

Sweetnam Drive Traffic Calming Study

As We Heard It Report

September 2024

Introduction

The City of Ottawa is undertaking a Neighbourhood Traffic Calming (NTC) study along Sweetnam Drive from Harry Douglas Drive to a point 350m north of Harry Douglas Drive to recommend solutions to reduce negative impacts of motorized traffic and improve safety for all street users.

An online survey was conducted from June 24 to August 9, 2024. The primary purpose of this survey was to gain public feedback on the [proposed concept plan](#), which was developed based on the review of traffic data, coordination with multiple stakeholders, and project constraints, to assist City staff in recommending permanent roadway modifications in this study area.

The results of this online survey are summarized within this report in the form of an 'As We Heard It Report'.

Survey Results Summary

A total of 128 responses were received for this survey. The following provides a summary of the responses to each question.

Where do you live in relation to this project's study area?

Overall, 48% of the total respondents reported living within the neighbouring area or adjacent to Sweetnam Drive (within the blue borders), and the remaining 52% live outside of the neighbouring area (outside the blue borders). Refer to table 1 and figure 1 below.

Table 1: Survey responses by area of residence

Response	# of Respondents	% of Respondents
I live within the neighbouring area / on or adjacent to Sweetnam Drive (within the blue borders)	61	48%
I live outside of the neighbouring area (outside of the blue borders)	67	52%

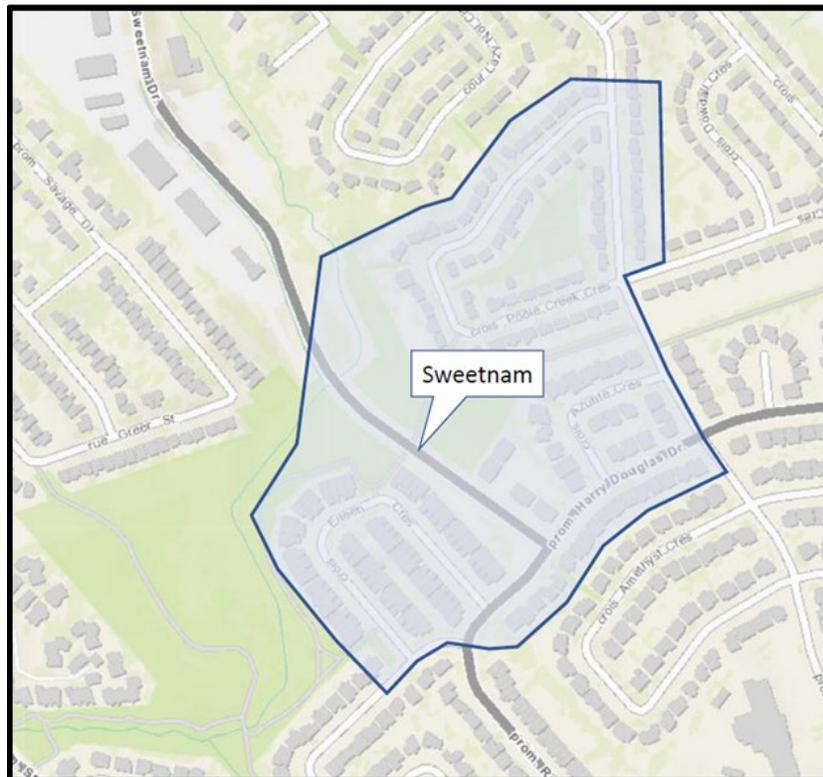


Figure 1: Aerial view of Sweetnam Drive and neighbouring areas

What mode(s) of transportation do you use when travelling along Sweetnam Drive? (Choose all that apply)

Respondents indicated that they use a variety of transportation modes while travelling along Sweetnam Drive. The most common modes of transportation were by car as a driver (88%), walking/running (60%), by car as a passenger (41%), and cycling (23%).

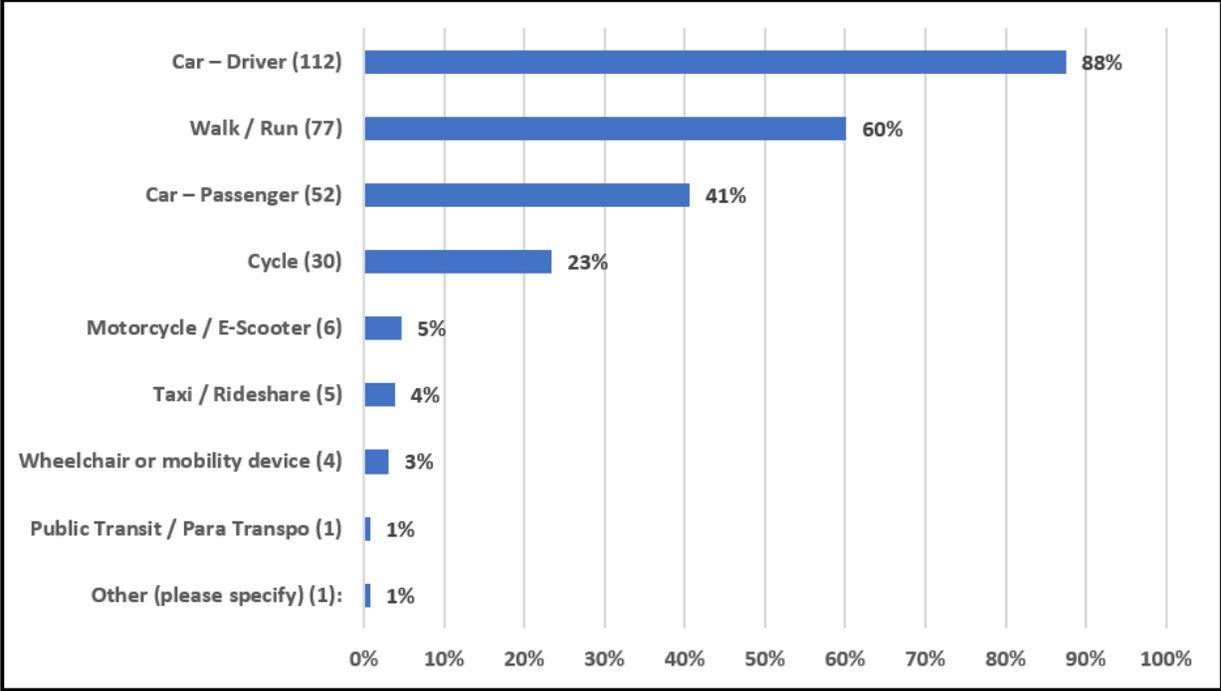


Figure 2: Modes of transportation

What are your primary concerns when travelling along Sweetnam Drive? (Choose all that apply)

Respondents reported that the greatest level of concern is pedestrian safety, followed by vehicle speeds, cyclist safety, aggressive driver behaviour, collision or “near misses”, and vehicle traffic volume (in that order). Additionally, 31% of respondents indicated that they have no concerns.

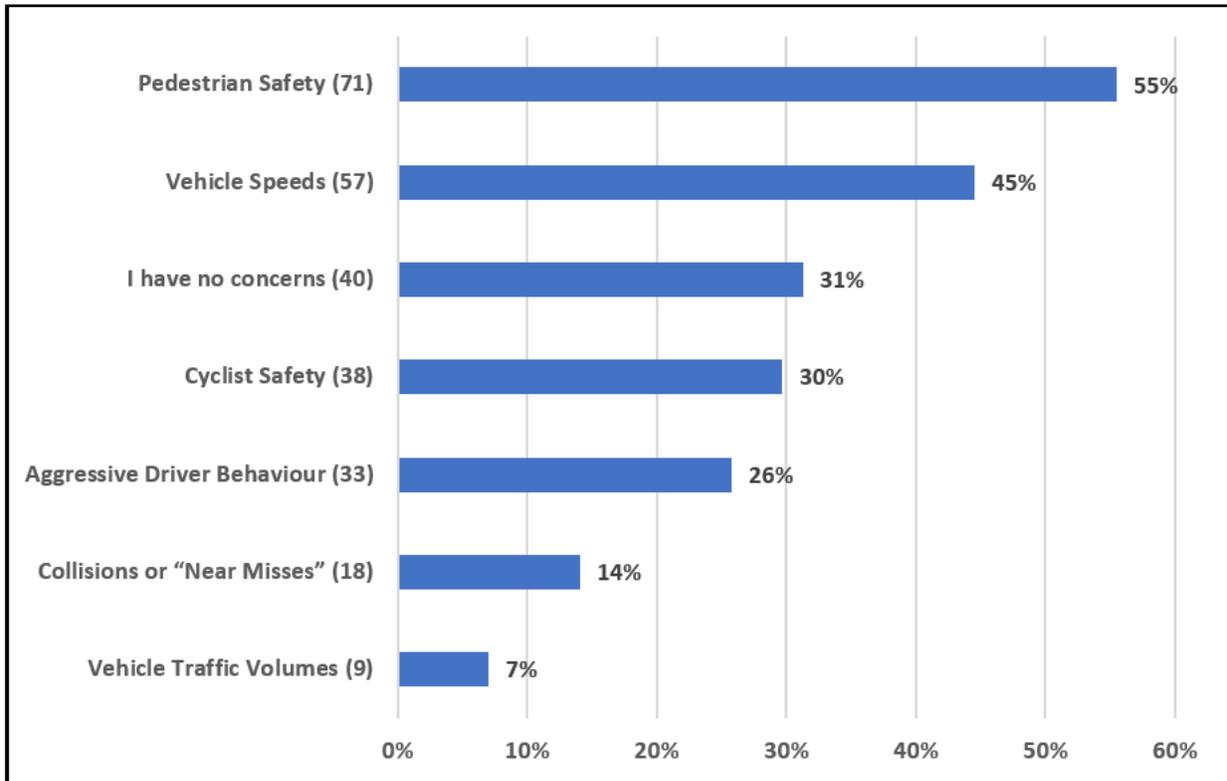


Figure 3: Primary concerns along Sweetnam Drive

The purpose of this study is to recommend permanent roadway modifications intended to improve safety, primarily by reducing vehicular speeds along Sweetnam Drive. Are you supportive of this traffic calming study?

The majority of respondents (61%, 78 respondents) were supportive of this traffic calming study.

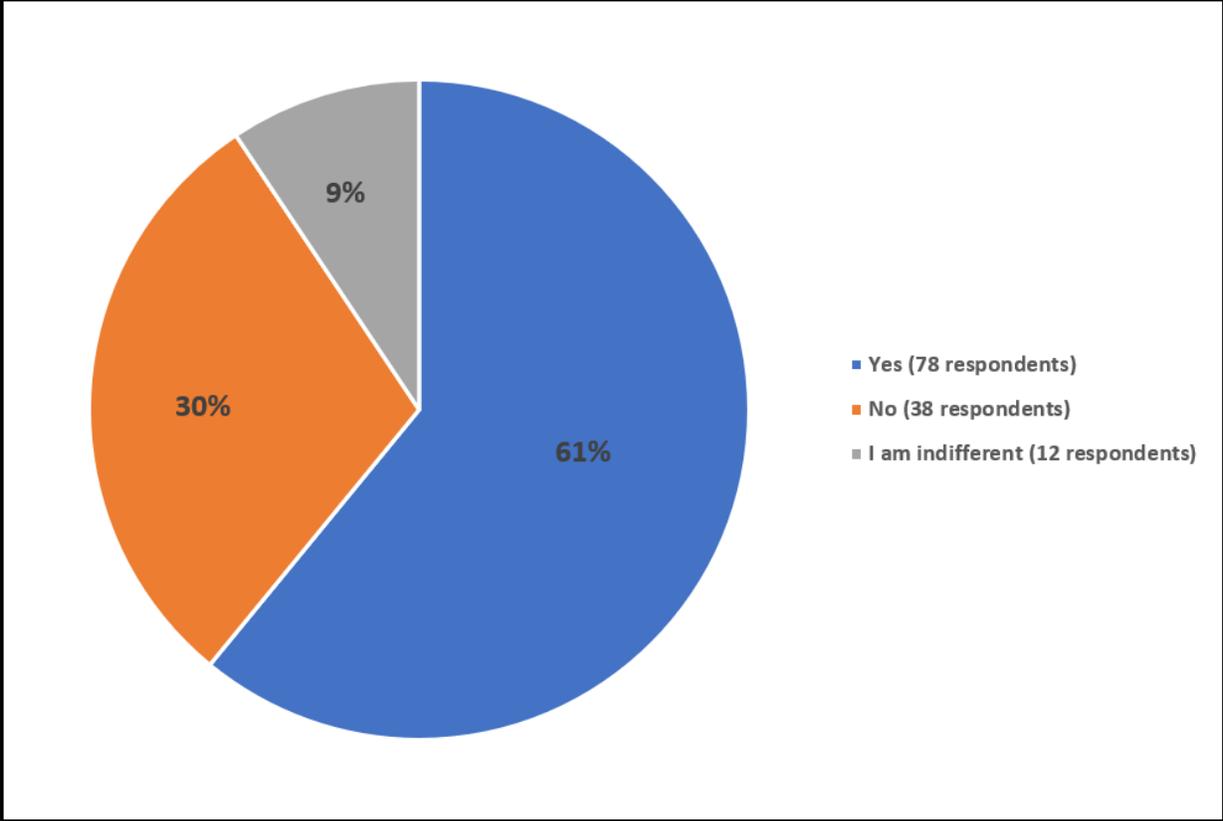


Figure 4: Level of support for the traffic calming study

Please indicate your level of comfort for the proposed concept plan.

Overall, 44% of respondents reported feeling *very* or *somewhat comfortable* with the proposed plan, while 43% indicated they were *somewhat* or *very uncomfortable*. The remaining 13% of respondents were neutral. Figure 5 below shows the breakdown of responses to this question.

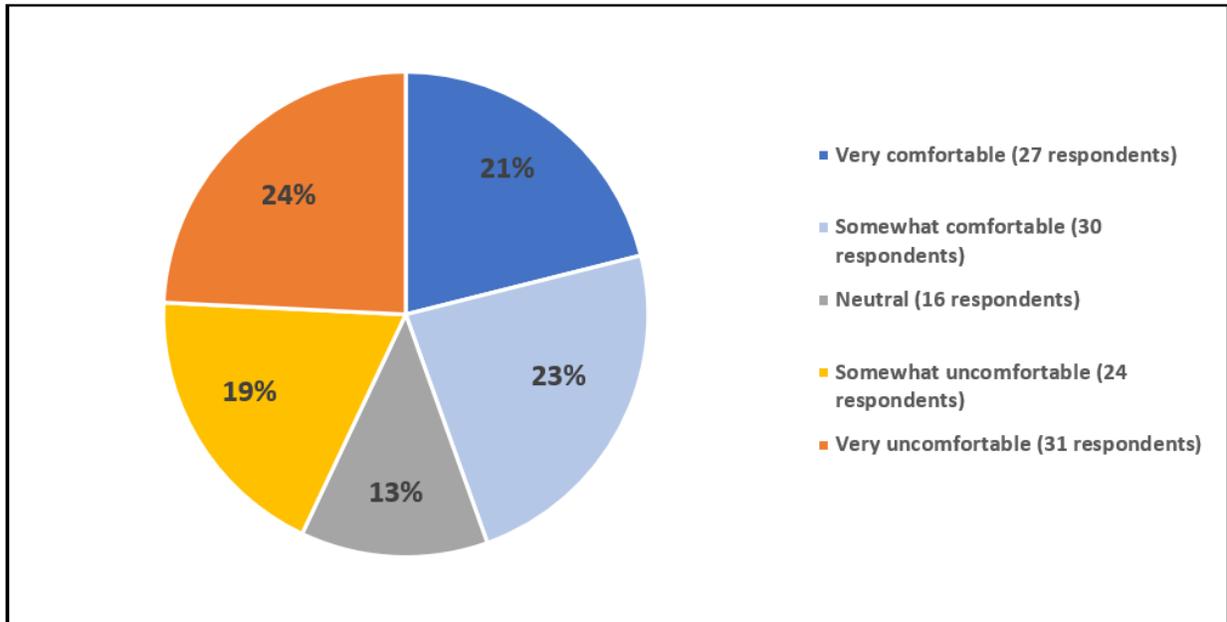


Figure 5: Comfort levels among all survey respondents

This graph presents a direct correlation with the findings from the survey question “*Please indicate your observations on the proposed plan*”, offering more detailed insights into the community's views on the proposed traffic calming plan. Notably, among the 19% of residents (24 respondents) who indicated they were *somewhat uncomfortable* with the plan, 21% of them (5 respondents) expressed a desire for more traffic calming measures. Conversely, of the 23% (30 respondents) who felt *somewhat comfortable* with the proposal, a subset of 27% (8 respondents) preferred to see fewer traffic calming measures implemented.

Please indicate your observations on the proposed plan.

The majority of respondents (27%, 34 respondents) felt the plan showed the appropriate amount of traffic calming measures. 20% (26 residents) would have like to see more traffic calming measures. 24% (31 respondents) would have preferred fewer traffic calming measures, while another 24% (31 respondents) felt that Sweetnam Drive is safe as-is. The remaining 5% (6 respondents) had no opinion on the matter.

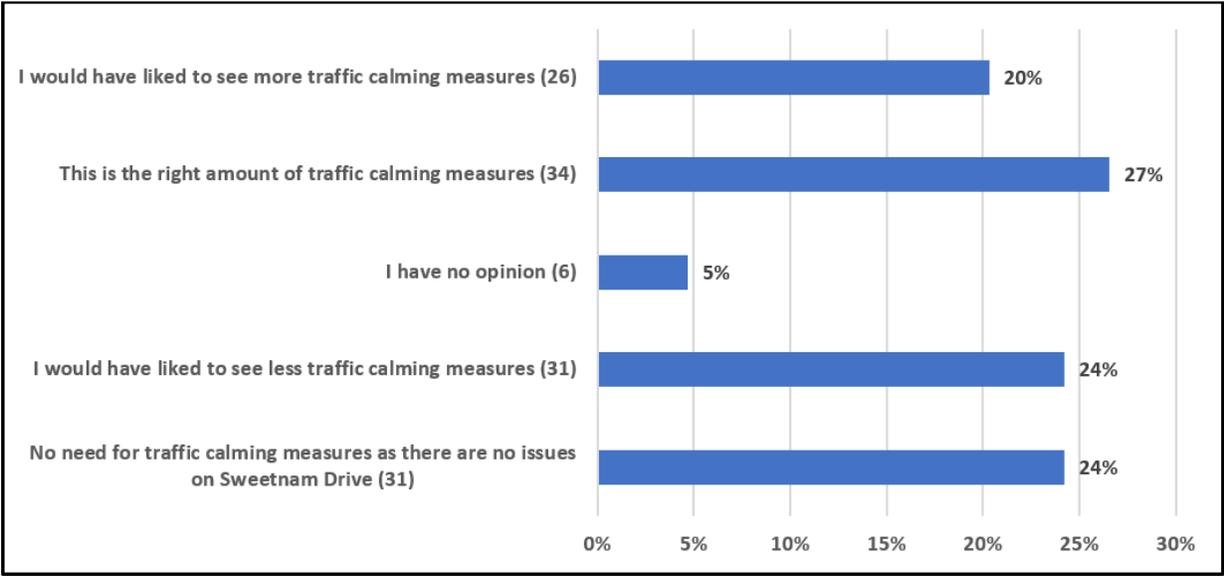


Figure 6: Observations on the proposed plan

Do you have any general comments regarding the overall proposed traffic calming concept plan or any comments about specific proposed measures at particular locations?

The following table provides a summary of the individual comments received through this online survey. The comments have been grouped together based on their respective category and classified as general/suggestive, supportive or concerned comments. It should be noted that some of the received comments fit into more than one category.

Table 2: Open comments classification

Comment Category	Number of Comments
Sidewalks and/or paved/wider shoulders are needed	26
Against proposed plan / traffic calming in general	19
Additional and/or upgrade to street lighting is needed	17
Opposed to speed humps	16
Support for pedestrian crossing (PXO)	11
Speeding in various sections of Sweetnam Drive or on side streets	9
Support proposed concept plan or traffic calming in general	8
Pedestrian or cycling infrastructure are needed	8
Traffic signals at Sweetnam Drive and Hazeldean Road	7
One speed hump location to be modified or removed	7
Desire for traffic calming measures on side streets	5
Additional reinforcement such as speed radars and police presence (speed enforcement)	4
On-street parking regulations to be modified	3
Stopping compliance issues at the Harry Douglas intersection	3
Consider additional measures at the PXO (flashing beacons, raised crosswalk)	3

Comment Category	Number of Comments
Speed should be reduced to 40km/h	2
Lane painting (centerline, narrow the road, wide shoulders)	2
Scope to be extended to Hazeldean Road	2
The path north of the bridge should be made safer	2
Desire for horizontal traffic calming measures on Sweetnam Drive (bulb-outs)	1
Driver's sightlines are blocked by foliage at the pedestrian crossing	1
Flex-stakes currently on Sweetnam Drive are dangerous	1
Add a business directory at the trailer park	1
No trucks and heavy commercial designation should be added	1

Conclusion

The survey conducted along Sweetnam Drive gathered 128 responses, reflecting diverse community perspectives on the traffic calming measures. The key findings are as follows:

- Respondents indicated the most common **modes of transportation** were by car as a driver (88%), followed by walking/running (60%).
- **Pedestrian safety, vehicle speeds, and cyclist safety** were the three existing issues that respondents indicated the greatest level of concern over. Additionally, 31% of respondents indicated that they have no concerns.
- **Community support for this study was confirmed**, with 61% of respondents indicating they are supportive.
- 44% of respondents reported feeling *very* or *somewhat comfortable* with the **proposed traffic calming plan**, while 43% indicated they were *somewhat* or *very uncomfortable*.
- **Observations about the proposed traffic calming plan:** 27% of respondents felt the plan showed the appropriate amount of traffic calming measures. 20% would have like to see more traffic calming measures. 24% would have preferred fewer traffic calming measures, while another 24% felt that Sweetnam Drive is safe as-is.
- Common themes from the general comments included the need of **sidewalks, shoulders, street lights and pedestrian crossing, and mixed reactions about the proposed traffic calming plan.**
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