



McKercher Drive - Duncan Crescent Access

What We Heard - Engagement Summary

August 30, 2023



Engagement Summary

The City of Saskatoon recently completed a review of access to Duncan Crescent from McKercher Drive. We have heard ongoing concerns from residents of Duncan Crescent regarding access to the Crescent from McKercher Drive.

The existing median on McKercher Drive makes it challenging for residents to access Duncan Crescent. Depending on their direction of travel, they may be required to make a U-turn to access the Crescent. Following the College Park / East College Park Neighborhood Traffic Review (NTR) process in 2018, a traffic signal was recommended at Degeer Street and McKercher Drive. As a result of installing the signal, U-turns will be illegal at this intersection. A review of McKercher Drive was conducted prior to installing the traffic signal in order to determine possible improvements for access to Duncan Crescent and traffic safety along the street.

Engagement with local residents on this recommendation took place between September 2022 and April 2023. Residents living directly on Duncan Crescent are highly impacted by changes to accessing the Crescent and were engaged directly with an on-site meeting in the first phase of engagement. The draft traffic plan that was developed to improve access to Duncan Crescent included multiple recommendations for McKercher Drive which could impact residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A second community engagement session was held with the broader community in March 2023 to share the analysis and draft traffic plan with residents and collect feedback on the recommendations.

Summary of engagement activities

The goal of this engagement was to **inform** local impacted residents of the potential changes to the intersection and to **collect feedback** from the residents about the impacts of these changes. A summary of the engagement strategy is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Engagement Strategy

Phase		Participants	Engagement Goal	Engagement Activities
1	Local Feedback	Residents of Duncan Crescent	Hear concerns about access to Duncan Crescent and collect feedback on potential options	On-site meeting Flyers Emails to CAs Correspondence
2	Community Feedback	Local Residents Community Associations (CA) Residents of College Park and East College Park	Share the proposed traffic plan for McKercher Drive and gather feedback from broader community and impacted residents	Drop-in community session Flyers Emails to CAs Correspondence Engage Page

Phase 1 – September 2022

Flyers were mailed to local residents on Duncan Crescent describing the concerns heard about access to the Crescent and the review taking place. The flyer also advertised a pop-up engagement event that was held on-site at Sidney L. Buckwold Park near Duncan Crescent to hear from

residents and collect feedback. The flyer and information about the pop-up engagement was also shared with the College Park and East College Park Community Associations.

Approximately 25 people attended the pop-up engagement event on September 22, 2022. Feedback forms were completed by people at the event, and residents were also able to submit their comments through email to the project team. Overall, feedback was received from approximately 40 residents through feedback forms, emails, and conversations with the project team.

Phase 2 – March 2023

Flyers were mailed to residents surrounding McKercher Drive in College Park and East College Park describing the results of the review and proposed traffic plan. The flyer also advertised a community drop-in engagement session that was held at École Cardinal Leger to present the proposed traffic plan to local residents and hear feedback on the plan. The flyer and information about the community engagement meeting was also shared with the College Park and East College Park Community Associations.

Approximately 40 people attended the drop-in engagement session on March 30, 2023. Feedback forms were completed by people at the event, and residents were also able to submit their comments through email to the project team or through an online survey on the City's Engage page. Overall, feedback was received from approximately 80 residents through feedback forms, online survey responses, emails, and conversations with the project team.

What We Heard

Phase 1 – September 2022

Many residents of Duncan Crescent were concerned with the existing access to the Crescent, as well as the impact a new traffic signal at Degeer Street may have on further restricting access to the Crescent. Suggestions from residents included allowing U-turns at Mount Allison Crescent by moving, removing or changing the existing pedestrian signal, allowing U-turns at signalized intersections, examining the potential for roundabouts, and providing a median opening near Duncan Crescent. Some residents also felt the existing access was adequate and were concerned that changes may result in increased traffic along the Crescent.

Phase 2 – March 2023

In the second phase of engagement, feedback was heard from residents of Duncan Crescent as well as the broader neighborhood surrounding McKercher Drive. Residents were asked to provide feedback on the measures in the proposed traffic plan (Table 2), as well as any other concerns or comments. In general, many residents supported some measures within the traffic plan, such as installing missing pedestrian ramps and no parking signs. Mixed feedback was received regarding the potential relocation of the pedestrian crossing at Mount Allison Crescent and relocating the park pathway. The least supported measures in the plan were a temporary speed display board on McKercher Drive and forwarding speeding concerns to the Saskatoon Police Service. Additional comments from responses are detailed in the themes below.

Residents of Duncan Crescent were also asked whether they were in support of a median opening on McKercher Drive to provide access to the Crescent (Table 3), with about half of residents on the Crescent in support of a median opening and the remainder unsupportive.

Table 2. Please tell us which of the measures from the traffic plan you support? (select as many options as you wish)

	Local residents (Duncan Crescent)	Community residents (College Park and East College Park)	Total (76 responses)
Install missing pedestrian ramps	7	44	67%
Parking restrictions	7	39	61%
Change pedestrian crossing at Mt. Allison / relocate park path	10	29	51%
Speed display board	7	33	53%
Forward speeding concerns to SPS	5	26	41%
None	--	2	3%

Table 3. Do you support the creation of a median opening near Duncan Crescent to provide access to the Crescent? (residents of Duncan Crescent only)

	Local residents (Duncan Crescent, 13 responses)
Supportive of median opening	6
Unsupportive	5
Other comments / it depends	2

The main themes from engagement included:

Support or Concern for traffic signal at Degeer Street and McKercher Drive

The proposed traffic signal at Degeer Street and McKercher Drive was recommended as part of the 2018 NTR for College Park / East College Park. Many responses expressed continued support for the traffic signal, saying the intersection at Degeer Street remains challenging for drivers to cross during peak times and concerns for pedestrian safety when crossing McKercher Drive at the intersection.

Other residents were opposed to installing a traffic signal at Degeer Street, with concern for how this may impact traffic flow along McKercher Drive and increase wait times for drivers and emissions. Respondents felt that as McKercher Drive is a busy road, installing further traffic signals

would only frustrate drivers by slowing them down, having too many signals close together, and increasing noise. Some residents felt that improving access to Duncan Crescent was less important than maintaining smooth flow of traffic along McKercher Drive.

Median Opening to Duncan Crescent

Support for creating a median opening to Duncan Crescent was mixed among the 13 responses received from residents of Duncan Crescent. The main concern expressed by residents was that a median opening would increase traffic on the Crescent as drivers would be encouraged to use the opening as a U-turn option on McKercher Drive. Suggestions for local traffic signage or speed bumps were raised. Others preferred the option for U-turns being permitted at Mount Allison and/or Degeer Street, or eliminating the traffic signal at Degeer Street altogether.

Other concerns included the potential for backing up traffic on McKercher Drive as a result of the new median opening and that it would create a possible opportunity for dangerous pedestrian crossings on McKercher Drive.

Residents who supported the median opening stated their concern for the current access situation and addressing the current traffic flow issues on McKercher Drive.

General support for the proposed traffic plan

Many residents indicated support for the proposed traffic plan, including the sentiment that something must be done to improve safety and access in the area. Residents of Duncan Crescent were supportive of various different options, with some preferring the median opening option and others preferring the changes to Mount Allison Crescent and the pedestrian crossing device.

Concern for moving the pedestrian crossing at Mount Allison Crescent

Concerns about the relocation of the pedestrian crossing at Mount Allison Crescent was also a main theme for residents. Some responses noted the existing crossing is on the same side of the street as the schools and parks that pedestrians and children may be walking to. Others felt moving the crossing to the north side would make turning left onto McKercher Drive from Mount Allison Crescent more challenging. Finally, some residents felt the expense required to move the park pathway and pedestrian actuated signal were not justified and did not agree with this recommendation.

Costs / Use of City Resources

Feedback from some residents expressed concern over the use of resources to implement the proposed traffic plan. Other intersections along McKercher Drive were named as requiring more urgent attention, such as at Edinburgh Place, Boychuk Drive, and Acadia Drive. Other respondents felt the City should prioritize other issues instead of traffic calming.

Other

Other comments and concerns ranged from improving missing sidewalks near McKercher Drive, concerns for snow clearing of the pedestrian pathway and park pathway, questions about why 'U-turns permitted' signs were not a possible solution, and safety concerns for the alley behind Duncan Crescent backing onto Sidney L. Buckwold Park.

Limitations

This engagement was focused on the residents closest to the affected Crescent in order to gather feedback from those most impacted by the potential changes. Other stakeholders and residents from surrounding neighbourhoods may also have an interest in potential changes to McKercher Drive.

Both online and in-person options were offered as part of this engagement process to try and accommodate participation. Some residents may not have been comfortable or available to attend the in-person engagement sessions. Some residents may also have limited access to internet or technology that presented challenges in accessing the online engagement information.

Next Steps

Engagement results from both phases will be shared with the project team in the Transportation Department to determine next steps.