

As We Heard It Report:

Ahearn Avenue Proposed Sidewalk Project

Introduction

In November-December 2020, an online consultation was held to gain community feedback regarding the proposed Ahearn Avenue sidewalk functional design. The proposed design includes a sidewalk along the south side of Ahearn Avenue, from Scrivens Street to Farrow Street. Key features of the design include Tactile Walking Surface Indicators (TWSI) at pedestrian crossings, a tightening of the corner radii at intersections and a narrowing of Ahearn Avenue.

This *As We Heard It Report* includes results from the online public consultation which consisted of:

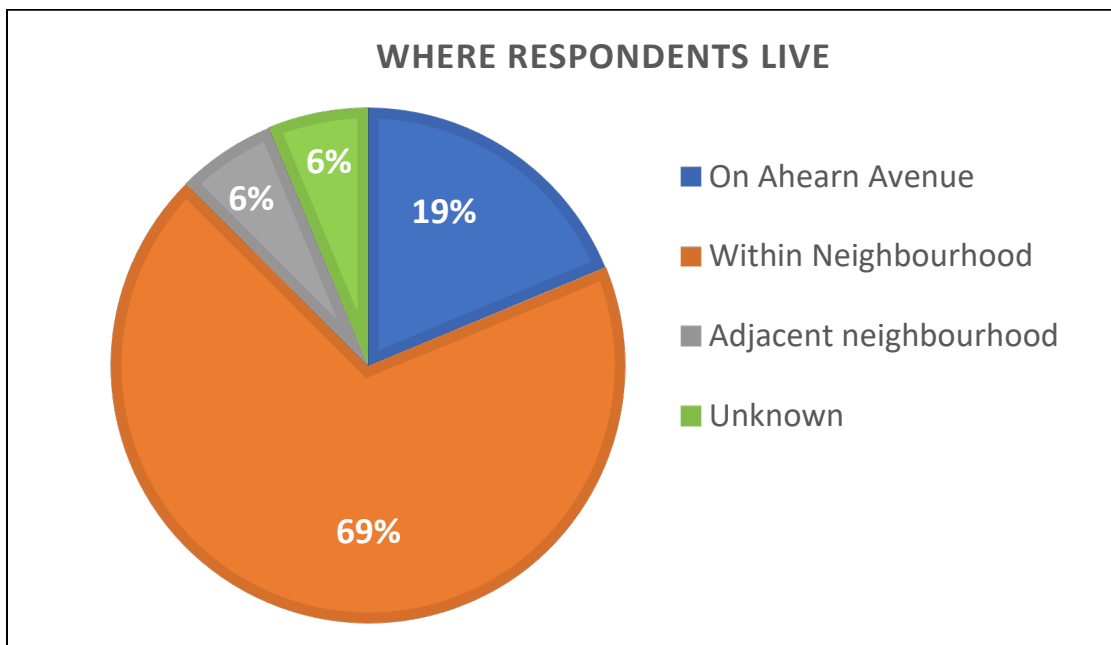
- A) The Online Public Survey
- B) Public comments provided during a live virtual Open House hosted by the Ward Councillor
- C) Individual public comments received by email

Online Public Survey

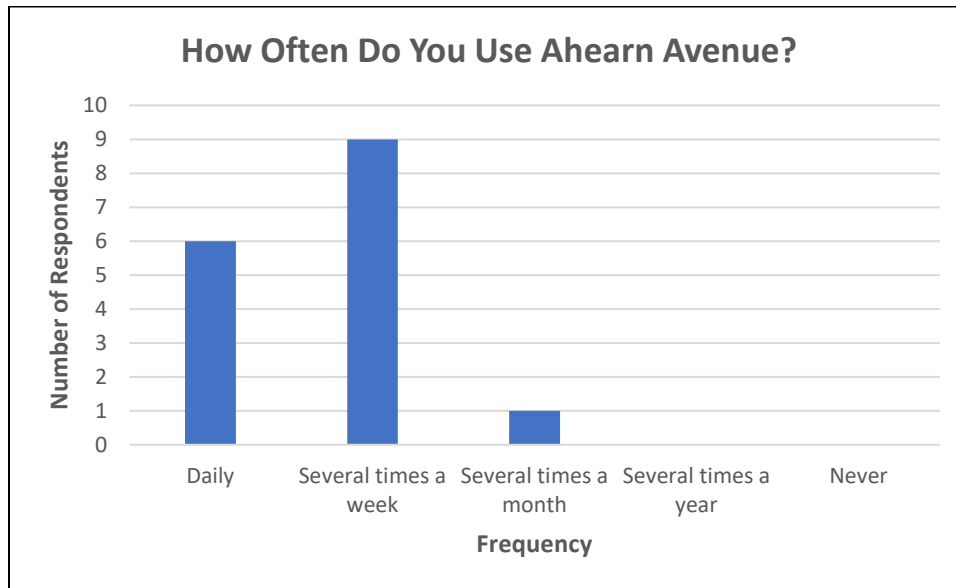
The online survey consisted of ten questions and was available to the public for the period of November 16 to December 17, 2020. There were 16 respondents and the results of the survey are documented below.

1. What is your postal code?

The purpose of this question was to gain a sense of where respondents live in relation to the proposed sidewalk. Some respondents (three individuals) identified themselves as living on Ahearn Avenue, while the majority of respondents (11 individuals) indicated they live within the neighbourhood bounded by Britannia Park, Carling Avenue, Kempster Avenue and the Ottawa River. One respondent identified themselves as living in an adjacent neighbourhood and the residence of one respondent was unknown.



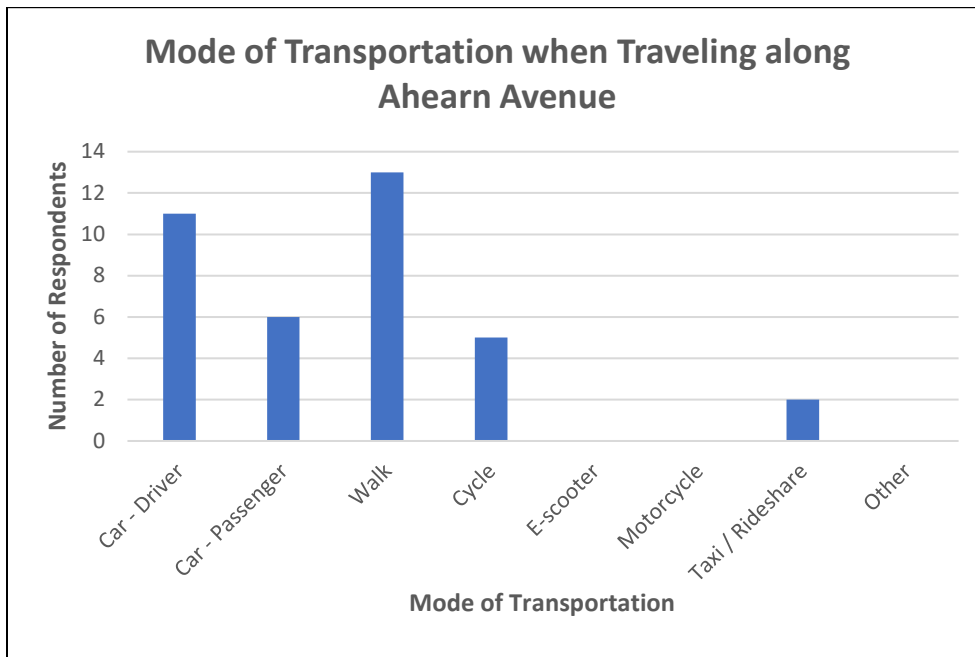
2. How often do you use Ahearn Avenue?



Response	Total No. of Responses	Total % Frequency of Use
Daily	6	38%
Several times a week	9	56%
Several times a month	1	6%
Several times a year	0	0%
Never	0	0%

**3. What mode(s) of transportation do you use when travelling along Ahearn Avenue?
(Choose all that apply)**

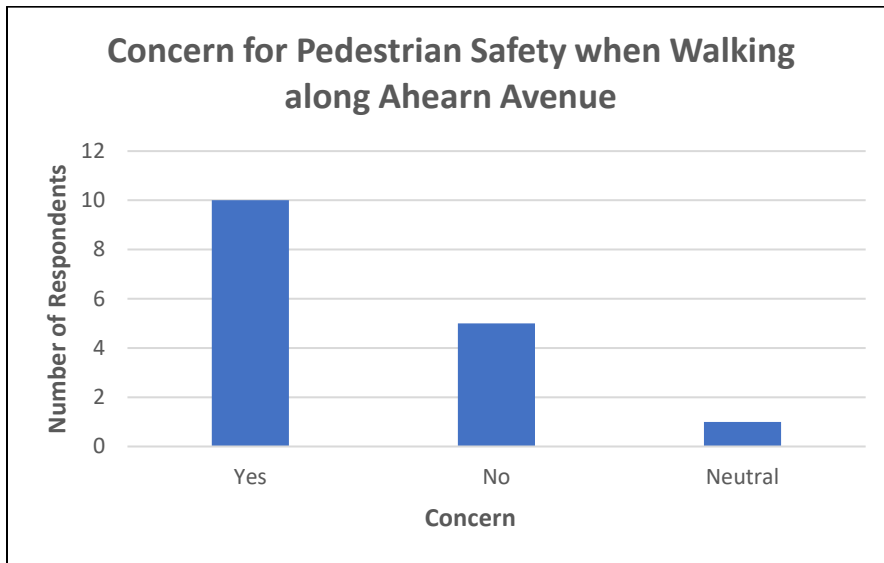
In total, 37 responses were provided by the 16 respondents as each respondent was able to select more than one mode of travel. Driving and walking are the primary modes of transportation along Ahearn Avenue. Seventy-five percent of the respondents (12 individuals) use a vehicle (as a driver or passenger) and 81 percent of the respondents (13 individuals) walk while traveling along Ahearn Avenue. Approximately one-third of the respondents (five individuals) bicycle and 13 percent (two individuals) of respondents use taxi/rideshare along Ahearn Avenue. Seventy-five percent of the respondents use two or more different modes of transportation when they travel along Ahearn Avenue.



Response	Total No. of Responses *	Total % of Responses
Car - Driver	11	30%
Car - Passenger	6	16%
Walk	13	35%
Cycle	5	14%
E-scooter	0	0%
Motorcycle	0	0%
Taxi / Rideshare	2	5%
Other	0	0%

* Respondents were able to select more than one mode of travel.

4a. Do you have any concerns regarding pedestrian safety when walking along Ahearn Avenue?



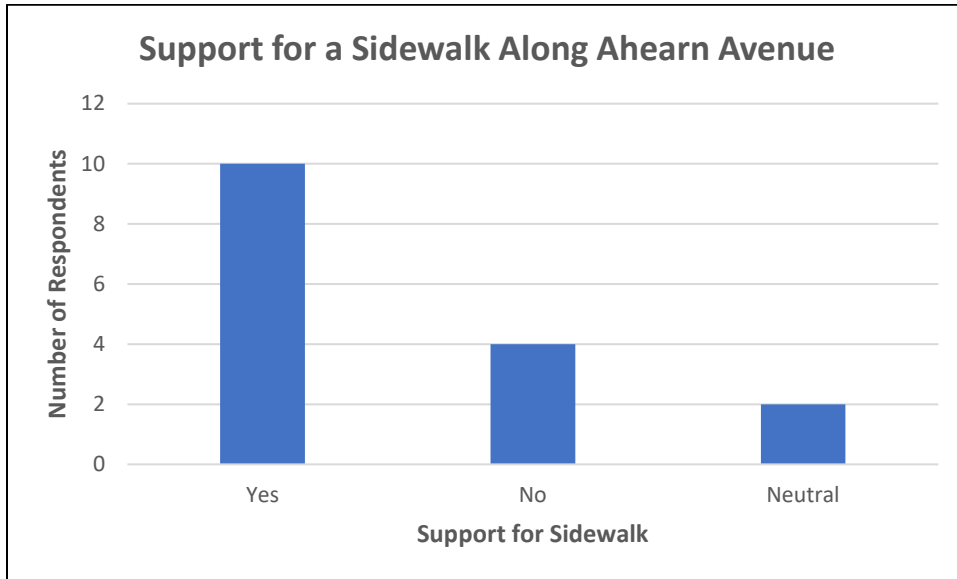
Response	Total No. of Responses	Total % of Responses
Yes	10	63%
No	5	31%
Neutral	1	6%

4b. If you answered 'Yes' to Question 4a, what is your concern and where specifically along Ahearn Avenue is the concern?

Multiple concerns were expressed regarding pedestrian safety along Ahearn. They are summarized in the table below.

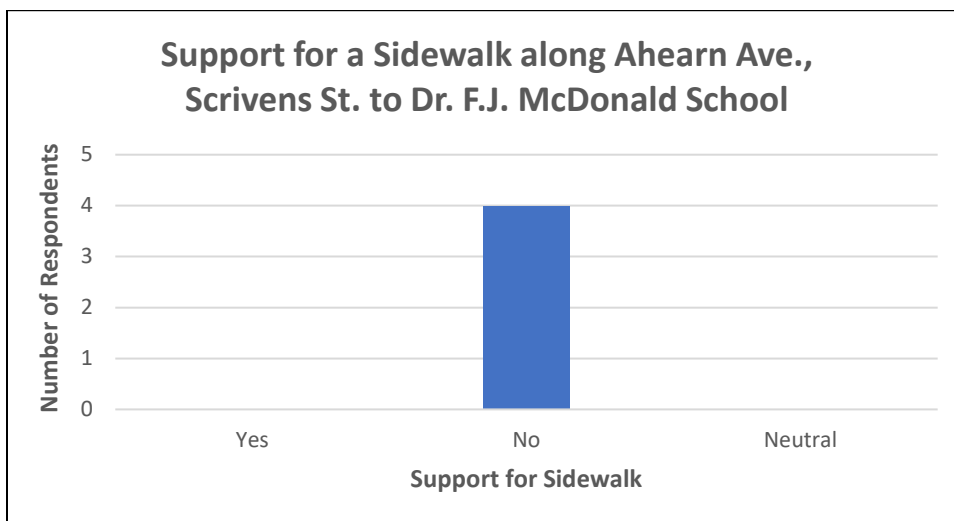
Response	Total No. of Responses
On-street parking on both sides of the street make the street narrow, and it becomes dangerous as pedestrians, cars and school buses all use the same road space; the situation is worse in the winter.	8
Cars drive too quickly and turn at intersections along Ahearn too quickly.	6
Around Ritchie Street, the street is narrow due to on-street parking and cars block sightlines.	2
On-street parking should be banned on both sides of the street.	1
There should be a sidewalk on Scrivens St.	1
School zone is not respected by car drivers.	1
Street lighting needs to be brighter.	1

5a. Do you support a sidewalk on the south side of Ahearn Avenue from Scrivens Street to Farrow Street?

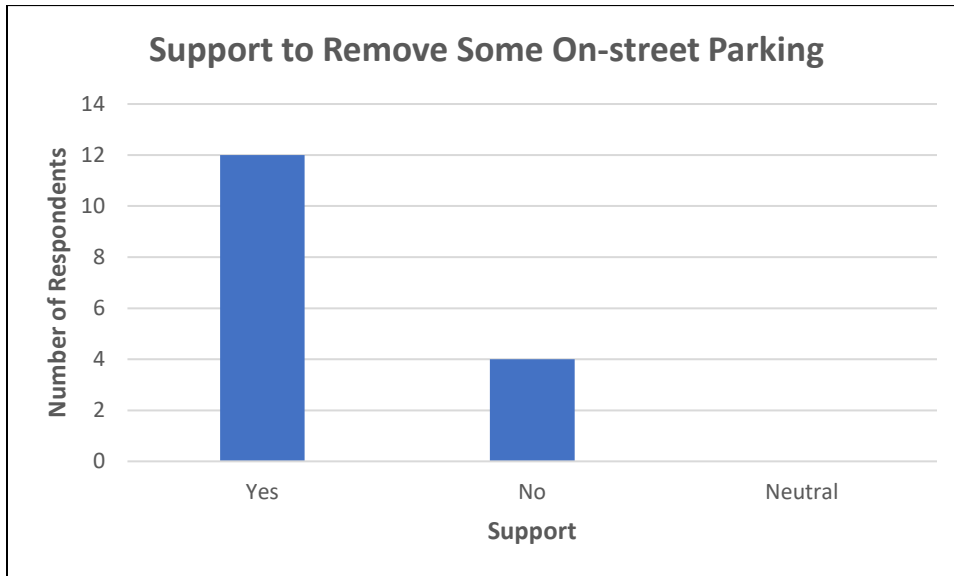


Response	Total No. of Responses	Total % of Responses
Yes	10	63%
No	4	25%
Neutral	2	13%

5b. If you answered 'No' to Question 5a, do you support a sidewalk on the south side of Ahearn Avenue from Scrivens Street to Dr. F.J. McDonald Catholic School only?

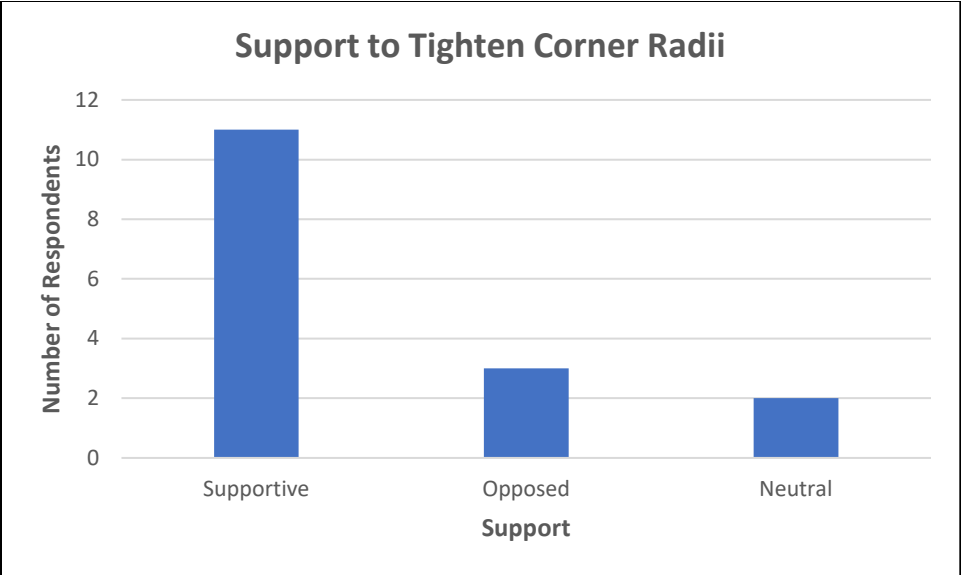


6. The current proposal to introduce a sidewalk along the south side of Ahearn Avenue requires a narrowing of the existing roadway. To ensure emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks, can continue to travel along Ahearn Avenue, on-street parking would be restricted to only one side of the street. Do you support the removal of some on-street parking in order to provide a sidewalk?



Response	Total No. of Responses	Total % of Responses
Yes	12	75%
No	4	25%
Neutral	0	0%

7. The proposed plan includes other features along with the sidewalk. Please indicate your support to tighten corner radii (narrowing at the intersection of a side street by tightening the corner radii and shortening the crossings). This design reduces the pedestrian crossing distance at an intersection and encourages motorists to make slower turns around the corner.



Response	Total No. of Responses	Total % of Responses
Supportive	11	69%
Opposed	3	19%
Neutral	2	13%

8. Additional comments:

Additional comments provided in the survey regarding the Ahearn Avenue sidewalk project are summarized in the table below.

Response	Total No. of Responses
Supportive of the new sidewalk.	8
Not supportive of the new sidewalk.	2
Address flooding/drainage issues.	2
Support removing on-street parking from south side of Ahearn Ave.	2
Construct sidewalk from edge/curb to not further narrow existing roadway.	1
Permit on-street parking along side streets to reduce need on Ahearn.	1
Undertake phased approach and remove on-street parking first.	1
Too much on-street parking in general.	1
Too much on-street parking by people who do not live on Ahearn Ave.	1
School children are often walking in the street and the parked cars force pedestrians to walk in the road.	1

A) Public comments provided during the live virtual Open House hosted by the Ward Councillor

A virtual public open house for the *Ahearn Avenue Proposed Sidewalk Project* was held by Councillor Theresa Kavanagh on November 26, 2020 at 6:30 pm. A total of 17 people attended including the Councillor and staff from the City of Ottawa and AECOM. During the virtual event, individuals participated in the discussion, asking questions or providing comment. All comments were recorded and are summarized below.

Comment
Supportive of the proposed sidewalk along Ahearn Avenue.
Consider extending the sidewalk along Scrivens from Ahearn to Carling.
Consider accessibility when designing how a sidewalk ends at a side street.
Speeding vehicles at Ahearn / Ritchie. Consider a stop sign at this intersection.
Concerned about impacts from loss of on-street parking.
Consider larger bulb-out at Ahearn / Scrivens for traffic calming.
Loss of trees.
Relocation of catch basins.
Consider stopping sidewalk at the school and not extending it south to Farrow Street.

B) Individual public comments received by email

A total of four people submitted individual comments by email to the Councillor and to the City of Ottawa project manager. The following table summarizes the comments received and the number of responses for each comment.

Comment	Total No. of Responses
Supportive of the proposed sidewalk along Ahearn Avenue.	2
Concerned about impacts from loss of on-street parking. Need to provide alternative parking options.	1
Does not think a sidewalk is needed along Ahearn Avenue.	2
Concerned that a sidewalk would not be plowed early enough to accommodate students walking to school.	1
Adjust parameters of proposed sidewalk to connect Belltown Dome. Sidewalk should be along Ritchie Street (from Houghton Avenue to Ahearn Avenue) and along Ahearn Avenue from Ritchie Street to Dr. FJ McDonald Catholic School.	1