safety issues in the neighbourhood.
6. That perimeter roadway improvements be completed expeditiously, especially: Neil Ross Road, Boudreau Road North and St. Albert Trail intersection, and the Bellerose Drive twinning and extension.
7. That Ebony Way and the extension to Everitt Drive North be studied immediately to assess traffic impacts with a view to implementing traffic calming measures are implemented at the time of construction rather than after the fact. Chosen methods should be harmonious with traffic calming throughout the neighbourhood.
8. That Council continue to seek regional and provincial transportation improvements, i.e. ring road, Neil Ross Road and Ray Gibbon Drive.

Development Planning

9. That development planning and development standards need to take into account traffic calming measures as part of the initial design.
10. That development planning for neighbourhoods consider traffic impacts from neighbouring arterial roads and developments.
11. That development planning at the ASP stage include traffic route planning and traffic calming to avoid the pitfalls of the Erin Ridge neighbourhood. Further, developers should retain the traffic pattern design as established by the ASP.
12. That sufficient parking be required inside institutional and retail development in residential areas to avoid sustained parking overflow onto residential streets and collector roads.

THANK YOU

Over the course of the last year, the Committee felt that the planning and implementation process was slow and would like quick solutions on the ground. The overall challenge to this work is finding ways to encourage citizens and neighbours to be involved. The Committee identified five areas of value of its work:

1. **The process encourages interaction** among neighbours in Erin Ridge and on the Committee.
2. **Working toward something good** that ensures safety for residents of all ages in the neighbourhood.
3. **Being heard**, both by neighbours and by Administration.
4. **Administration** and getting explanations about how decisions are made, as well as the benefit of technical expertise.
5. **Learning that there are different perspectives within the neighbourhood**; we don't have the same traffic problems but we are all partially responsible for them because we all have to move in the neighbourhood.

Thank you for bringing this group together and providing the support and resources for our work to make the community a safer place.

Submitted by the Erin Ridge Consultation Committee

Scribe: Beth Sanders RPP, POPULUS

Attachment:

1. Erin Ridge Traffic Calming Neighbourhood Consultation Committee Terms of Reference (June 14, 2016)

TERMS of REFERENCE

Erin Ridge Traffic Calming Neighbourhood Consultation Committee

June 14, 2016

The Call for Interest

The following elements were approved by St. Albert City Council as part of its call for interested citizens to serve on the Committee:

- Committee Objectives
- The Committee
- Term
- Public Engagement Spectrum

These items are established by Council and form the foundation for the Committee's Terms of Reference, to guide them in their work.

Committee Objectives

On July 6th, 2015, Council requested that a Neighbourhood Consultation Committee (or the Committee) be formed to provide feedback on the implemented and planned Erin Ridge traffic calming measures through Council motion C334-2015 (listed below as reference). The objectives of this Committee are as follows:

- That the Committee receive and report back, at a minimum, annual feedback in 2016, 2017 and 2018 on the planned, proposed, and implemented actions that will affect Erin Ridge traffic volume, speed, pedestrian crossing, and other traffic related issues. These include, but are not limited to:
 - ENGS-057 Erin Ridge Traffic Mitigation Strategies
 - ENGS-058 Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Strategies

Council Motion for reference:

(C334-2015) *That Administration convene a citizens' committee to provide feedback on the implemented and planned Erin Ridge traffic calming measures and report to Council annually starting no later than Q2 of 2016, on the results of the committee feedback and any changes to the Erin Ridge traffic mitigation implementation plan.*

The Committee

The Committee shall be comprised of eighteen (18) members including one (1) Committee Facilitator and seventeen (17) representatives from the community at large:

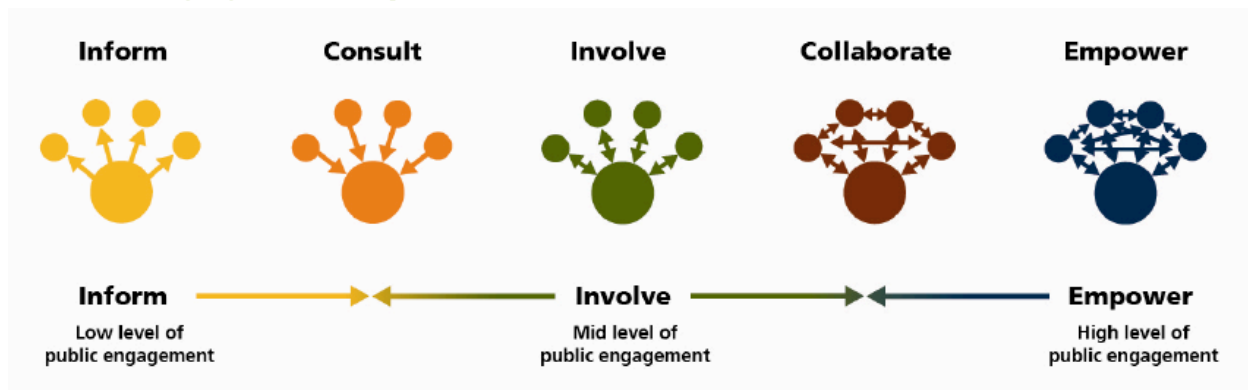
- Committee Facilitator – City of St. Albert

- Community Members at Large including:
 - 14 Residential Members at Large based on geography as set forth by the Neighbourhood Map provided as Attachment 1 to this 'Call for Interest'. Members shall be appointed as a minimum of 1 member per zone, to a maximum of 3 members per zone, up to a total of 14 Residential Members at Large.
 - 2 Commercial Member at Large representing businesses within the Neighbourhood
 - 1 Institutional Member at Large representing schools, hospitals, government, churches, etc. within the Neighbourhood
- Council shall determine the appointments to the Committee annually as part of their annual Committee appointments process. Council will determine the final appointments to the Committee, using the following as criteria for membership:
 - Skills and/or experience are directly related to the objective of the Committee
 - Interest in contributing perspectives from areas of expertise and experience
 - The ability to work collaboratively with people who share different experiences
 - Willingness and ability to attend and participate in meetings of the Committee (frequency of meetings may vary due to needs and progress of the objective)

Term

The Committee shall meet, at a minimum, quarterly starting in Q1 2016 until the end of 2018. Meetings shall be held in the evening on an agreed upon date convenient for the majority of Committee members. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the Committee. Annual reports are to be reviewed and approved by the committee prior to its presentation to council and are due to be presented by the Committee to Council starting in 2016.

Public Engagement Spectrum



The Committee is considered at the 'Involve' level of the Public Engagement Spectrum.

The purpose of the Committee is to foster communication that becomes two-way and that information is shared with the public and opportunities for feedback are provided. The intent is to raise awareness and understanding about traffic calming measures in the Erin Ridge neighbourhood, and to receive and report on residents' concerns on the effectiveness of the Erin Ridge traffic measures. At this stage, the City and the public have the opportunity to listen to and learn about each other's plans, views, issues and expectations.

Additional Terms

In addition to the terms outlined in the Call for Interest, the elements below also guide the work of the Committee.

Outcomes

The outcomes sought as this initiative unfolds, and upon its completion, include the following:

1. It is understood how/when/where it makes sense for the City of St. Albert to use a Neighbourhood Consultation Committee in the implementation of traffic calming measures.
2. City design and neighbourhood design are informed and influenced by the experience of the Erin Ridge Neighbourhood traffic calming process.
3. Traffic calming measures in Erin Ridge are practical, affordable and allow people to move around and do so safely.

Roles and Responsibilities

The text below outlines the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved.

CITY OF ST. ALBERT – COUNCIL

Role:

1. Provide policy direction to City of St. Albert Administration
2. Involve citizens in their decision making
3. Approve annual municipal budget

Responsibilities:

1. Receive the advice of the Committee
2. Set policy direction for the City of St. Albert
3. Review funding requests for neighbourhood traffic calming

ERIN RIDGE TRAFFIC CALMING NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Role:

1. Advise City Council directly, as a voice of diverse and informed citizens, on traffic calming in the Erin Ridge neighbourhood
2. Advise City Council on the use of a Neighbourhood Consultation Committee

Responsibilities:

1. Provide informed feedback on traffic calming related matters in Erin Ridge
2. Provide a written report to City Council, at least annually
3. Advise City Council about how well the design of the city and the Erin Ridge neighbourhood works
4. Review proposed traffic calming implementation strategies and action
5. Advise Administration about how to engage and consult Erin Ridge residents
6. Prepare a work plan and schedule that provides focus to the Committee's efforts
7. Listen to the range of interests in the community

Note – as appropriate, Administration will test implementation ideas with the Committee

CITY OF ST. ALBERT – ADMINISTRATION

Role:

1. Implement Council directives
2. Implement the traffic calming plan and process
3. Provide administrative support to the Committee
4. Engage and consult with the residents of Erin Ridge

Responsibilities:

1. Provide an impartial meeting chair/facilitator
2. Provide the materials the Committee needs to do its work
3. Provide technical information and advice to the Committee
4. Create project funding request

Note – as appropriate, Administration will test implementation ideas with the Committee.

FACILITATOR / MEETING CHAIR

Role:

1. Chair the Committee's meetings
2. Keep track of the Committee's needs
3. Prepare an agenda and list of materials needed for the meeting

Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the purpose of the meeting is clear
2. Ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate and speak
3. Ensure the materials needed for the meeting are on hand
4. Document a meeting summary
5. Document a report to Council, at least annually
6. Support and coach the Committee to prepare a work plan and schedule for its work

Note – The meeting chair is a facilitator under contract with City of St. Albert Administration to support the Committee when it meets.

Agreements

The following agreements guide the work of the Committee.

8 qualities of good meetings:

1. We hold all personal information in confidence.
2. We listen to each other with compassion and curiosity.
3. We ask for what we need and offer what we can.
4. We agree to watch our time and energy, and pause or take a break when we need to.
5. We share responsibility for the quality of our meetings.
6. We are here to serve the whole neighbourhood and the city.
7. We speak with intention, noting what is relevant to the conversation.
8. We listen with attention, respectful of the learning process for all members of the group.

On how we work together:

1. We are here to figure out how to:
 - a. best get around our neighbourhood, and
 - b. do it safely with all modes of transportation.

2. The decisions of the Committee will be made by consensus.
3. The Committee will agree on all messages of the Committee, to Council, Administration and to the neighbourhood.
4. The Committee will choose a spokesperson for the Committee.
5. The Committee will speak as a group, with one voice.

On how we will communicate with others:

1. Direct to Council. The Committee will communicate directly to City Council, at least annually, with an annual report. All reports to Council will be in the public domain.
2. Direct to Administration. While performing its work, the Committee will work closely with Administration to learn about traffic calming policy and implementation.
3. Listen to our neighbours. Committee members will identify themselves in the neighbourhood and be available to hear their neighbours' thoughts and feelings about traffic in Erin Ridge. In conversation with neighbours, the Committee will:
 - a. Listen well
 - b. Encourage active participation of neighbours in Administration's consultation activities ("you have a voice, here's your opportunity to use it")
 - c. Acknowledge that official feedback to the City of St. Albert is through Administration
4. The Committee will be present when Administration consults the neighbourhood to observe and listen.

Note - Communication with the neighbourhood will be done primarily by City Administration to ensure that the Committee is not put in a position of having to defend City Administration's work and finding themselves unexpectedly in the center of neighbourhood conflict. Further, the intention is for participation on the Committee to be an informative, rewarding and positive experience for citizens.

Changes to the Role / Scope of the Committee

Changes to the Committee, and its role/scope, need to be approved by Council.

Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet from 6-9pm on Tuesdays. It will meet six times a year, at its discretion.

Attachments

- a. ENGS-057 Erin Ridge Traffic Mitigation Strategies
- b. ENGS-058 Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Strategies
- c. Work Plan – Prelim – Erin Ridge TC Committee