

Summary of 40th Avenue (Sharp Hill Way) Extension Open House Comments

The following provides a summary of the comments written and provided verbally to City of Airdrie Planning Staff during the open house regarding the 40th Avenue SE (presently Sharp Hill Way) extension.

For the purposes of this summary, all references to 40th Avenue are considered to be the same as a reference to Sharp Hill Way, the current name of this transportation and servicing corridor.

Direct comments have been provided below wherever possible. Occasionally, a general summary of the public position on the issue has been provided where direct comments are not available.

Whereas approximately 40 residents attended the event, 17 provided their residence location. Of these 17 residents, 14 identified themselves as residing in Rocky View County with three identifying themselves as residing in the City of Airdrie.

Potential Traffic Impacts

Shortcutting into Sharp Hill (Rocky View County)

- The proposed extension will increase shortcutting through the community of Sharp Hill.
- Not happy with the idea of having more traffic be adjacent to and within the community of Sharp Hill.
- Despite future southern accesses (Highway 2 and Range Road 292), the increased population density will worsen the situation in Sharp Hill.
- In addition to vehicular traffic, the increased number of residents in King's Heights will cause some additional overflow of pedestrian traffic (especially dog walkers) in the community of Sharp Hill.
- Sharp Hill residents require assurances that shortcutting through Sharp Hill will be greatly reduced, if not eliminated.
- The original concept was to have Range Road 293 extend to the north into Airdrie. This did not happen and one cannot expect that connecting 40th Avenue to Range Road 292 will reduce traffic through Sharp Hill.
- Please remove "will reduce shortcutting" as one of the potential benefits of the 40th Avenue extension.
- The City of Airdrie needs to look at completing 40th Avenue through to Range Road 292 once construction begins and not construct in stages (at least a two-lane road).
- A detailed traffic study is requested that includes the roads connecting into 40th Avenue through Sharp Hill.

- Existing Sharp Hill infrastructure is not built to take on this shortcutting.
- The City of Airdrie should look beyond its own jurisdictional boundaries and consult with neighbours to look into the causes of traffic shortcutting through Sharp Hill and develop some real solutions.
- The real cause of the shortcutting is Alberta Transportation's modification of Highway 566 and the Highway 2 East service road.

Safety

- The current amount of shortcutting endangers children in the community of Sharp Hill.
- The access from 40th Avenue to the Sharp Hill community needs to be gated. Many vehicles shortcut through the Sharp Hill community creating a safety hazard and life style issues for residents of Sharp Hill.
- Many people that short cut do so in excess (at least 80km/h) of the posted speed limit (50km/h).
- The current situation in Sharp Hill is so bad that school buses are forced to stop in the middle of the road to prevent people from passing during a flashing red light situation.
- Previous attempts at signage to restrict access to Sharp Hill from King's Heights has been ineffective and often damaged or knocked down.

Future Connectivity

- An overpass from King's Heights to Highway 2 is a necessity.
- Connectivity between King's Heights and the west side of Airdrie is poor.

Potential Land Use Implications

- Do not want to see townhouses, condominiums, duplexes (semi-detached) bordering the community of Sharp Hill.
- Sharp Hill residents were promised that the land use district adjacent to their community would be R-1. This has become R-2 and appears to be driven by a desire to develop more lots.
- The City of Airdrie does not seem to respect previous consultation and seems to change the rules as necessary to facilitate development.
- Changing from greenspace and single-detached houses to multi-family development on smaller lots is not something that the King's Heights area was intended to have. Concerned that a stigma may start to be attached to this area.

Sound Mitigation and Buffering

- General feeling that an absence of a sound wall or landscaped berm on the Rocky View County side is not an acceptable option.
- Approximately 60/40 split in favour of a sound wall on the Rocky View County side of the road ROW.
- Some residents in Rocky View County that are directly adjacent to the road ROW may prefer a berm while others prefer a sound wall. General agreement that keeping individual options open for the buffering strategy (i.e. wall vs. berm) as well as hybrid options (low rise berm with a low rise wall on top) would be valuable for the future discussions on the actual road construction.

Previous and Future Consultations

- Feeling that Sharp Hill residents have been left out of planning processes in the City of Airdrie and Rocky View County.
- Please provide more information to the public about when the road (40th Avenue) will be built and do whatever can be done to advance the road construction.