



Project Background

The Town of Okotoks is planning ahead to provide sustainable, well-organized movement and community-driven infrastructure. With the urbanization of Northridge Drive, the Town aims to support new neighbourhood growth, encourage active living, and improve daily commutes.

During the first round of public participation, the Town held a pop-up event on July 20, 2019 at the Taste of Okotoks and Artisan Market. A concurrent online survey was available on the Town's website from July 19 to August 2, 2019. Participants at the pop-up event and those who responded to the online survey were asked to provide their feedback and thoughts on the long-term upgrades needed to create a vibrant and well-connected transportation network through the urbanization of Northridge Drive.

To review the summer 2019 public participation summary report, please visit:

www.okotoks.ca/northridgedr

Following the first round of engagement in July, the Town held an open house on November 27, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Foothills Centennial Centre.

The objective of the open house was to present a summary of what was heard during the summer public participation. Conceptual designs for Northridge Drive, which reflected input provided by the public, were also provided.

The open house summary included:

- response to key concerns identified by the public at the summer 2019 session
- feedback received on how residents/public currently drive, bike and walk/wheel along Northridge Drive
- feedback received on how residents/public would like to use Northridge Drive in the future
- feedback received on the three possible design improvement options for the corridor
- conceptual designs for pathway and roadway improvements along Northridge Drive

Twelve interested members of the public attended the open house, there was no online survey for this round of public participation.

The following sections in this report provide:

- The fall 2019 open house session [Verbatim Comments](#).
- [Appendix A](#) fall 2019 open house display boards, which are available on the Town's website www.okotoks.ca/northridgedr



Fall 2019 Open House Session Verbatim Comments

- I like the look of the project and agree it is needed as the Town grows. My only immediate concerns are that there is no advanced left turn signals at Sandstone Gate and D'Arcy Boulevard when driving north on Northridge Dr. it can be difficult to turn at these intersections during peak times. At these peak times only about 1-2 vehicles can turn left per light cycle
- I am concerned that the amount of traffic lights will cause a problem for commuters to Calgary. Is it possible to reduce the amount of new intersections? Are traffic circles being considered? What other options are being considered to ensure fast and convenient access to Calgary?
- I would like to see LESS traffic lights. Could or would we consider traffic circles to help with Traffic Flow?!
- Roundabouts and time existing lights better!!
- Please formalize the proposed off-leash dog/pet area in Suntree. That would be great. It makes sense as only one fence is needed and Okotoks needs more off leash areas.

Several of the open house attendees who filled out a comment form, indicated on the forms that they would be interested in a follow-up response to their comments. The Town project team will be communicating with them individually.



Appendix A



Fall 2019 Open House Display Boards

Fall 2019 Open House Display Boards

Okotoks Northridge Drive Urbanization

What We Heard: Public Participation Summary I

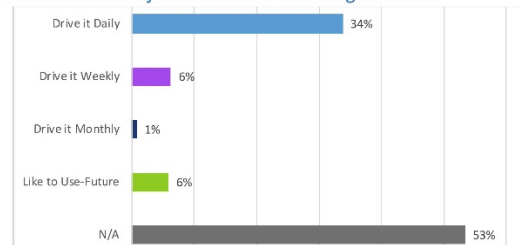
The Town of Okotoks is planning ahead to provide sustainable, well-organized movement and community-driven infrastructure. With the urbanization of Northridge Drive, we aim to support new neighbourhood growth, encourage active living, and improve daily commutes.

In the summer of 2019, the Town asked stakeholders and community members to provide their feedback and thoughts on the long-term upgrades needed to create a vibrant and well-connected transportation network for the town.

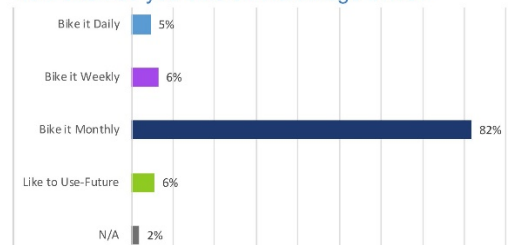
The following is a snapshot of what we heard at the engagement over the summer.



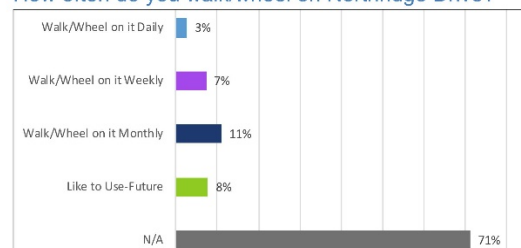
How often do you drive on Northridge Drive?



How often do you bike on Northridge Drive?



How often do you walk/wheel on Northridge Drive?



*To review the full summary report please visit: www.okotoks.ca/northridgedr

Okotoks Northridge Drive Urbanization

What We Heard: Public Participation Summary II

At the pop-up event and in the online survey, we presented three Northridge Drive improvement options. The following is a snapshot of what we heard.



Option 1: Boulevard with multi-use pathway

Respondents liked:

- The safety buffer created by the separation between pathway and road users.
- The tree coverage/landscaping.

Respondents recommended:

- Additional trees including a variety of species along both the pathways and in the road median.



Option 2: Split boulevard with multi-use pathway

Respondents liked:

- The look and feel of the design, the landscaping and additional tree coverage.
- The separation between pathway and road users.

Respondents recommended:

- An increased distance and buffer between the pathway and roadway.



Option 3: Boulevard with separated bike lane and sidewalk

Respondents liked:

- Separate pathways/lanes for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Improved safety with separated uses.

Respondents recommended:

- A separate bike lane would not be necessary due to high costs and that the pathway could be multi-use.

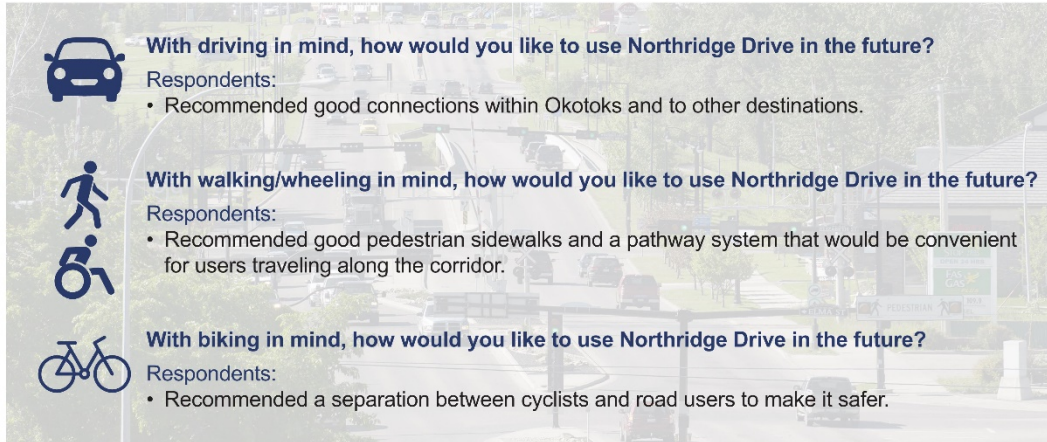



Overall, respondents mentioned that the design concept of Option 1 and Option 2 were very similar and they generally liked the separation between pathway users from road users. In Option 3, respondents noted the difference and liked the separation of cyclists and pedestrians but were concerned it would be a more costly option.

Okotoks Northridge Drive Urbanization

What We Heard: Public Participation Summary III


At the pop-up event and in the online survey, we asked how respondents would like to use Northridge Drive in the future. The following is a snapshot of what we heard.






With driving in mind, how would you like to use Northridge Drive in the future?
Respondents:

- Recommended good connections within Okotoks and to other destinations.



With walking/wheeling in mind, how would you like to use Northridge Drive in the future?
Respondents:

- Recommended good pedestrian sidewalks and a pathway system that would be convenient for users traveling along the corridor.



With biking in mind, how would you like to use Northridge Drive in the future?
Respondents:

- Recommended a separation between cyclists and road users to make it safer.



Town Review: Addressing some of the key concerns that came up during the public participation this summer

Respondent Concern:

Are six lanes necessary?

Town Review:

At current traffic volumes, the widening of Northridge Drive to six lanes is not warranted. With continued growth, traffic volumes on Northridge Drive will increase. Based on the 2015 Transportation Master Plan, widening of Northridge Drive to six lanes is expected to become warranted by approximately 2045. The timing of this upgrade will be based on actual traffic volumes.

Respondent Concern:

There are too many signalized intersections.

Town Review:

These new intersections have been previously approved by the Town through the Northwest Okotoks Area Structure Plan (D'Arcy) and North Okotoks Area Structure Plan (Wedderburn). They will provide effective pedestrian and vehicular connectivity into the adjacent neighbourhoods. Northridge Drive will continue to function at an acceptable level.

Respondent Concern:

What is the cost to existing residents?

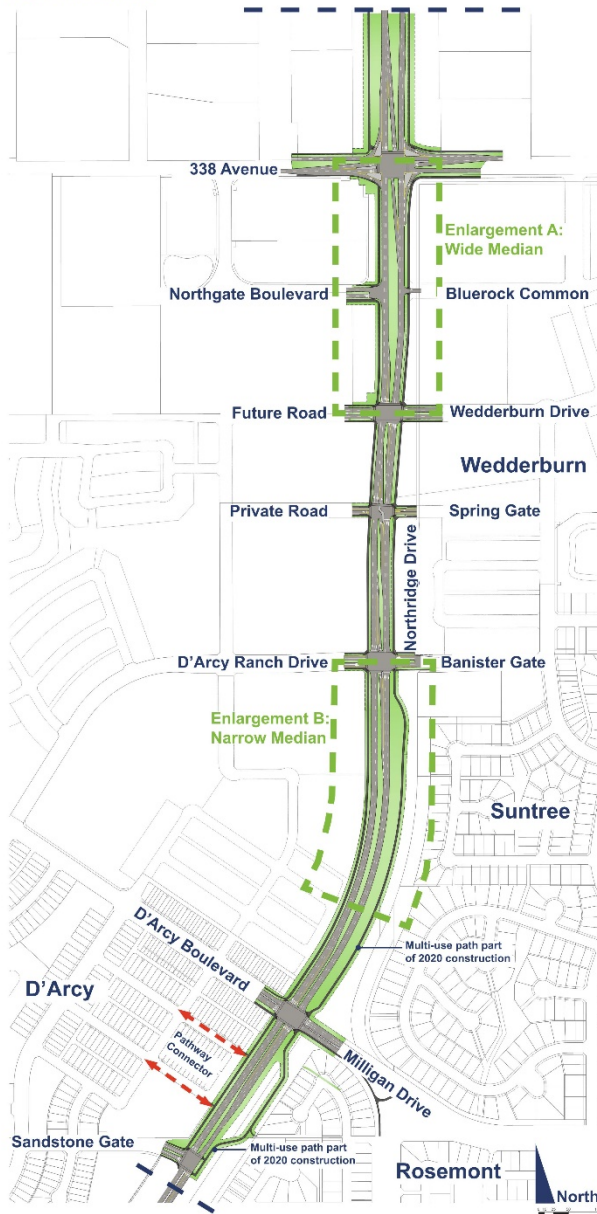
Town Review:

The majority of these improvements will be contributed by land developers or funded by off-site levies.

*To review the Transportation Master Plan please visit: www.okotoks.ca/northridgedr

Okotoks Northridge Drive Urbanization

KEY PLAN



Design Philosophy

In alignment with the Town's Strategic Plan, Northridge Drive is envisioned as a vibrant corridor connection within Okotoks, promoting healthy living and active lifestyles while providing convenient and easy access to different parts of the town.

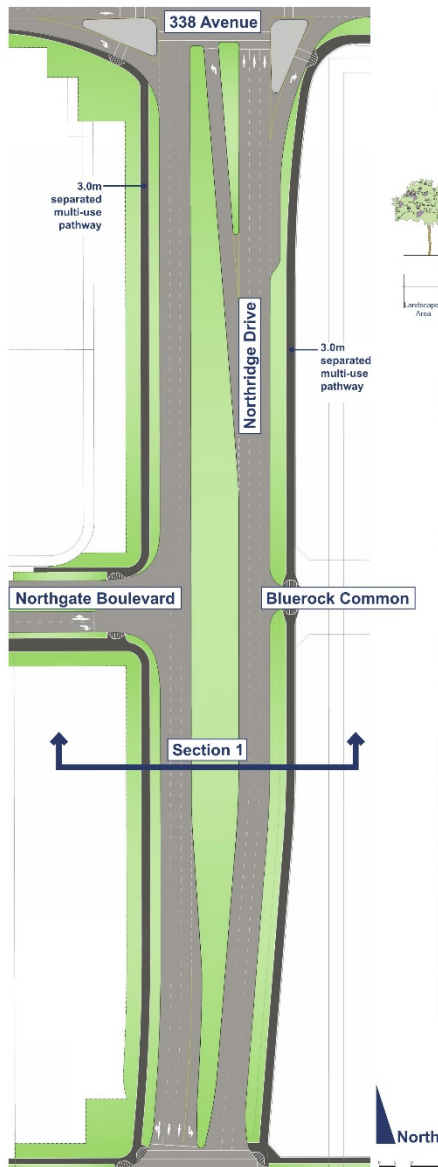
To achieve this vision, the design focused on:

- Balancing the needs of all modes of transportation
- Prioritizing pedestrian safety with separated pathways, low-speed corners, reduced crossing distances, and improved sight lines
- Establishing strategic connections to both existing and future pathway networks
- Accommodating increased traffic needs as the Town continues to grow
- Recognizing opportunities to create a distinct entry into Okotoks and a "sense of place"

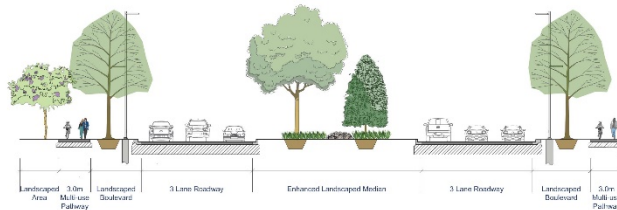
Okotoks Northridge Drive Urbanization

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

ENLARGEMENT A: WIDE MEDIAN



Section 1

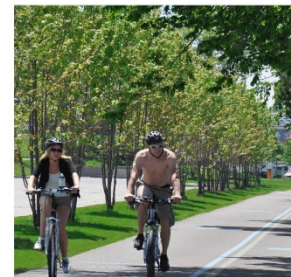


Pathway and Roadway Improvements:

- A 3.0m multi-use pathway will be provided on both sides of Northridge Drive between Sandstone Gate and 338 Avenue. These pathways will be separated from Northridge Drive by a landscaped boulevard.
- Medians and boulevards will be landscaped with trees and other plantings.

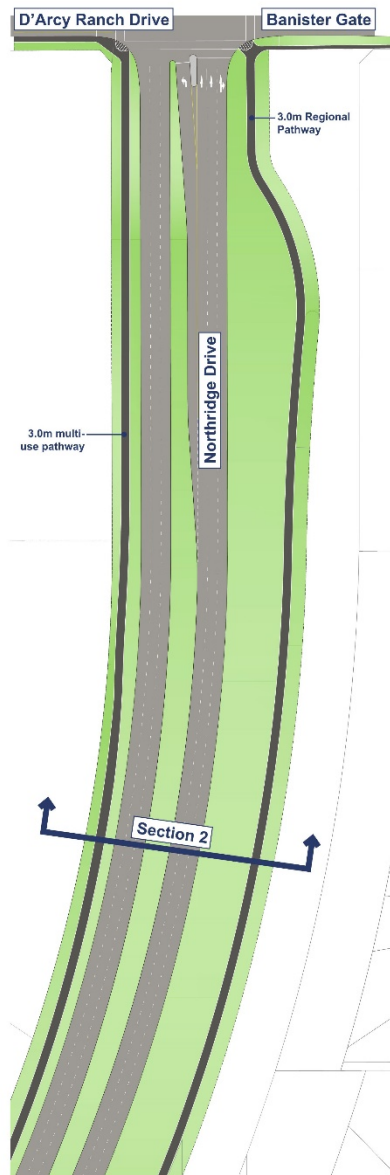
Precedent Images

- The images below are examples to illustrate potential landscaping and pathways could look like.

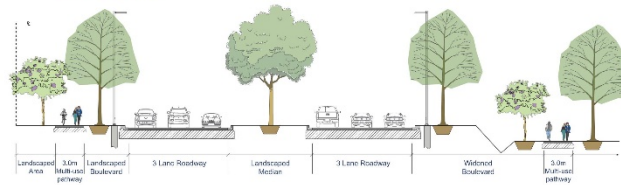


Okotoks Northridge Drive Urbanization

ENLARGEMENT B: NARROW MEDIAN



Section 2



Pathway and Roadway Improvements:

- A 3.0m multi-use pathway will be provided on both sides of Northridge Drive between Sandstone Gate and 338 Avenue. These pathways will be separated from Northridge Drive by a landscaped boulevard.
- Medians and boulevards will be landscaped with trees and other plantings.

Precedent Images

- The images below are examples to illustrate what landscaping and pathways could look like.



Okotoks Northridge Drive Urbanization

Proposed 2020 Pathway Construction



Regional Pathway 2020 Construction

Subject to Council approval of the proposed 2020 budget, the new pathways shown in the figure will be constructed in 2020. These new pathways will create connectivity between the existing regional pathway network and the new communities in D'Arcy and Wedderburn.

Pathway improvements include:

- A pathway connection along Milligan Drive between Northridge Drive and Veterans Way.
- A new 3.0m multi-use pathway on the east side of Northridge Drive between Banister Gate and the Hemus Parkway.
- A connection to the existing sidewalk on the east side of the intersection at Banister Gate.
- East-west pedestrian crossings at Milligan Drive and Banister Gate.
- Landscape improvements along the new pathway network.