

What We Heard Report

Starkey Road Functional Planning Study Update

April 2026



Project Overview

The Starkey Road functional planning study update is looking at the long-term configuration and staging of upgrades of Starkey Road as it connects between Highway 37 at the north and Sturgeon Road at the south. The area includes a combination of farmland, acreage development, and existing and future estate style development in the Sturgeon Valley area.

A previous functional planning study was completed in 2012 for the area between Bellerose Drive and Highway 37. This study recommended combining the intersections along Highway 37 at a future interchange at Range Road 252, with a curved alignment connecting Starkey Road and Range Road 252 around the Coal Mine Road area.

The study area includes the existing Protective Services Fire Hall along Range Road 252, south of Highway 37, as well as the Sturgeon River crossing. The study aims to accommodate planned future growth in the Sturgeon Valley area while also decreasing regional traffic through the community and implementing traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds. The study also includes extension of the existing trail network along the west side of Starkey Road and south side of Coal Mine Road.

What We Asked

Sturgeon County held an information and engagement session on March 19, 2026 at the Sturgeon Valley Golf & Country Club, where Sturgeon Valley residents and other interested individuals could learn more about the project. A total of 70 people attended the in-person session.

Attendees were asked to provide input on options for the east-west connection between Starkey Road and Range Road 252 (around Coal Mine Road), cross section configurations, and intersection treatments, as well as general feedback for the project team.

Attendees were able to complete paper hard copies of the survey forms at the in-person event, and were also able to complete online version of the survey on the Sturgeon County project website from March 19, 2026 to April 2, 2026.

In total, 14 surveys returned at the end of the event, and an additional 25 online surveys were completed and submitted within the 2 weeks of survey window.

The purpose of the survey was to gather input from Sturgeon Valley residents and other interested individuals about the medium and long-term configuration and upgrade requirements of existing and future roadways. The County committed to reviewing the input and considering it when deciding on the next steps for the area.

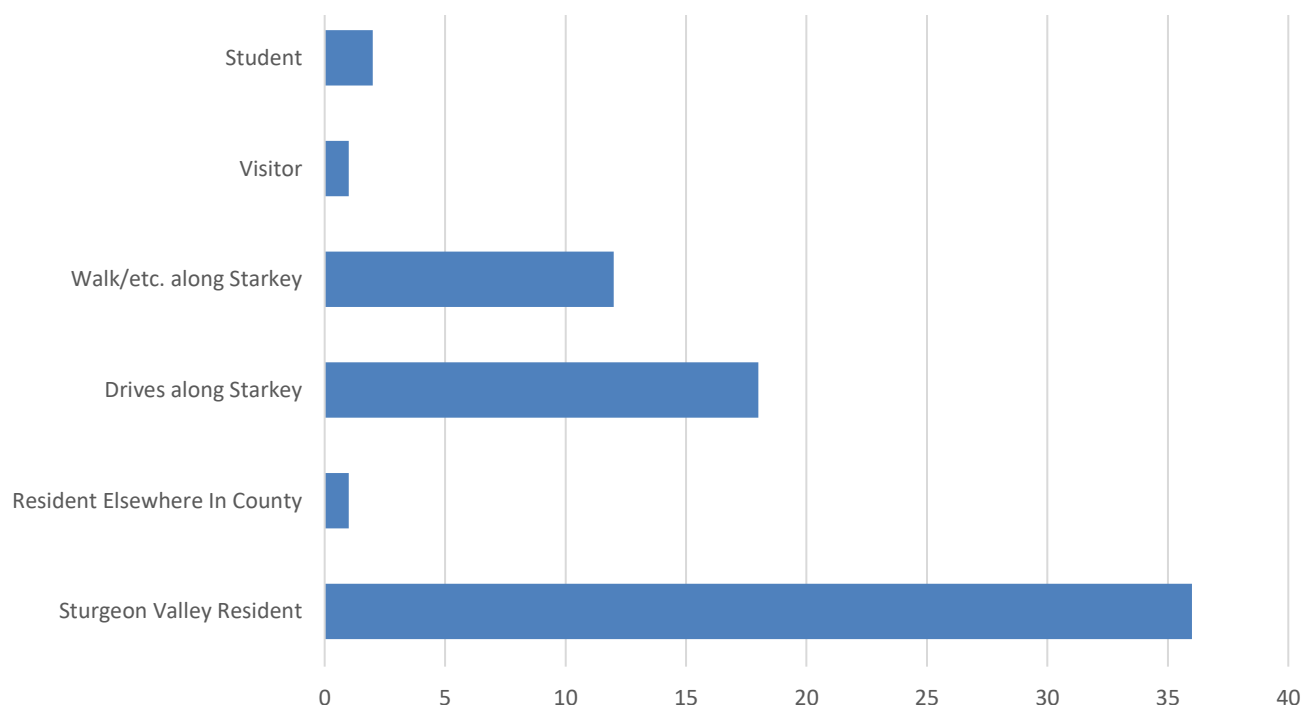
The survey included open- and closed-ended questions to gather input and data from respondents. Responses are detailed in this report.

What We Heard

Respondents Profile

Survey respondents were asked to provide general information on their relationship with the project area.

Survey responses were primarily received from individuals with a direct connection to the study area. Most respondents identified as Sturgeon Valley residents (36), with many also indicating that they drive along Starkey Road (18) or walk/cycle along Starkey Road (12). Only a small number identified as residents elsewhere in the County (1), visitors (1), or students (2). As respondents could select more than one category, the results indicate that the feedback was largely provided by local residents and regular users of the corridor, who are most familiar with the area and most directly affected by future changes.



East – West Connection

Attendees were asked for feedback on alignment options for the east-west connection between Starkey Road and Range Road 252. Two options were presented:

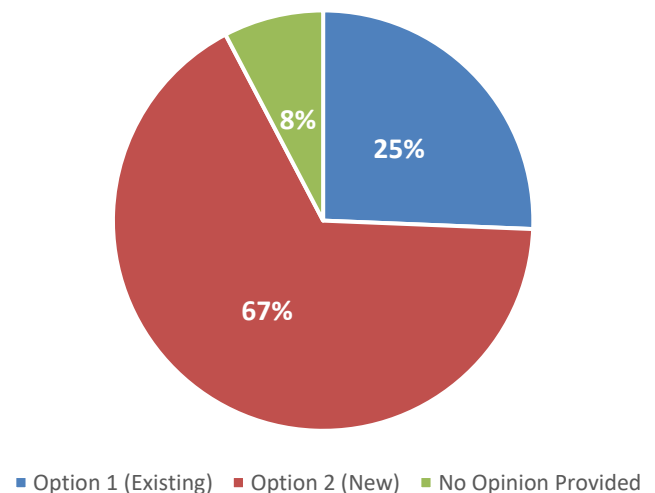
- Option 1: Upgrading of Coal Mine Road along the existing alignment.
- Option 2: Construction of a new east-west alignment approximately along the quarter section line.



A total of 37 survey responses were received on related to the east-west connection, indicating that:

- 25% of respondents (10) support Option 1 – Upgrading existing Coal Mine Road.
- 67% of respondents (26) support Option 2 – Construct a new east-west connection.
- 8% of respondents (3) favors no change.

East-West Connection Preferences



Themes from the open-ended questions included:

- Some respondents (4) suggested an east-west connection along south side of Highway 37.
- Some respondents (2) suggest an east-west connection mid-way between Highway 37 and Coal Mine Road.
- 1 respondent suggests retaining the planned 2012 route.
- 2 respondents suggested extension/inclusion of walking trails along Starkey Road.
- Some respondents supported the use of roundabouts (2) and wanted to see implementation of more traffic calming into the design (2).
- Some respondents (3) wanted no changes to Starkey Road and the connection to Highway 37.

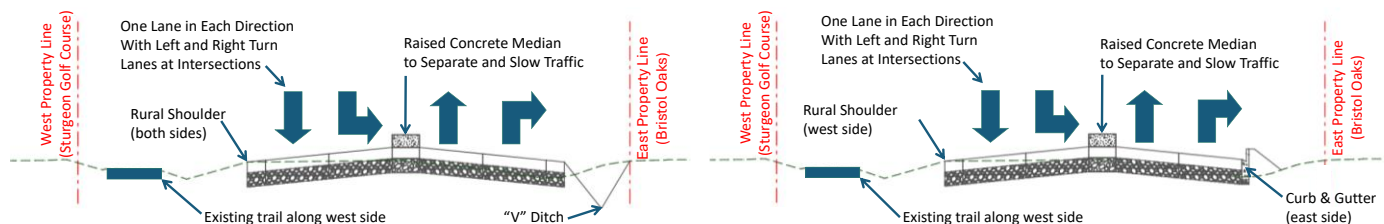
Comments we heard at the public engagement event:

- 1 attendee expressed concerns with closing the existing Hwy 37 intersection and being re-routed to RR 252 to access the highway. They suggested a service road parallel with the highway connecting with RR 252, in addition to the east-west connection at Coal Mine Road.
- 1 attendee expressed concerns about drainage along Coal Mine road being directed through existing natural drainage channels and adjacent developments being flooded.
- 2 attendees suggested a north connection option parallel to Highway 37 (similar to the comments from the survey).
- 1 attendee noted that the proposal for closure would likely need a service road along the north side of Highway 37 between RR 250 and RR251.

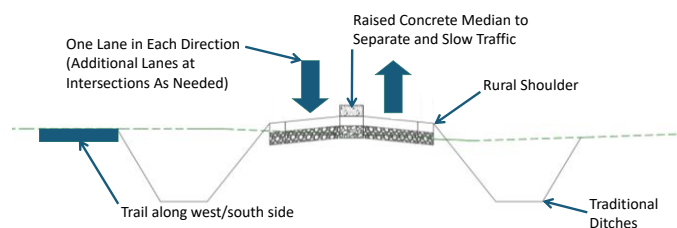
Cross Section Configuration

Attendees were asked for feedback on cross section configurations for three segments of the Starkey Road corridor:

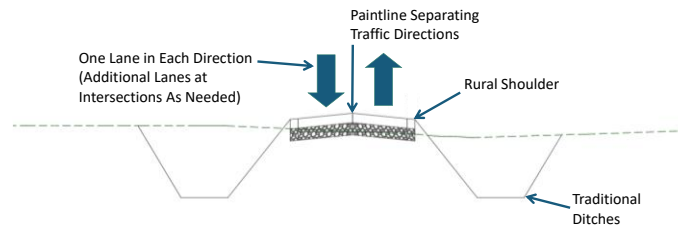
- Two options for addressing constrained right of way south of the Sturgeon River, adjacent to Bristol Oaks, one utilizing rural ditches and one utilizing curb and gutter.



- A recommended configuration for Starkey Road north of the Sturgeon River and for Coal Mine Road, which includes a hybrid “rurban” configuration with a raised concrete median and rural ditches.



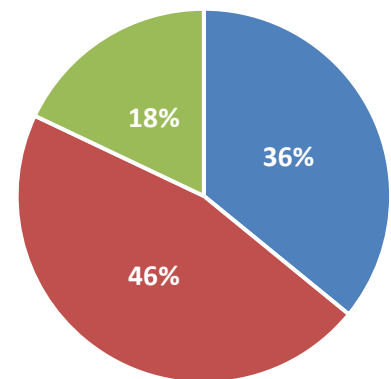
- A recommended configuration for Range Road 252 north of Coal Mine Road, which includes a full rural configuration in line with the County's Class II cross section



Paper and online survey results from the 37 responses to this question indicate that:

- 36% of respondents (14) said the proposed cross sections match their vision.
- 46% of respondents (18) said the proposed cross sections do not match their vision.
- 18% of respondents (7) did not provide a response.

Cross Section Vision



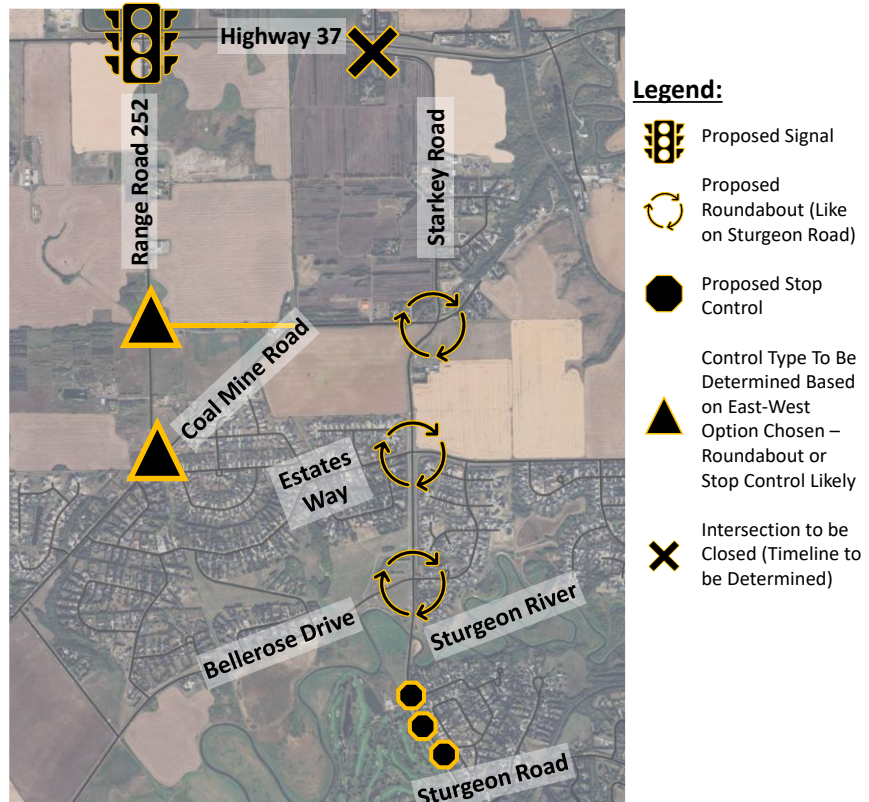
Themes from the open ended survey questions included:

- A general desire for more traffic calming and slower vehicle speeds, including measures such as speed bumps, with some comments extending this concern along Coal Mine Road toward the City of St. Albert.
- A desire to maintain a more rural character along the corridor.
- Interest in improving walkability in the Sturgeon Valley area, including support for pedestrian facilities.
- Some respondents expressed concern that widening or adding lanes could increase traffic speeds, shortcutting, and traffic noise, particularly near Bristol Oakes.
- Requests for noise berms along Starkey Road to reduce traffic noise impacts on nearby residents.
- Concerns regarding the loss of farmland and the need to respect existing agricultural land uses.
- Concerns around the need for turning lanes along Starkey Road intersections.

Intersection Treatments

Attendees were asked for feedback on proposed intersection treatments along the corridor from north of Sturgeon Road to Highway 37. The proposal included a combination of roundabouts and minor leg stop controls along Starkey Road, along with a signal at Highway 37.

Overall, the feedback from both the engagement event and surveys shows a strong preference for roundabouts, with respondents seeing them as improving safety, slowing traffic, and maintaining traffic flow. Several people specifically said they like the existing roundabout at Starkey/Sturgeon Road and would support similar treatments elsewhere.



Main themes from the intersection treatment comments included:

- Roundabouts generally well supported
- Signals at Highway 37 were also commonly requested
- Strong desire for lower speeds and safer operations
- Desire to see consideration of pedestrians, farm equipment, and large vehicles
- Some concern that the proposed treatments are confusing or excessive
- Some respondents want the existing Highway 37 connection maintained or improved instead of closed

Several responses focused on traffic calming and speed reduction. Respondents asked for slower speeds, safer turning movements, and measures to reduce shortcutting residential areas through Estate Way Drive. Some also mentioned crosswalks, speed bumps, or other controls to improve pedestrian safety.

There was also concern noted about too many roundabouts. While many supported them in principle, a few respondents noted that additional roundabouts along Starkey Road may be excessive, confusing, or too restrictive, especially for larger farm equipment and wide loads.

Another common theme was support for traffic signals at Highway 37, particularly at the Range Road 252 connection. Some respondents felt signals should be installed earlier rather than deferred, while others suggested that an interim roundabout on Highway 37 could be a better solution. One respondent preferred a grade separated interchange at Highway 37.

Some respondents did not support the proposed intersection treatments as they disagreed with the broader road realignment concept. In those cases, some respondents opposed removing the existing Starkey Road connection to Highway 37 and suggested keeping or improving the existing Highway 37 and Starkey Road intersection or waiting until the Province confirms the long-term Highway 37 plan.

Project Timeline

The project timeline includes:

- Identify Recommended Plan and Complete Staging Analysis: Spring / Summer 2026
- Recommended Plan Presentation to Council: Summer 2026
- Study Finalization: Summer / Fall 2026

Next Steps

Collected feedback will be utilized to identify a recommended plan and staging strategy, which will be presented to Council and shared on the study engagement website. Implementation of improvements will occur in the future as warranted based on traffic volumes and operational consideration.

For the latest information, visit <https://engage.sturgeoncounty.ca/starkey-road-functional-planning-study>



Sturgeon

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