



Beverly Heights **STREET LAB EVALUATION SUMMARY**

**VISION
ZERO**

Edmonton

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Project Background

What is a Vision Zero Street Lab?

Vision Zero Street Labs are a great way to work with the City of Edmonton's Safe Mobility team to bring traffic safety improvements to your neighbourhood, using adaptable traffic calming measures.

After supporting the community in moving through the Street Lab process, we are now able to celebrate the project by confirming next steps.

Review of Completed Steps

Over the last year and a half, residents and the City's Safe Mobility team have taken a number of steps to make the Beverly Heights neighbourhood safer to move around whether you choose to walk, roll, bike, take transit or drive.

1. A group of residents approached the City's Safe Mobility Team in 2021 with a common goal to slow drivers down along 114 Avenue and make the area between 42 Street and 44 Street safer for all modes of transportation and pedestrians.
2. Beverly Heights residents engaged with the community in summer 2022. Of the feedback they received from residents, the majority of respondents were in support of adaptable measures to improve traffic safety in the neighbourhood.
3. Based on this feedback, the City's Safe Mobility team determined that parklets, including curb extensions and planters (from the discontinued planter program), were the best way to slow down traffic along 114 Avenue Avenue between 42 and 44 Street.
4. The parklets were installed by City crews in May 2023 and the planters were maintained throughout the growing season by community members.

Street Lab Evaluation

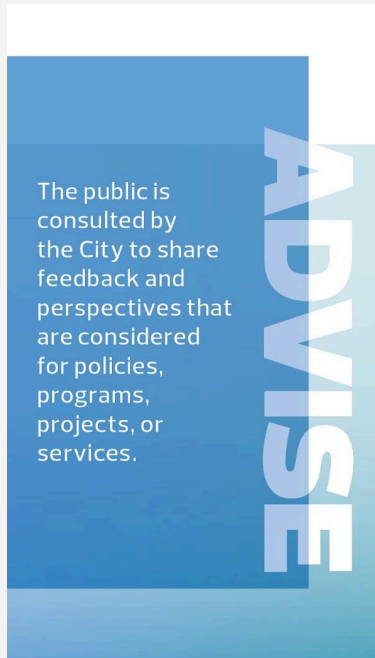
What We Did

Approximately four months after installation, the City evaluated the project to understand the public perceptions and effectiveness of the measures in reducing speeding.

Communication Activities

Neighbourhood residents were invited to complete a survey to share their feedback on the project through the following communications tactics and channels:

- 624 postcards were mailed out to residents in the neighbourhood.
- Emails were sent out to three residents who signed up to receive project updates.
- A post was shared on the NextDoor app for residents in the neighbourhood.
- The Beverly Heights Community League helped to share information about engagement opportunities via their social media accounts.



Public Engagement Activities

At this stage of the project, the City completed public consultation (Advise-level engagement) using an online survey to gather feedback on how the adaptable measures were working and how they impacted experiences of traffic safety. 98 survey responses were received between September 26 to October 10, 2023.

Data Monitoring and Analysis

A speed survey was completed in September 2023 at 114 Avenue west of 42 Street to gather data that could be compared to the speed data collected prior to the installation of the parklet measures.

A summary of the findings is presented below.

What We Learned

Engagement Key Themes

- Overall, 70.4% of respondents were dissatisfied with how the infrastructure is currently working, while 16.3% were satisfied and another 14.3% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
 - Some respondents that are supportive of the measures feel more could be done to increase their effectiveness (e.g. widen the parklets or place in alternative locations).
- 81.6% of respondents disagree (most of them strongly) that the parklets that have been installed help to slow traffic.
 - Some respondents feel the parklets are ineffective in slowing vehicles as they seem to be the same width as a parked car and do little to slow down traffic.*
- More than three quarters (77.6%) of respondents disagree that from a traffic safety perspective, the neighbourhood is a safer place to walk, roll or ride a bike.

Respondents were provided with an opportunity to share additional feedback about their experience with the Street Lab. There were concerns shared about program funding, the community-led engagement process and communications, including the purpose of the measures. Some respondents shared that they are concerned about the loss of parking spaces, that it will be difficult for drivers to navigate the measures

and to conduct snow and ice maintenance activities in the winter months, and that adaptable measures are not aesthetically pleasing. Some respondents would like to see additional traffic safety measures installed in the community, such as speed humps for example.

**Parklets are approximately .5m wider than a parked car, and they work to slow down traffic because they are in place 24/7 while vehicles come and go at different hours of the day.*

Technical Findings

Figure 1: Speed Survey Data - 114 Avenue West of 42 Street

Metric	Pre-installation	Post-installation	% Difference
% of Vehicles at or Below the Speed Limit EB	46.5%	62.4%	+15.9%
% of Vehicles at or Below the Speed Limit WB	50.2%	72.2%	+22%
Average Daily Traffic EB	1,848	1,753	-5%
Average Daily Traffic WB	1,669	1,955	+15%

Following the installation of the Street Lab, the results show:

- A significant improvement in speed limit compliance in both the eastbound and westbound directions, which demonstrates the parklets were effective in slowing speeds.

What We Decided and Next Steps

Insights Worth Celebrating!

The City's engineering expertise and technical data has demonstrated that the measures are working to reduce speeding, so the curb extensions will stay in place. Based on residents' feedback about the planters, those installations will be removed. Given the community's continued traffic safety concerns within the neighbourhood, a second phase of the project is beginning in June 2024 starting with additional public engagement opportunities. Residents have recently received a public notice detailing the upcoming engagement opportunities.

Thank you to all who participated and shared feedback throughout this process and we look forward to you sharing additional traffic safety insights with us. The City's Safe Mobility team is committed to working with Edmontonians, understanding lived experiences and ensuring that we all play a part in achieving Vision Zero!

To access project information, please visit edmonton.ca/StreetLabs. To learn more about how Edmonton will reach Vision Zero through safe and livable streets visit edmonton.ca/VisionZero. For all other inquiries, please contact us by email at saferoads@edmonton.ca or by calling 311.