



City of Leduc

44th Street Closure

What We Heard Report – May 2023

Project Overview

In December 2021, a road closure was put in place in the South Telford neighbourhood in the City of Leduc to restrict access to Lede Park at the corner of 44th Street and 47th Avenue. The road closure was intended to improve community safety by reducing the number of large vehicles and overall traffic volume on these residential streets. The temporary gates can be moved in the event of an emergency or for an approved community event.

After a Traffic Advisory Committee update to Leduc City Council on Oct. 24, 2022, City Administration was directed to collect information from residents living on 47th Avenue to better understand if the road closure has contributed to their sense of safety.

Who We Engaged, When and How

Each household along 47th Avenue was invited to share their opinion on the temporary closure through an online survey. The survey was open from March 13 to May 1, 2023. A letter was mailed to each home followed by a second letter to the homes that had not completed the survey during the first three weeks that it was open. In total, 35 households completed the survey – this represents 53 per cent of the target audience.

What We Asked

Respondents were invited to complete a three-question survey about the temporary closure; the questions were intended to gauge perceived safety and preference on keeping the temporary closure in place long-term.

Specifically, we asked:

- If the closure made the street feel safer.
- If they wanted the gate to be permanently re-opened.
- If they had any further comments on the closure that they wanted the City of Leduc to consider.

What We Heard

The survey results showed:

- 82.86 per cent strongly agree or agree that the temporary closure has made the street feel safer
- 85.29 per cent strongly disagree or disagree that the gate should be permanently re-opened

The overall sentiment is that people are very happy with the closure because it improves safety for children playing, reduces unnecessary noise, and has improved the quality of life for residents on 47th Avenue. The feedback indicates that prior to the closure residents frequently dealt with large vehicles travelling to the compost facility and excess speeding throughout the day, as well as increased amounts of litter. Most respondents felt the slight detour for motorists to get to the Leduc Recreation Centre, rugby club, and the boat launch is worth the added safety and peace of mind for families with small children, and older residents in the neighbourhood.

One resident felt the closure was disruptive to their accessibility to the boat launch, gardens, and the rugby club, and another resident noted they would like the street to be re-opened; these were the only comments from people who wanted it re-opened. There was also a request for further traffic counting.

The complete list of written responses is included in Appendix A: Raw Data.

The lack of negative feedback indicates that most of the target audience is either in support of or feel neutrally about the closure. Should there have been strong negative opinions from the target audience about the closure, City Administration expects to have heard that through the survey responses.

What Happens Next

City Council will consider the information provided through this public engagement activity to determine whether the temporary closure at the corner of 44th Street and 47th Avenue will stay in effect.

Appendix A: Raw Data

Question 1

I feel the 44th Street closure has made my street safer.

- 82.86 per cent strongly agree
- 0 per cent agree
- 11.43 per cent neither agree nor disagree
- 5.71 per cent disagree
- 0 per cent strongly disagree

Question 2

I want the gate at the corner of 44th Street and 47th Avenue to be permanently reopened.

- 11.76 per cent strongly agree
- 2.94 per cent agree
- 0 per cent neither agree nor disagree
- 8.82 per cent disagree
- 76.47 per cent strongly disagree

Question 3

Please provide any further comments on this topic that you would like the City of Leduc to consider.

Responses provided below.

Q3 Please provide any further comments on this topic that you would like the City of Leduc to consider.

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	If you do decide to reopen the street then you need lights at the corner on 45th Street and 47Ave. As it is impossible to get out of our driveway when there are sports activities.	4/28/2023 7:39 AM
2	Happy with the gate being up.	4/27/2023 1:32 PM
3	First of all a 3 question feedback form hardly seems like a good way to get a sense of "what impact it has had on our sense of safety". 1-before making a final decision I think it's incredibly important to survey not just the residents on 47ave but also those on 46a, 46, and 45ave. I believe by removing the through traffic to Lede Park that they too will have noticed the impact to the neighborhood safety and noise. 2-before making any final decisions I suggest that traffic counting be set up on the road just past the Leduc Rec centre to count all traffic that goes to the dog park, compost facility, rugby club and lede park parking lots; and understand that a significant of this traffic will reroute themselves through the south Telford neighbourhood. Part of the previous concerns was not just safety but also noise especially from trucks and trailers going to the compost facility and people with dogs in the backs of their trucks (likely going to the dog park) this excessive noise in the neighborhood has been eliminated. 3- from the time the gate was installed to now there has been a fairly significant number of new kids who live on this street. Probably about a 200% increase. 4- question is the gate is problematic because of the boat club and access to the trails? If this is the case that small amount of traffic is not a concern to me it's more sporting event traffic, compost facilities, city of leduc vehicles/trailers, and dog park. 5- another noise and safety concern that has been addressed by the gate is the number of people that race late at night from the corner by the compost facility and then carry on down our street. We still hear them but at least they aren't right in front of our house. -other solutions may be to relocate the gate to the east/west intersection to open up the boat club parking lot for recreational users (although they could park at the stone barn and walk) - unrelated to the gate the number of people stunting in the boat club parking lot needs to be addressed. I suggest putting up parking space blocks to indicate stalls which would prevent people from being able to do donuts in the parking lot. In conclusion I strongly urge you to do traffic counting including during sporting events/tournaments before making a final decision.	4/25/2023 9:50 PM
4	It was wrong to close it in the first place.	4/25/2023 6:30 PM
5	I live on this street. For many years we have put up with so much traffic especially in the summer weekends. Traffic going to the lake, canoes, garden, all the sports fields, the dance and drama society, the stone barn, the grass and garden dumping area. And I am sure I missed some. Each year it seems that some other recreation area or event is added. The traffic at times was very bad. Sometimes I could hardly get out of my driveway. I really like the reduce in traffic and noise now that the road is closed. As you know this area is changing. A lot of the old houses are being replaced by family homes. Young people with young children are moving in. I am glad that you are making our area safer for all the residents.	4/25/2023 6:23 PM
6	As it is people who do not belong on the street drive way to fast. I have seen children threatened by the speed. No reason for non owners to be on this street on a continuum. We deserve a nice peaceful living a most other does.	4/7/2023 12:31 PM
7	There is still a continual flow of vehicles with water craft (canoes, kayaks, etc.) using 47 Avenue. They are parking in the Drama Society Building parking lot. The participants using the Drama Society programs between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. causes difficulty for me getting into my driveway. I feel that this is a safety issue. I would like the Drama Society Building access be blocked from using 47 Avenue. The decrease in traffic on 47 Avenue has certainly been noticeable and greatly appreciated. Our safety has been greatly improved with the decrease in commercial and private vehicle traffic using 47th Avenue.	4/7/2023 10:02 AM
8	Traffic volume including high speed vehicles and very large commercial trucks going to the compost site and large CP hydro vac trucks taking water from the lake has significantly	4/5/2023 4:38 PM

reduced with the gate. There is still an ongoing late night vehicle racing and doughnut session issue but the gate has stopped the stunting cars from going back and forth between the dance hall and boat club which helps. If the gates get opened we must have speed and vehicle size control in the neighborhood. The volume of high speed cars without the gate is scary for all parents with kids. One thing to consider is better signage for cars to find the way to the boathouse. I often see folks lost is south Telford not knowing how to access through the LRC road. The gate has made the neighborhood safer. Why not remove the road completely? Plant a Forrest or make a park there..

9	<p>Since the closure: I have not been almost hit by a truck passing by on the street. I have not been almost hit by a car passing by in the alley. There have been no accidents that wrote off two and almost wrote off a third car across the street. No neighbour has been hit by a car, left injured (a hit and run) and not reported it. My license plate has not been stolen from my truck. My truck has not been broken into. My truck has not been broken into again. The almost written off car above has not been broken into. Nobody has thrown a take-out cup full of a beverage at my truck while passing by. Nobody has hit my brother-in-laws car passing by with a snowmobile trailer (his car required quite a lot of bodywork at his expense) and not reported it. Nobody has placed a small tree uprooted from my neighbour's yard on the hood of my truck. Nobody has almost hit, honked at and shouted verbal abuse at my neighbour while he backs into his driveway. Nobody has almost hit, honked at and shouted verbal abuse at me unloading packages out of my truck. Hundreds of cars no longer pass by every soccer night. Hundreds of cars no longer pass by taking a short-cut to LRC. Hundreds of cars no longer pass by to access the yard waste recycle yard. The street is now quiet day and night instead of people driving past standing on the throttle. Drivers don't donuts in the Rugby Club and LRC soccer/baseball parking lots in the Winter is greatly reduced. Please don't reopen the gate.</p>	4/5/2023 3:05 PM
10	<p>It's been a lot safer since the gate was closed. I've lived here over 20 years and there are more children on our avenue now. And there are many pedestrians walking to Telford Lake on our avenue as well. Prior to the gate being closed, we had many close calls with people speeding and using our avenue as a short cut to the baseball diamonds too.</p>	4/5/2023 2:28 PM
11	<p>After living on a busy street and my 7-year-old nearly getting clipped by a car while she was in a cross-walk with the cross-walk lights flashing, I'm grateful for the gate in place to prevent a large amount of traffic passing in front of my residence.</p>	4/4/2023 9:04 PM
12	<p>My biggest concern is that we have three younger children that are frequently biking, scootering, walking, or just playing in the neighbourhood, but specifically need to cross 47th avenue in order to access the Telford trails and green space. Prior to the gate closure, the weekend traffic on 47th avenue could be extreme at times, which was also when my kids would be most likely to be playing in the neighbourhood. This combination made for huge safety concerns for me, and if the gate was to be reopened, I have no doubt we would see the same pattern again. I know some people who aren't frequent users of the trail system or the Telford recreational areas find the closure to be an inconvenience in accessing the LRC and black gold drive, but I strongly feel that the reduced risk of serious pedestrian injury far outweighs the minor inconvenience of an extra 1-2 minutes of driving time to access these areas. My family uses the LRC and surrounding lede field area 5+ times per week in baseball and hockey seasons so I am very familiar with the fact the drive is slightly longer now, but again, this is such a minor inconvenience in comparison to the risk present with excessive traffic on 47th ave. This street was never designed to be a primary artery, it's a residential street for neighbourhood residents to access their homes. I would be extremely disappointed in the city if they were to succumb to the few loud voices who value their convenience over resident safety!</p>	4/4/2023 8:22 AM
13	<p>With the gate being there, I no longer have the excessive amount of vehicles driving back and forth on the road in front of my house day and night. It is safety to cross the street to get mail or just going down to the multiway.</p>	4/3/2023 2:30 PM
14	<p>I always enjoyed going the back way over to curling & to the compost yard...now feel have to go the long way around always. My garage is facing the street, so don't mind the traffic as don't hear any traffic sounds.</p>	4/2/2023 10:14 PM
15	<p>There is always a steady amount of traffic during the day and I believe that opening the gate would be detrimental to the residents overall safety.</p>	3/29/2023 1:30 PM
16	<p>It has been fantastic not having vehicals speeding up and down the road. It is much safer to ride our bikes, have our kids play in our yards and walk our pets. I know change is hard for</p>	3/28/2023 11:53 AM

some and takes some getting use to but I feel much safer with the road closure measures the city has taken. Thank you

17	I live on 47 Avenue. A resident for 23 years. The closer has made it safer. New development has brought more children to our Avenue. No more contractors trucks. There was a lot. They now are forced to use proper truck routs such as 46 street to black gold Dr. This is a good thing. Thank you.	3/28/2023 11:29 AM
18	Noticeable decrease in traffic due to less vehicles going to the compost site/garden plots/sports fields/rugby clubhouse; less debris/branches on the road; less traffic makes it easier to back out of driveway; less vehicles speeding around the corner when coming off 46 Street; Please continue with closure of 44th Street for the safety of the residents on 47 Avenue.	3/28/2023 10:51 AM
19	Alcohol bottles and litter have decreased, less traffic on our streets is safer for children who LIVE on the street. Less incidents with people parking on our streets causing problems on garbage days, less negative interactions with dogs from people not using leashes because the feel they can. Please keep the gate closed as it has strengthened the values of the south Telford community. Speeding from parents late for sporting events has decreased drastically. Safety and keeping our community clean is the priority. Please keep the gate closed.	3/26/2023 6:37 PM
20	We would like the City of Leduc to know we are absolutely delighted with the gate at the corner of 44th Street and 47th Avenue and really hope the closure is permanent. It has dramatically improved the safety on our street, massively reduced the amount of traffic, and resulted in us being able to sleep better at night. We moved into our house a few years ago and ever since we moved in, we had constant annoyance with the traffic outside our home. What we thought would be a relatively quiet residential neighbourhood proved to be anything but. We regularly had all sizes of vehicles using 46 Street and 47 Avenue at speeds over the speed limit, with many pulling trailers or similar. As you will be aware people were using the residential area to access the Boat Club, Community Gardens, Compost Facility, Rugby Club, LRC, Dog Park, or simply as a short cut rather than using the designated access point on Lede Drive. Over our time living here we regularly had sleep issues due to the access point outside our house. It seems local car and truck enthusiasts like to meet in the Boat Club and Rugby Club parking lots. They then take part in continually revving their engines, or doing doughnuts in the car park. In the evening this results in us regularly having to turn up our TV to drown them out. However, this issue doesn't stop there. They seem to enjoy this activity throughout the night, especially during the summer. We were regularly woken at all hours of the night to the sounds of vehicles in the parking lots, but mainly due to the fact they accessed and left by the junction of 46 Street and 47 Avenue right outside our front door. The sound and speed of these vehicles (of which there are often many) revving around the corner was enough to wake anyone. This led to many nights of broken sleep and almost rendering one of our bedrooms unusable. We have a baby due in August, and had previously discussed how we could achieve any quality of sleep with the situation, especially during the weekends. The noise from the vehicles revving and speeding away while turning the corner would constantly wake those sleeping in the front bedrooms. Since the gate has been put in place, I can safely say our experience has improved massively, the amount of traffic has reduced, and we've actually been able to sleep without interruption. I read quite a few comments from people online who were against the introduction of the gate. Judging from those comments I haven't seen any actual reason for their stance other than convenience/habit of them using the access point. Everything is still available from the access point on Lede Drive. The majority of the comments are also from people who do not live in the area of 46 Street and 47 Avenue. The gate increases safety in the neighbourhood, and for us personally (and many others nearby) most definitely improve our standard of life. I know for a fact 90% of my neighbours (many of whom have young children) are delighted with the introduction of the gate. The local East Elementary School also regularly take their pupils to the lake, I can only imagine this will improve safety for their pupils and lower the stress for the teachers during these excursions. I didn't mean to write such a long response but clearly, it's an issue that's important to us. We feel we need to add our backing to what has been a very positive decision and one we really hope becomes permanent. Once again, thanks to those concerned, it's been very much appreciated. We are more than happy to be contacted if you require any further information or feedback. Stuart and Amber Jackson – 4403 47 Avenue Tel: 825-440-6701 mail@stuartjackson.co.uk almcclos@gmail.com	3/26/2023 1:24 PM
21	Since the gate closure the traffic has been greatly reduced on 47 Ave thereby reducing the risk to smaller children and seniors on the street. I am sure 46 and 46A Ave have also benefited from the reduced traffic concerns. It wasn't just the amount of traffic coming and going to the	3/25/2023 8:20 AM

boat club, soccer, rugby, football, baseball, beach volleyball, community gardens, LRC and compost pile by residents and commercial vehicles - but it was the speed they were driving, they seemed to think 47 Ave was a raceway. If it was just South Telford residential traffic using the road I wouldn't complain but when it is the whole city and commercial vehicles (yard maintenance & landscaping) - I am complaining. Where else in Leduc is there a through road in a residential area that is used by such a high amount of residential and commercial vehicles? The other huge benefit with the gate closure is the tremendous reduction in the amount of evening and late evening racing, tire squealing at the boat club parking lot and in front of the Rugby Clubhouse - this is primarily due to these persons only having one way to escape if (god willing) the Leduc Peace Officer or the RCMP would patrol or take the wrong turn and happen down the road by mistake.

22	Speed bumps Speed limit reduction with big signs	3/24/2023 7:25 PM
23	I am a senior living along this street and I find it much easier and safer to navigate in and out of my property.	3/21/2023 12:06 PM
24	Part of the reason we bought a house on this street was because of the accessibility to the boat lanch, the gardens and the rugby club. We would very much like that access to be made available to us again.	3/20/2023 2:42 PM
25	I have lived here for 22 years & since the gate went up we have not have to deal with drunks on the streets. No more midnight drug deals at the lake. No more loud motorcycles, trucks or revved up cars bombing back and forth thru all hours of the night. Most used to drive to the parking lot and do donuts all hours of the night. With little to no parking our streets are bumper to bumper parked cars whenever there's an event at the lake or sports fields. No more drunken grown men at the rugby club celebrating through out the night. The park and Telford Lake are back to being a quiet beautiful area as was intended. So in answer to your survey leave the gates up. The addition on the rec centre provided a lot of parking for the city therefore there is no reason to open this side up.	3/19/2023 2:35 PM
26	The road closure has stopped excessive traffic from literally speeding down 47 Avenue. There are many young children living on the block. Additionally it has curtailed the number of joy riders spinning wheelies in the boat launch parking lot at all hours of the night. It still happens, but nowhere near as regularly. Parking for special events can easily be accommodated for with the parking lot at the boat launch and the old barn. Signage for the alternate route via BlackGold could be made more visible. Thank you for closing the Avenue and keeping it that way.	3/19/2023 1:47 PM
27	The through traffic has been greatly reduced with the gate at the corner of 44 street and 47 avenue. It has brought more peace to the neighbourhood for us and is safer for us and our grandchildren.	3/18/2023 7:25 PM
28	The safety on this street has improved immensely with the STOPPING of the small amount of large vehicle traffic and the HUGE amount of REGULAR vehicle traffic. The safety for the people living on this street has finally come to where you can actually walk on this block without cars racing up and down at all hours of the day and night, keeping families up at night, and worrying whether you are going to be hit by a vehicle!! This is a very busy area for children and seniors walking, where we have seen several close incidents of kids on their bikes almost getting hit. There are several families with young children living on this street. The access to the areas going to the boat area, community gardens, compost, DOG PARK, soccer fields and football fields can easily be accessed by the LRC. There are trucks with large dogs in the back of the trucks barking aggressively driving down the road. We should not and do not have to be exposed to this. It is a 1.8 km or 3 minute drive from this street to the LRC. The people NOT living on this street, that care less about OUR safety, complain about driving an extra 1.8 km, is completely selfish and absolutely ridiculous!! There is a vehicle travelling every minute on this street on weekends to access these areas. This road has been closed for over a year and many, many people have become very used to making the adjustments. This road needs to be closed permanently. Please keep this road closed so the residents on this street do not have to take this much farther!!	3/18/2023 11:08 AM
29	The street is safer and the unwanted traffic diverted thanks to the gates. During peak summer activities this access way is unsustainable nearly causing death to a resident hit and run. In addition, questionable contractors and larger dump trucks no longer come flying through the area relish their debris are no longer passing. There is no doubt that there are quite a few amenities in that end of this block thus the community of Leduc needs to compromise and gain some empathy to making not just this area safer but all of Leduc. I have heard complaints	3/18/2023 10:34 AM

from Edmontonian who can't seem to figure out how find there way well that's just too bad you don't live here and we don't need their rhetoric here or should we just let them annex Leduc to call the shots. Furthermore, the teenagers don't seem to get it they continue to galavant in evening spinning there tires at the boat club and rugby hall. Atleast they don't perform a finally spin off into our neighborhood. We are 100 percent that this closure shall remain in place. We have no issues if it's opened during planned special events or perhaps opened to boat club for their sessions. Definitely should be closed at nights, and most days to discourage traffic. Perhaps better signage to let public know how the area appreciate those take the longer path around because we do.

30	I will gladly put up with traffic just to have ease of access to the community gardens and the drop site where you take branches, Etc.	3/17/2023 4:03 PM
31	Here is my test comment.	1/10/2023 8:31 AM