

OUR CITY. OUR FUTURE.

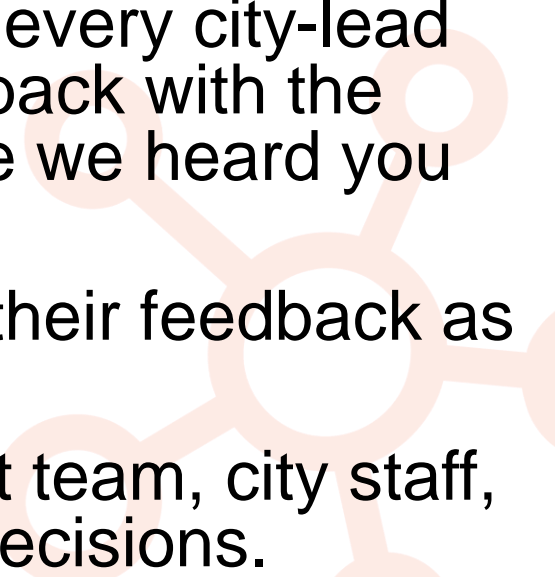


Quidi Vidi Inner Gut Closure & One-way Traffic Flow Concept

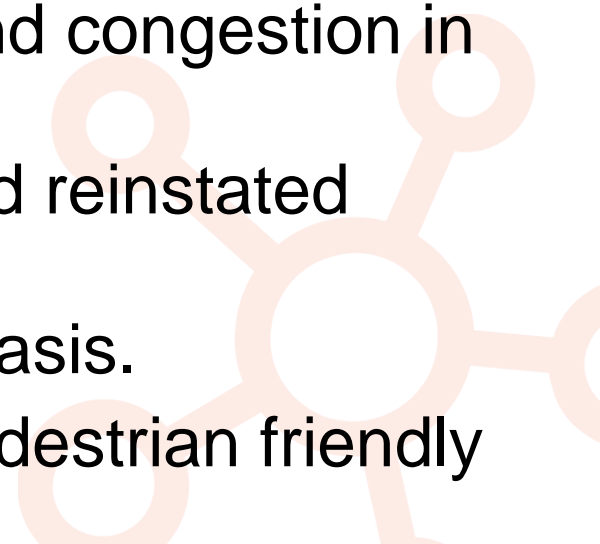
What We Heard From Public Engagement
June 2021

ST. JOHN'S

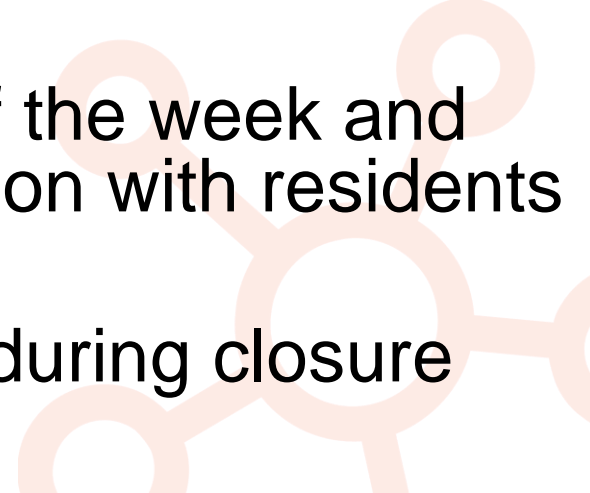
Disclaimer

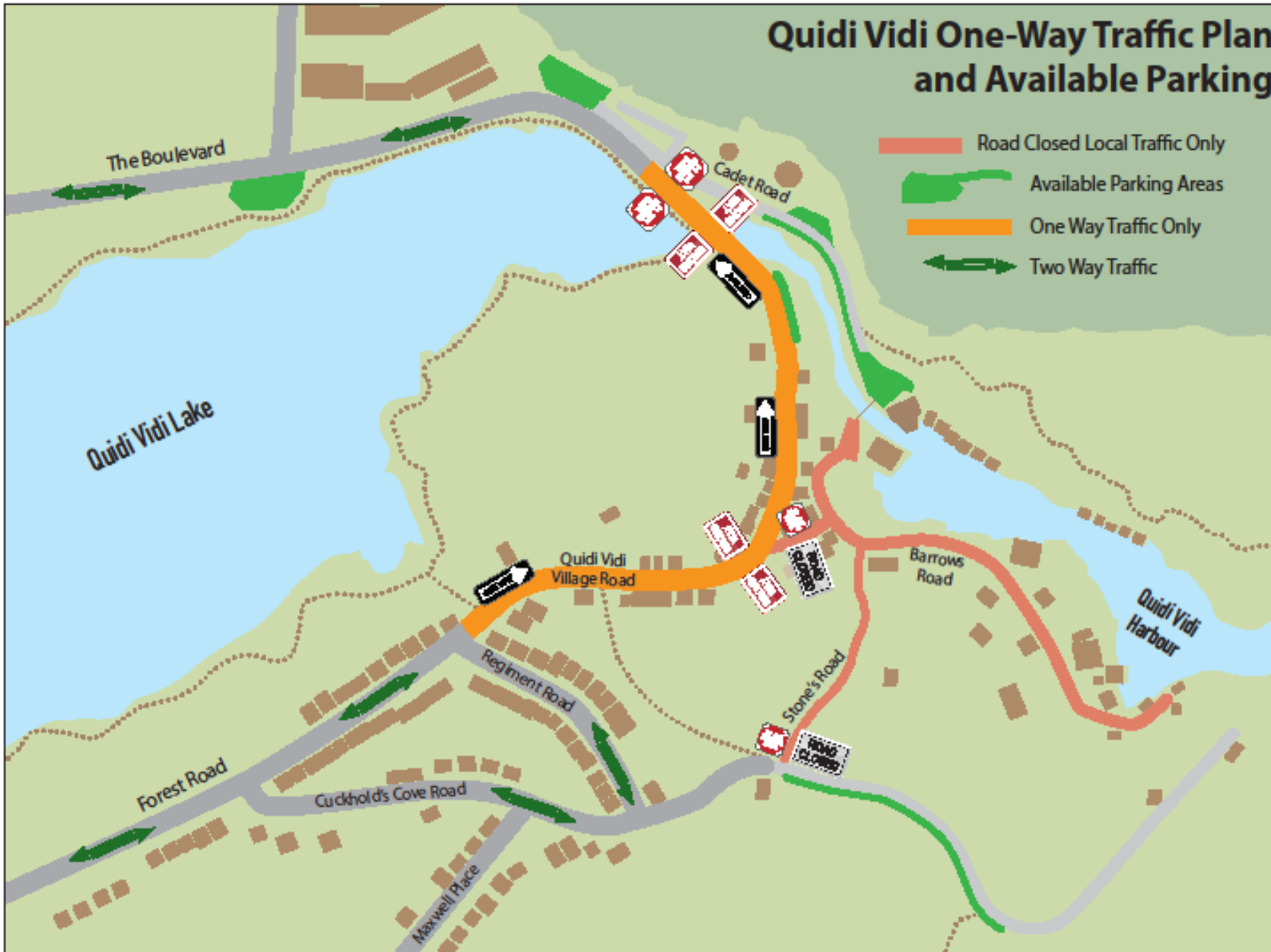
- This document aims to provide a summary of what was heard from participants during the public engagement process. It is not meant to reflect the specific details of each submission or conversation word-for-word.
 - The City produces a What We Heard document for every city-lead project where public engagement is used to share back with the community the commentary collected and to ensure we heard you correctly.
 - The City protects the privacy of those who provide their feedback as per Access to Information and Privacy Legislation.
 - The full scope of commentary is used by the project team, city staff, and Council to help inform recommendations and decisions.
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Context and Background

- Quidi Vidi Village is an area with narrow roads and scenic beauty. It is also an attraction for tourists and other visitors, and those who use the slipway for fishing.
 - There are businesses and residents in the area as well as operations such as the Plantation, an artisan incubator.
 - There is a history of complaints related to traffic and congestion in Quidi Vidi.
 - In 2018 the City upgraded parking at Cadet Rd and reinstated parking on one side of Cuckhold's Cove Rd.
 - In 2020, speed cushions were installed on a trial basis.
 - The pandemic creates more desire for outdoor, pedestrian friendly spaces.
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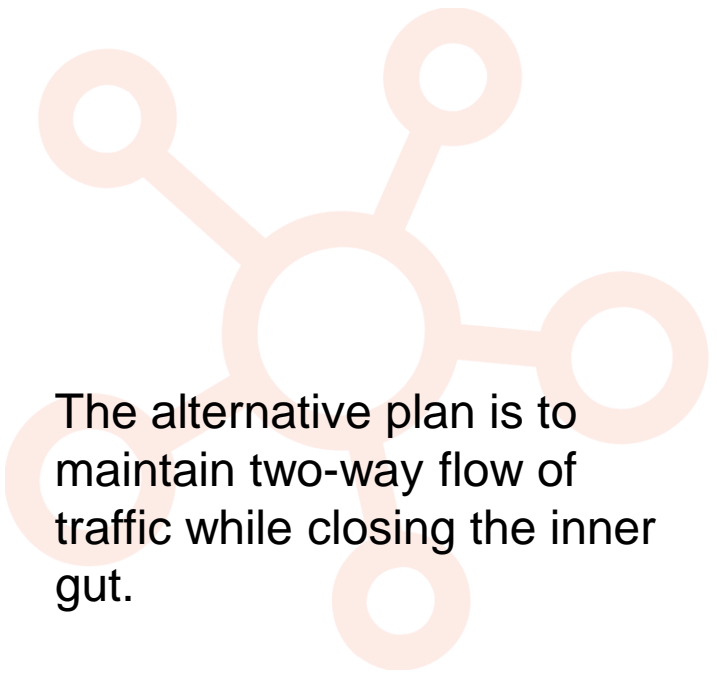
Scope of proposed project for 2021

- Make the “inner gut” car free except for local access and deliveries (the full scope of which is to be determined) by closing off Stone’s Rd and Barrow’s Rd
 - Make traffic flow one-way from Regiment Rd to Cadet Rd, east bound
 - Pilot the project for summer 2021 – the days of the week and hours of the day, to be determined in consultation with residents and businesses in the area
 - Security/barricades would need to be in place during closure
 - Cyclists would be allowed to use the space
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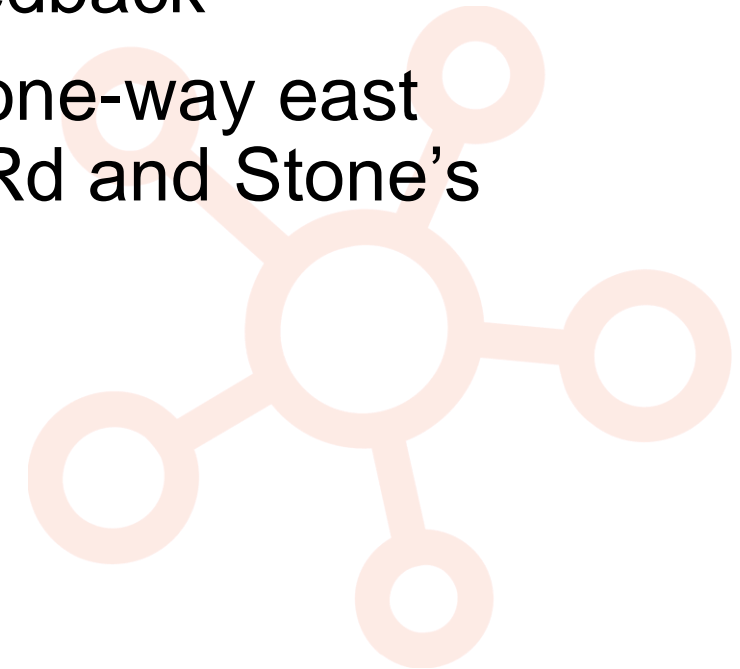
Concept Plan Visual

The alternative plan is to maintain two-way flow of traffic while closing the inner gut.



Purpose of Public Engagement

- Reach all residents and businesses in the Quidi Vidi (QV) area to get their input on the proposed concept
- Share information and invite input from other users of QV to ensure they have an opportunity to provide feedback
- Inform the decision of whether to make traffic one-way east bound through the Village and close Barrows Rd and Stone's Rd. to pedestrian and local traffic only



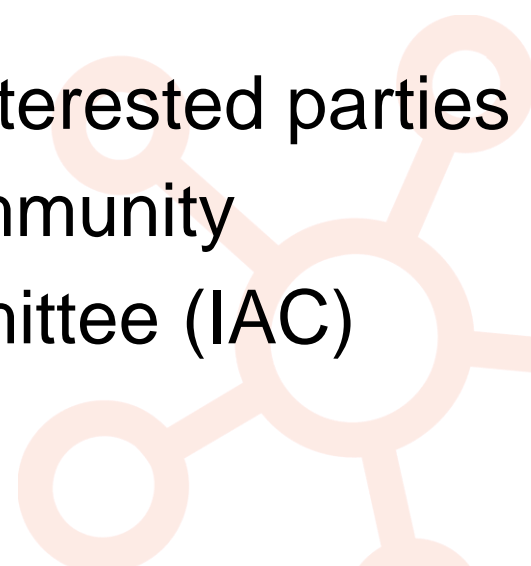
Stakeholders



- People who live in the inner gut
- Residents of Quidi Vidi Village
- Businesses operating in Quidi Vidi Village and their employees
- Inclusion Advisory Committee (accessibility)
- Regular users of the inner gut
- People who travel through Quidi Vidi Village regardless of mode of transport

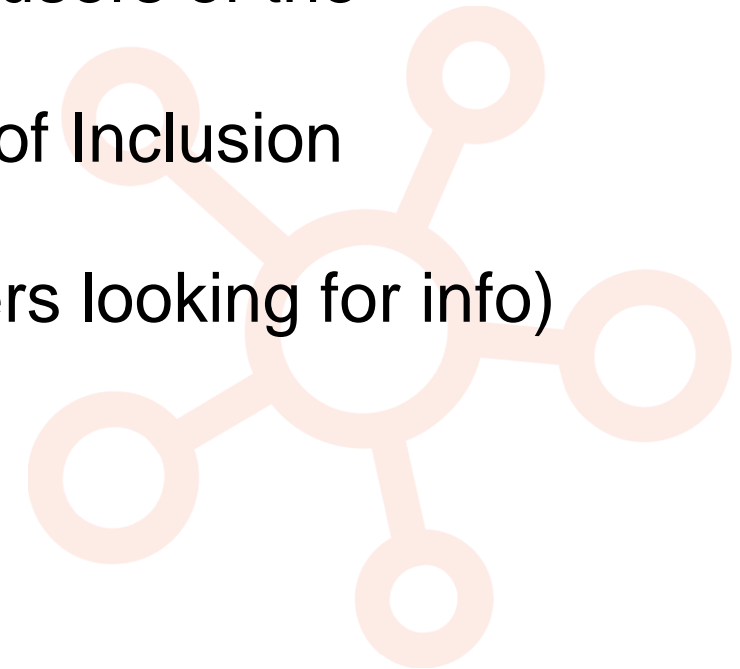


Promotion and Public Engagement Tools

- Addressed mail to all households and businesses in Quidi Vidi Village
 - Project page on engagestjohns.ca with Quick Polls and Question and Answer
 - Two virtual public sessions for residents and interested parties
 - One virtual public session for the business community
 - One meeting with the Inclusion Advisory Committee (IAC)
 - Emails to engage@stjohns.ca
 - Phone calls via 311, Council, and staff
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Points of Engagement

- 23 emails
- 247 visits to engage project page; 171 actively engaged
- 25 people attended public sessions (most from Quidi Vidi)
- 7 people attended the business session including users of the slipway and Plantation
- IAC meeting includes representatives of a variety of Inclusion stakeholders
- Phone calls (some were to provide feedback, others looking for info)
- Two written submissions





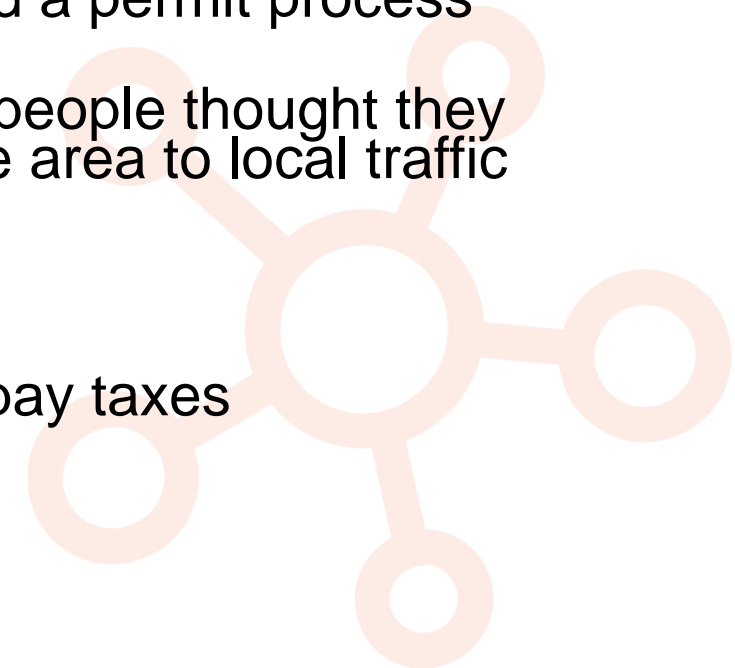
Promotion of Public Engagement

- Two posts on Twitter – 15,000 reach
- 1 post on facebook – 13,000 reach
- 1 post Instagram – nearly 10,000 reach
- Newsletters through engagestjohns.ca – 3000 registered users
- Addressed mail to 200 addresses

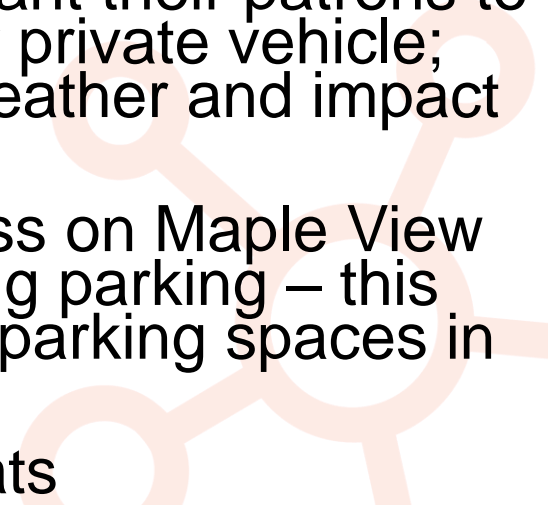


What we heard about the inner gut closure from residents





- Residents of the inner gut generally supportive of the closure
- They would like to see it every day, not just weekends
- Generally supportive of a pilot; try it for July and August
- Would need local access which would include their use and their visitors, not parking space to accommodate
- Suggestions for an assessment of their parking spaces and a permit process they could use
- It was noted that the barricades are necessary, and some people thought they should potentially be moved out further to restrict the entire area to local traffic only
- People want to feel safe when being pedestrians.
- View that it will reduce volume of traffic in inner gut
- Need to show respect for people who live in the area and pay taxes
- Need places for bikes to park

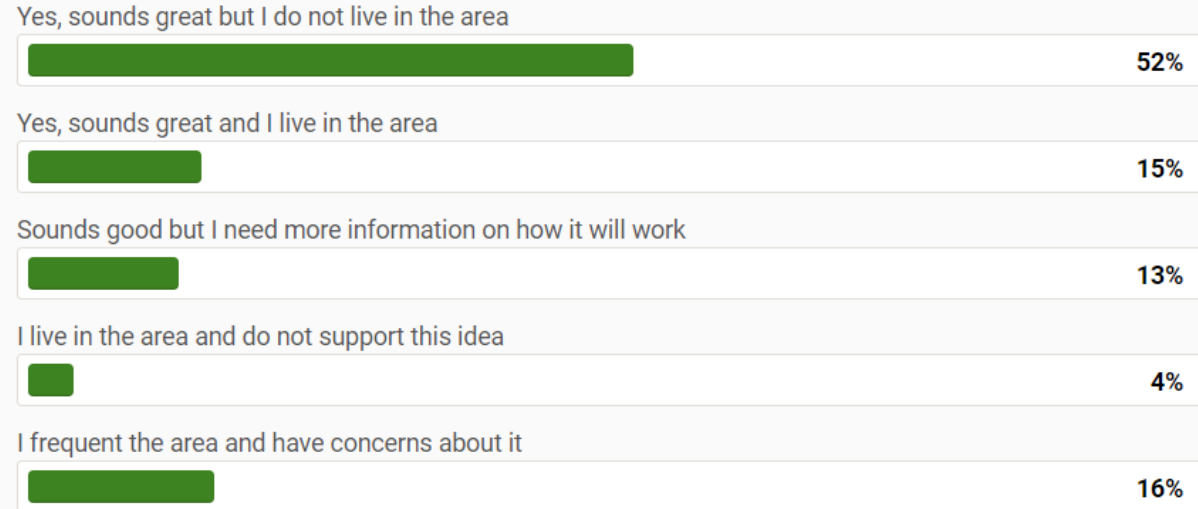


What we heard about the inner gut closure from businesses





- Generally supportive of a pilot
 - Could support Friday, Saturday, Sunday; open to extending it for future years – would aim to keep delivery trucks to a minimum on weekends
 - Would work best if afternoon and evenings versus all day
 - Quidi Vidi Brewery will need truck access and would want their patrons to be able to drive in to be dropped off, whether by taxi or private vehicle; concerns about people walking in the rain/inclement weather and impact on business
 - Plantation would want their vendors able to have access on Maple View including allowing them to park there as there is existing parking – this would remove the need for their employees to take up parking spaces in the outer QV area
 - Need to access slip way for recreational fishery for boats
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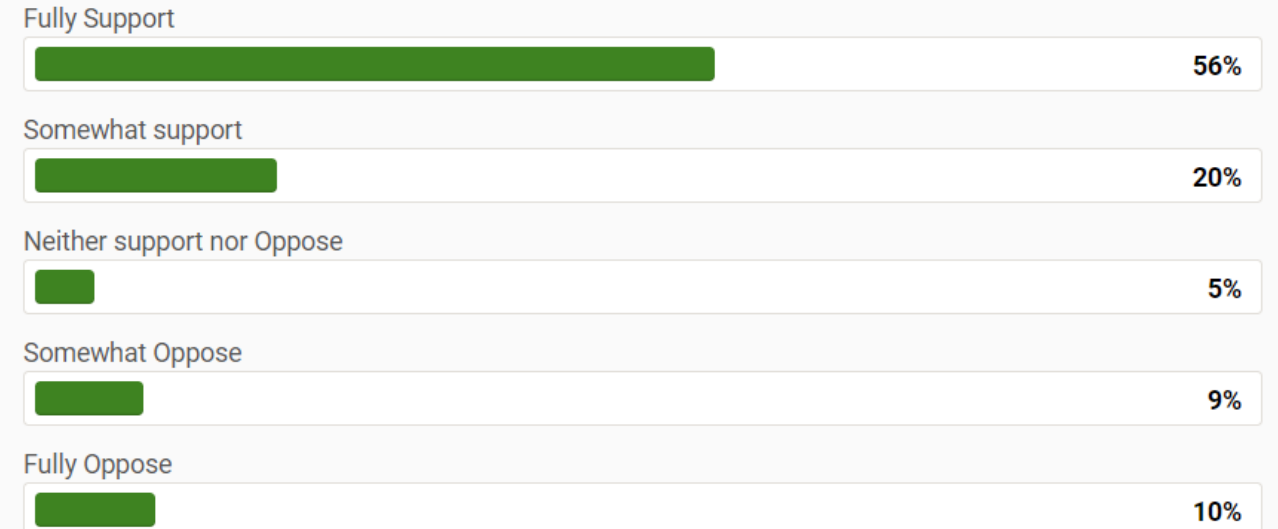
Feedback from engage users

Do you support the concept of a pedestrian only "inner' gut in Quidi Vidi Village as a pilot project for summer 2021?    



Total Votes : 165

Do you support the concept of one-way traffic flow in Quidi Vidi village heading east    



Total Votes : 80



What we heard about the one-way traffic concept

- Generally, views were mixed on this concept with some feeling very strongly that one way could work and others feeling it would inconvenience those who live in QV; there were more people in support than those opposed who attended the virtual meetings. The Quidi Vidi Village Foundation, who consulted with people in the area unable to participate electronically, noted more people would prefer the two-way option in their written submission.
- Some felt one-way traffic would increase speeds and speed cushions would be needed to slow down traffic.
- Many felt the speed cushions should be installed regardless of this project and potentially more should be added.
- Businesses were fine with the one-way concept.
- Cyclists noted they use this thoroughfare and would want to use as two-way.
- Some concerns from those on Regiment Rd. and other roads about potential for increased traffic in their areas

What we heard from Inclusion Advisory Committee (IAC)

- Pedestrianizing opens up opportunities for people who could not use it before for safety concerns but also need to consider the full sense of safety
- Consider signage to make it more inviting/help people navigate
- If City labels it as pedestrian but it is open to things beyond pedestrians there are concerns for wheeled use i.e., bikes, scooters
- People with physical disabilities, PTSD, etc. may have challenges with mixed use; encourage people to disembark bikes and the like and walk through out of respect for people with disabilities
- Accessible parking and drop off – would need to be clear to users. Would need to be somewhere central to the closure so they don't have too far to go. Can't be gravel; must be safe. People need to be able to be dropped off and not tie up traffic in the process.
- Currently there are Go Bus customers on QV Rd and would want to ensure traffic would not be impeded when people are getting dropped off and picked up.
- Go Bus should have specific drop points - do not have full access to the street
- Questions about the accessibility of the bridge – would want some sense of lived experience perspectives before deciding on Cadet Rd as a drop point.
- Consider all disabilities not just accessibility as people's experiences are different depending on issue
- Near the bottom of Stone's Rd there used to be a turnaround – may be a possible location for a Go Bus drop off. May be able to add more accessible spaces there too.
- Provide training to those working enforcement and businesses similar to what has been provided re: Pedestrian Mall

Other feedback



Questions about accessible transit to Quidi Vidi



Concerns about parking for all users including those who hike, mountain bike, visit businesses, etc.



General commentary about concerns regarding QV used as a thoroughfare



General view from people who live in the inner gut that something needs to be done to address the traffic/congestion issue there

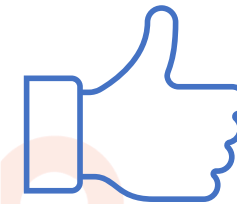
Next Steps



Release What we Heard



Council to review and consider direction



Recommendations and Final Decisions



Follow the project page or sign up to receive notifications at engagestjohns.ca

To stay informed



The screenshot shows the St. John's City website. At the top, the logo "ST. JOHN'S" is on the left, and navigation links "Home" and "Citizen Committees - Members page" are in the center. A search bar and a user profile "SiteAdmin1" are on the right. Below the header is a colorful illustration of a town with buildings, a boat, and people, with a speech bubble saying "Engage! St. John's". The main content area has a breadcrumb "Home » Quidi Vidi Pedestrian-Only Zone and Changes to Traffic Flow" and a title "Quidi Vidi Pedestrian-Only Zone and Changes to Traffic Flow". There are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. A photograph of the Quidi Vidi Village is shown. The text describes the City Council's consideration of a pedestrian-only zone in the "inner gut" as a pilot over a series of weekends this summer in Quidi Vidi Village. Options being considered also include one-way traffic flow from Regiment Road through Cadet Road east bound. See details in the [document library](#). The text also mentions that Quidi Vidi Village is one of the City's most picturesque and iconic locations and is naturally a draw for visitors and...

Maps and Visuals

- Quidi Vidi One Way Traffic with "inner gut" closure (70.9 KB) (pdf)
- Quidi Vidi Two Way Traffic Flow with "inner gut" closure (46.8 KB) (pdf)

Key Dates

Virtual Public Meeting for Quidi Vidi residents and users of the "inner gut"
15 June 2021