

Jane Finch Initiative: Community Advisory Committee Meeting



6:00-8:00pm March 21st, 2023

OVERVIEW

On March 21st, 2023, the Jane Finch Initiative Community Advisory Committee meeting was hosted by the Jane Finch Community and Family (JFCF) Centre with support from the City of Toronto. This consultation is part of the Jane Finch Initiative's comprehensive engagement stream and it was held online over Zoom. The agenda, project background, and engagement materials can be viewed in the appendices.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Provide an update on the Jane Street Road Safety Review.
- Provide an update on the RapidTO: Jane Street study, including the proposed bus stop removals, roadway design options, and public consultation process.
- Discuss Community Advisory Committee members' involvement in the upcoming Jane Finch Initiative Open House.

WHAT WE HEARD

This section includes the summaries of the feedback collected from the discussions during the Zoom meeting.

RapidTO: Jane Street Study Q&A

- Question: When would the priority bus lanes be designated for only buses?
 - Response from RapidTO staff: the priority bus lanes would always be exclusively for buses.
- Comment: Concern that if lanes for personal vehicles are reduced, travel time for people using personal vehicles will significantly increase. Especially concerned that the number of personal vehicles will increase as density increases, and traffic will be overwhelming.
 - Response from RapidTO staff: the projected population increase is the main motivator for the RapidTO: Jane Street project. Jane street is already at capacity for car traffic. The city hopes that by improving transit options, more people will choose to use buses on Jane Street.
- Question: Will the same five design options be presented to council?
 - Response from RapidTO staff: the intention is to bring only one proposed option to council. If it is approved, we will move towards implementation.
- Question: What is the time frame for implementation?
 - Response from RapidTO staff: if the approved option involves priority bus lanes or High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, implementation can be completed by next year assuming there are no delays. If the approved option involves a queue jump lane, more significant construction will be required. This construction may

Summary Report by the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre

be completed along with future resurfacing work, so implementation may take a few years.

- Question: Is the City open to combining ideas from multiple design ideas?
 - Response from RapidTO staff: Yes, we are not restricted to the listed design options.
- Question: How will construction impact the implementation process?
 - Response from RapidTO staff: If implementation is impeded by construction, it can be done in phases along Jane Street.

RapidTO: Jane Street Study Breakout Room

KEY THEMES

- Strong opposition to bus stop removals.
 - Support for priority bus lanes or HOV lanes, but not at the cost of bus stops or service frequency.
 - Concerns about safety considerations.
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- Discussion prompt: What are some of the most concerning transportation challenges on Jane Street?
 - Bus stops are already too far apart.
 - Need for bus stop improvements. Are bus stop improvements, such as seating improvements, a part of the project?
 - Concern that safety for vulnerable users is not prioritized.
 - The distance between homes and bus stops is a safety concern, especially for vulnerable users and people walking home at night.
 - Waiting areas are poor and can't accommodate the number of people who may be carrying large loads.
 - Concern about the construction at the Jane and Finch intersection. How will the proposed designs accommodate the LRT? How can we deliver efficient and safe transportation around the intersection?
 - Discussion prompt: What are your initial thoughts on the design options?
 - Overall preference to not remove stops, even if it may save travel time.
 - Many concerns about removing bus stops at Eddystone, which is near a medical and community centre (PEACH). RapidTO should review the existing and future community services near bus stops, not just residential density, when proposing bus stop removals.
 - Consider how many people would be affected by the bus stop changes.
 - Even if bus stops are removed, people may want to still cross mid-block, especially around schools and community service centres. Mid-block crossing

should be addressed in other ways (like adding more crosswalks) instead of removing bus stops.

- Encouraging carpooling would be beneficial (HOV lane).
- Queue jump lanes could help move along traffic.
- Options 3 & 5 as a hybrid option.
- Additional comments:
 - Concerns about removal of San Romano Way stop.
 - Concerns about removing the Eddystone stop.
 - There are many cul-de-sacs in the area.
 - Consider phasing in changes (e.g. implementing design first and then any bus stop removals if necessary).
 - Knowing the community is important. Proposing removing bus stops should never have been suggested in the first place, and tells us that RapidTO does not understand residents.
 - How might bus stop removals impact crowding on buses?
 - It is important to evaluate how the costs relating to this project will affect fare.
 - Appreciate the use of targeted ads on Instagram by Rapid TO. This is a good outreach strategy.

March Open Houses Breakout Room

- Consider child-friendly activities to encourage parents of young children to participate.
- Some outreach strategies include connecting with food banks, connecting with shelters, and adding information to the large TV in the Jane Finch Mall.
- Additional engagement can be done in elementary and secondary schools.
- Additional clarification of roles for CAC responsibilities at events is needed.
- The city should implement a project phone number to opt-in to text message updates, similar to subscribing to e-updates.

APPENDIX A: AGENDA

6:00 Participants Join
6:05 Welcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introductions, land acknowledgement, agenda [JFC]
6:10 Jane Street Road Safety Review Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 5 minutes: Jane Street Road Safety Review Update [JFC staff]
6:15 RapidTO Presentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 15 minutes: RapidTO Presentation [RapidTO representatives]● 5 minutes: Q&A
6:35 March Engagement Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 10 minutes: Update on Open House
6:45 Breakout Rooms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 25 minutes: Breakout Rooms (Session 1)● 25 minutes: Breakout Rooms (Session 2)
7:35 Closing notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Closing notes TBD [JFC staff]
Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 2 JFCF centre staff, Denelle Carvalho, Clara Stewart Robertson● 3 City of Toronto staff, Zahra Joseph Wilson, Carol Tsang, Philip Morse● 1 TTC staff: Stephanie Simard Craig● 14 Community Advisory Committee members: Veronica Eastman, William Ballard, Susel Munoz, Kayzie Sutton, Devayani Chitnis, Terryl Knox, Maria B., Christine Le, William Lopez, Kemisha Thomas, Sharon Taylor, Mena Hervieux, Maize Blanchard, Troy Budhu.

APPENDIX B: BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto's Jane Finch Initiative is a resident-informed project to plan for the future of the Jane and Finch area. Together, we are developing a community development plan and a land use plan so that residents and businesses are supported as the area changes over time with the opening of the Finch West LRT.

The [Jane Finch Initiative](#) is a resident-informed project to plan for the future of the Jane and Finch area and to determine how best to leverage the investment in light rail transit (LRT) for the benefit of local communities. It is a collaborative community planning exercise in 'Neighbourhood 24 - Black Creek' and 'Neighbourhood 25 - Glenfield-Jane Heights' (see [Neighbourhood Profiles](#)), centred on the intersection of Jane Street and Finch Avenue West.

The Jane Finch Community and Family Centre are supporting the City's community engagement process by facilitating community consultations.

The initiative involves three integrated streams of work:

- 1) **Comprehensive engagement**
- 2) A **community development plan** including a local economic opportunities plan;
- 3) An update to the **land use planning framework**.

APPENDIX C: ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

