

Engage

MB

What We Heard

Project Overview

Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 52 through the community of Mitchell has experienced growth in traffic volumes while the community itself has experienced population growth. The result has been increased demand for vehicles to enter PTH 52 and for pedestrians to cross PTH 52. The existing infrastructure no longer meets the needs of users and requires upgrades to provide safer crossing locations for pedestrians and upgraded intersections to support turning traffic.

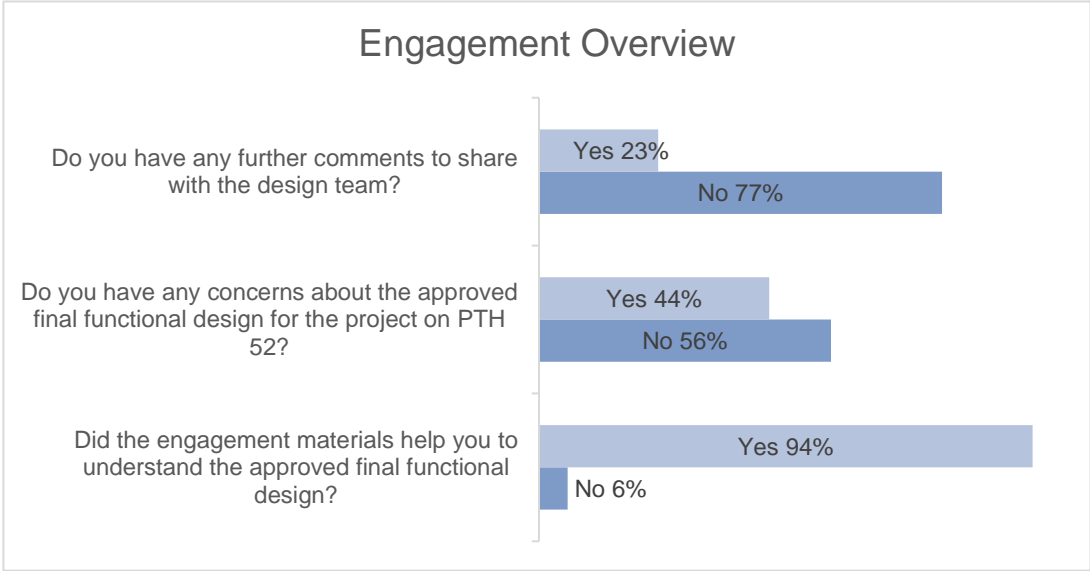
Manitoba Infrastructure initiated a functional design study to examine traffic movements in the community and how these movements could be better accommodated through upgrades to the current infrastructure. The study is now complete and the final set of recommendations will be incorporated into the detailed design of the project.

Engagement Overview

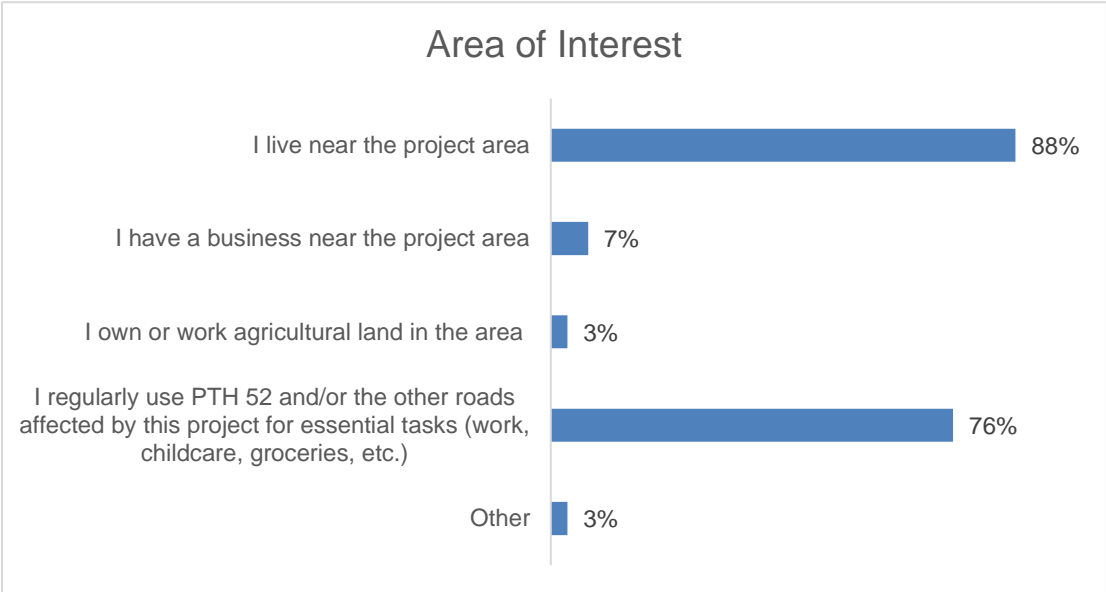
The results of the functional design study were presented to the public online through EngageMB. The online information presented the results from the Fall 2020 engagement and the final functional design and asked the public to fill in a survey. The results from the survey will be used to further refine the details of the design. The engagement process incorporated two online EngageMB consultations. The first was in September 2020, which included 3 options. The second took place in July/August 2021 and included the review and refinement of the final option. This was accompanied by an open online survey, which ran from July 28 to August 10, 2021. Materials from both online consultations are available at <https://engagemb.ca/functional-design-of-highway-52>. The department also worked with the RM of Hanover and Local Urban District of Mitchell.

Overview of Survey Responses

A total of 127 responses were received for the online survey. Of the 127 responses received, 94 per cent indicated that they understood the final functional design, 56 per cent indicated no concerns with the final functional design and 23 per cent had further comments to share with the design team.



Expressed areas of interest were broad-based, with most respondents identifying as local residents and/or regular users of PTH 52 and other area roads.



What We Heard

Several key themes were identified when analyzing the feedback. Responses were categorized into themes in order to organize the information into useable data. The themes identified are speed concerns, the status of Ash Street, pedestrian crossing locations and the number of signal light locations in Mitchell:

Speed Concerns

Several comments were received regarding the speed of traffic on PTH 52. A strong desire for slower traffic was expressed. Manitoba Infrastructure will be reassessing the speed zones in the community as highway improvements are implemented. If the assessment determines that there is a need to adjust the speed zones, a speed zone study will be undertaken and the zones will be modified accordingly.

Importance of Ash Street

The most frequent comment received was related to the median opening at Ash Street. Some respondents strongly supported the reopening of the median while other respondents strongly supported the permanent closure of the median.

Willow Street

Several questions were raised regarding the lack of direct access to Willow Street, especially considering the RM of Hanover's plan to extend Willow Street north to the schools. Comments suggested that the lack of direct access would cause additional traffic on local roads.

Manitoba Infrastructure discussed the comments received regarding Willow Street with the RM of Hanover and the design has been modified to also allow a right-in access at Willow Street from PTH 52 (westbound only). This will allow direct access to Willow Street for westbound traffic and eastbound traffic will use the Reichenbach intersection as shown on the attached plan.

Pedestrian Crossings

There were a few comments received regarding pedestrian movements and crossing locations. The need for additional sidewalks was also expressed. Manitoba Infrastructure will be discussing these comments with the RM of Hanover to determine their plans for further pedestrian improvements.

Signal Lights

There were comments in favour of additional traffic signals, especially at Reichenbach Road. However, some respondents noted that there were too many signal lights proposed for such a small community. Manitoba Infrastructure will be assessing each intersection to determine the need for signal lights based on traffic volumes and turning movements.

Illumination

Questions were raised regarding illumination (street lights). Manitoba Infrastructure will assess

the need for illumination along PTH 52. When warranted, Manitoba Infrastructure will provide illumination. When illumination is not warranted under provincial standards, options are in place for a local government to provide illumination, where desired.

Weight Limits on Reichenbach

Concerns were raised with weight limits and spring road restrictions on the portion of Reichenbach between PTH 52 and the south service road. Manitoba Infrastructure will ensure that this portion of Reichenbach is upgraded to support unrestricted RTAC loading to support the commercial businesses located on the south side of PTH 52.

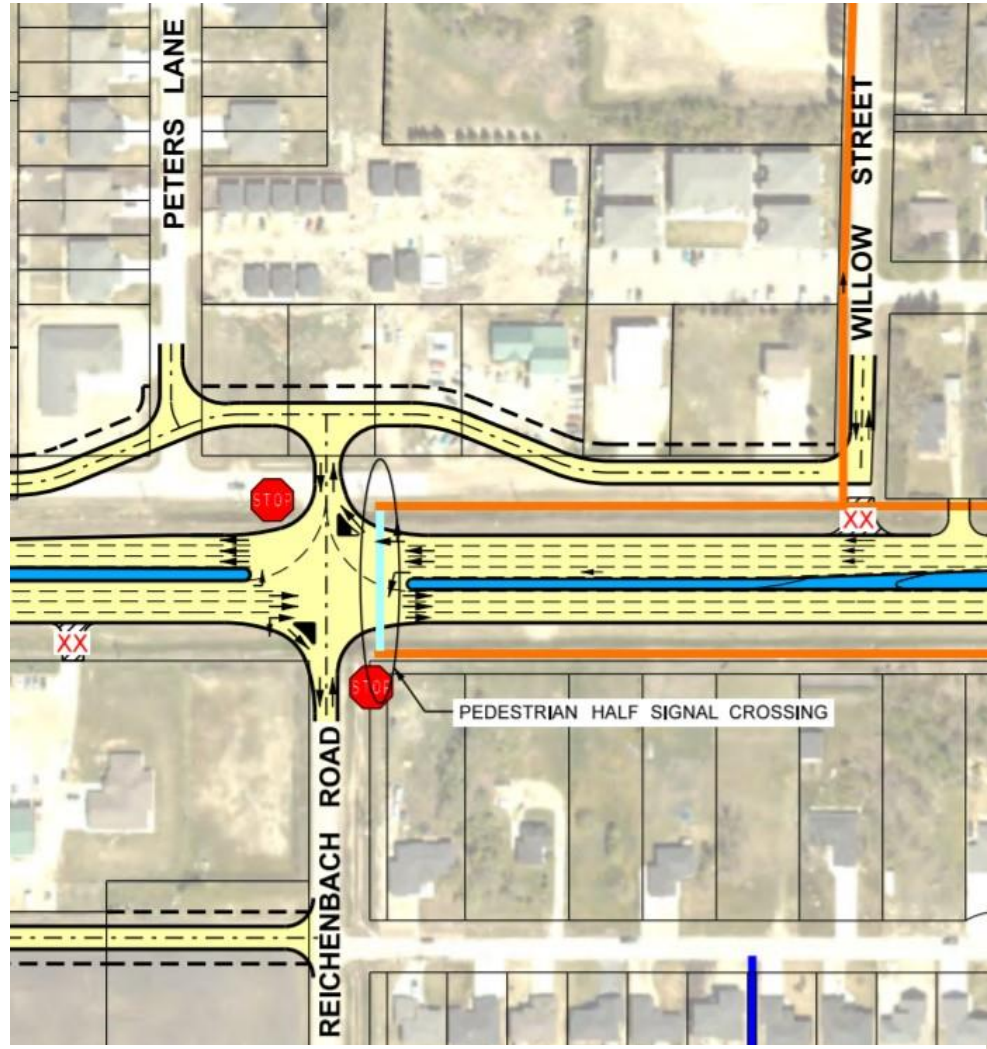
Next Steps

Traffic signals were installed at Ash Street in October 2021. The next step in the project will be to further discuss the project with the RM of Hanover. Manitoba Infrastructure will then undertake a detailed design of the improvements to determine the exact right-of-way requirements for the project. Land acquisition, where necessary, will begin as soon as the detailed design is finalized and approved for construction.

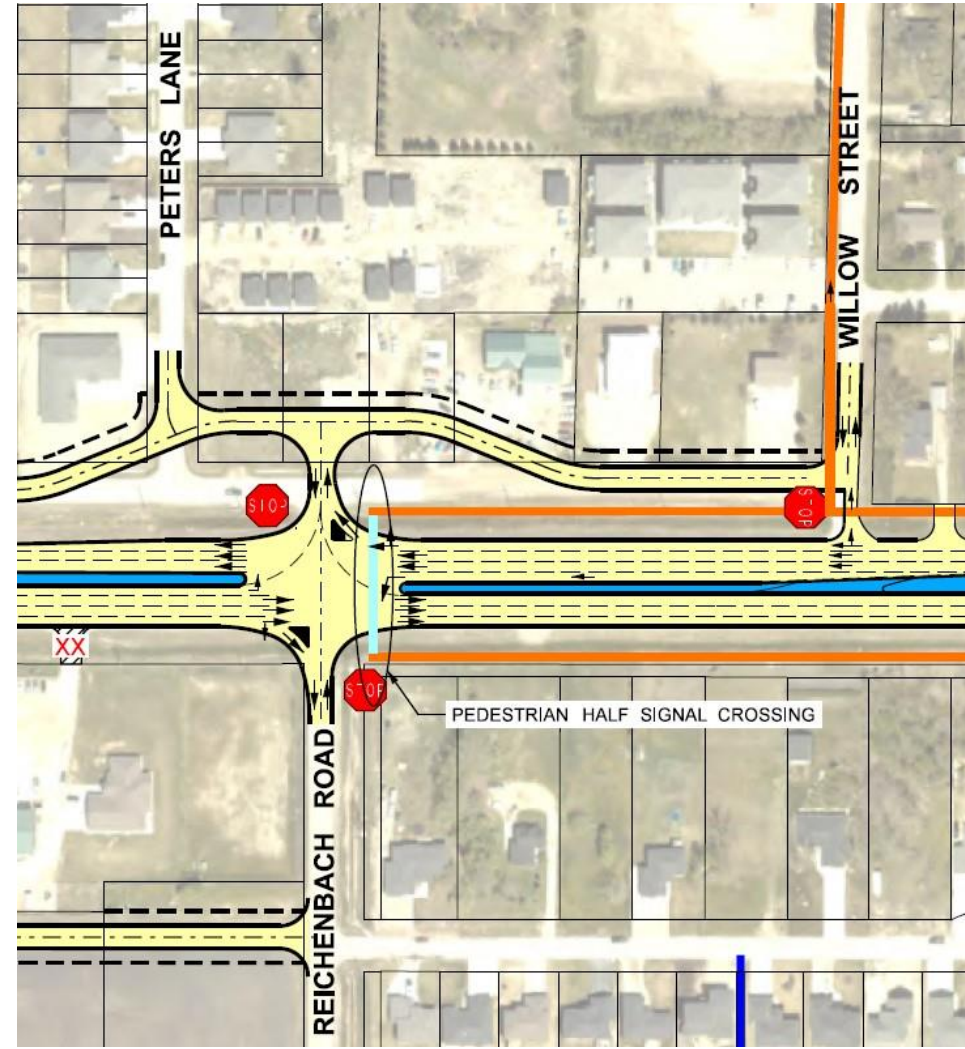
Questions?

Please direct any questions or comments to HOCapitalRegion@gov.mb.ca.

Attachment – Changes to Willow Street/Reichenbach Road area



Original Version – Summer 2021



Revised Version – Fall 2021

A high-resolution version of the full plan for PTH 52 through Mitchell is available here:
[pth52.pdf \(gov.mb.ca\)](http://pth52.pdf.gov.mb.ca)