

# Memorial Dr Pedestrian Crossing Feedback Summary

In June 2010, The City of Calgary consulted with residents of Hillhurst-Sunnyside regarding pedestrian crossing options for Memorial Dr. The City would like to provide effective pedestrian access to the pathways and the Peace Bridge while respecting the needs of the community and motorists travelling on area roadways.

The main objective of this consultation was to establish **one pedestrian crossing** that is safe, and provides appropriate connectivity between the community and the pathway system close to the Peace Bridge. A pedestrian crossing at *either 7 St or 8 St N.W.* fulfils these criteria. The City of Calgary asked for the input of community residents on whether the pedestrian crossing on Memorial Dr should be left at 7 St or moved to 8 St N.W.

An information package detailing the current situation, criteria and options was mailed to approximately 2400 homes in Hillhurst-Sunnyside. The package contained a feedback form for residents to submit input if they chose not to attend the public Information Session held June 29, 2010. Community feedback was collected for approximately one month (June 22 - July 18, 2010). Residents had several options to submit their response – mail, fax, email, online (via Survey Monkey), and in person.

In all, The City received 313 valid feedback forms: 186 online; 49 by fax; 33 in person; 30 by mail and 14 by email. Approximately 40 people attended the Information Session.

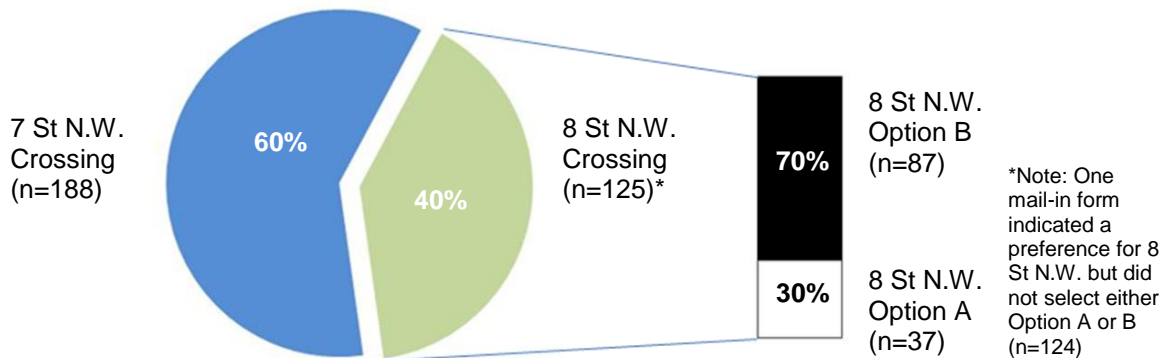
Respondents indicated their preference for **one** of two proposed pedestrian crossings:

- **7 St N.W. Pedestrian Crossing:** Maintain the existing on-demand pedestrian signal
- **8 St N.W. Pedestrian Crossing:** Relocate the pedestrian crossing signal

If respondents preferred 8 St, they selected one of two potential configurations:

- *Option A (Right In/Right Out):* Install an on-demand pedestrian signal at 8 St and construct a physical barrier to restrict all left turns to and from Memorial Dr.
- *Option B (All turns):* Install a pedestrian signal at 8 St N.W. and allow all turns outside of peak traffic periods.

The majority, 60%, of respondents indicated that the existing on-demand pedestrian signal at 7 St N.W. should be maintained. Of those preferring to relocate the pedestrian crossing to 8 St N.W., 70% preferred Option B, while 30% chose Option A.



Therefore, based on community feedback, The City will **maintain** the existing pedestrian crossing of Memorial Dr at 7 St N.W. A pedestrian crossing will not be installed at 8 St.



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## What We Heard...

Respondents were asked to explain their selected pedestrian crossing option. To provide a snapshot, only the most frequent comments are provided. To review all comments, please see the Appendix at the end of this document.

### 7 St N.W. Pedestrian Crossing

Many people choosing the 7 St N.W. Pedestrian Crossing stated installing a different crossing would be a waste of money since the 7 St N.W. crossing already exists and meets the needs of the communities (90 comments).

*“This one already exists so I do not see the need to change it – save the money!”*

*“It works well, why change it? Millions of dollars have already been spent on this bridge. Why not try to save some money and NOT move the pedestrian crossing?”*

Others mentioned this option will result in fewer traffic impacts (45 comments) and is a safer route (26 comments).

*“During heavy traffic periods, it’s hard enough getting into the neighbourhood. We feel that if the lights are moved this will add to the congestion.”*

*“It seems redundant and a waste of money to move the pedestrian crossing when the 7 St. crossing is safe, effective and already in place.”*

Some responses indicated additional construction is not desired.

### 8 St N.W. Pedestrian Crossing - Option A (Right In/Right Out)

Those who preferred the 8 St N.W. Pedestrian Crossing - Option A indicated it is the most direct crossing option and easiest to access (12 comments), and several cited that it is also the safest option (11 comments). Others mentioned the crossing would contribute to less jaywalking.

*“I am strongly in favour of aligning the crosswalk with the Peace Bridge, I believe leaving the crossing at 7<sup>th</sup> Street would result in jaywalking at 8<sup>th</sup> Street...”*

### 8 St N.W. Pedestrian Crossing - Option B (All turns)

Most people choosing the 8 St N.W. Pedestrian Crossing - Option B did so because they believe the impact on traffic will be less detrimental than the other options (37 comments).

*“So we the taxpayers who live in Sunnyside can get out of the area and turn left onto Memorial...”*

*“I need access to and from Memorial Dr.”*



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*“Close to bridge. Allow traffic to come out of community on off hours. There are far too many traffic restrictions in this community already.”*

Other popular reasons this crossing was preferred included safety and to discourage jaywalking (20 comments), and that it offers the “best” access and is closest to the bridge (22 comments).

*“Easiest access to bridge while not restricting car access to Sunnyside.”*

*“It’s preferable to have the pedestrian crossing close to the location of the bridge to discourage jaywalking.”*

A few people said this option is the most convenient for people living west of 8 St N.W.

## **Overall Themes Arising from Feedback**

The following overall themes emerged from the feedback collected:

- People think it is unnecessary and uneconomical to build a crossing at 8 St N.W. since the crossing at 7 St N.W. already exists
- Several respondents were pleased with the opportunity to provide input
- Respondents expressed displeasure with the construction of the Peace Bridge
- Those choosing 7 St N.W. or 8 St N.W. - Option B are often doing so because of the vehicle restrictions associated with 8 St N.W. - Option A
- People are very concerned about pedestrian safety; however, arguments were made that each option provides the safest route
- People are confident that pedestrians will cross at 8 St N.W. whether a crossing is installed or not, therefore creating a jaywalking problem
- Arguments were made that each option has the least impact on traffic in the area
- Some would like both crossings to be made available
- Residents are concerned about parking restrictions in and around the communities

## **Next Steps**

Public consultation on this issue is now complete. The City will now focus its attention on the finalizing the design for an enhanced landscape to be constructed along Memorial Dr at 8 St N.W. For further updates on the Peace Bridge project, visit [www.calgary.ca/ti](http://www.calgary.ca/ti).

## **Appendix**

The following provides the raw data in terms of responses and comments. Names and inappropriate comments have been removed from this document.

