

# Nanaimo Avenue Bridge Engagement Results



# Summary of Engagement (Jan. 6-31)

## Responses

244



\*9 people filled the form out twice

Resident Letters  
350



## Shapeyourcitypentiction.ca

- Email (4,800~ recipients)
- Most downloaded: Q&A, Pentiction Creek Master Plan & Letter to Residents

## Newspaper Ads

- Pentiction Herald
- Pentiction Western



## Nanaimo Avenue Bridge Flood prevention and creek restoration

Nanaimo Avenue Bridge above Pentiction Creek has been identified for posing a flood risk. The bridge, at Nanaimo Avenue East and Van Horne Street, is also nearing the end of its lifespan. As part of the City's ongoing commitment toward flood protection, the bridge must be removed to begin excavating the creek bed. Not only will this work prevent flooding and protect nearby properties, but repairs offer an opportunity to restore the creek's health and habitat. The City is considering options to naturalize the area. This Q&A provides more information about the project. You're invited to provide feedback at [shapeyourcitypentiction.ca/nanaimobridge](https://shapeyourcitypentiction.ca/nanaimobridge) before January 31, 2021.



### Why does the bridge need to be removed?

Studies have determined that the bridge poses a flood risk due to constricted capacity of the creek channel. During high water flows, there is insufficient clearance for water and debris to pass under the bridge, putting Pentiction Creek at risk of overflowing its banks.

In 2017, the City commissioned a study, the Pentiction Creek Master Plan, to examine the health of Pentiction Creek, which identified Nanaimo Avenue Bridge as having limited clearance.

A structural engineer has confirmed that the existing bridge is approaching the end of its useful life, and if it were to remain, it would have required substantial repairs and upgrades.

The City needs to remove Nanaimo Avenue Bridge to begin excavating and restoring the creek's natural habitat.

### Where is Nanaimo Avenue Bridge?

The bridge is above Pentiction Creek, located near the intersection of Nanaimo Avenue East and Van Horne Street.

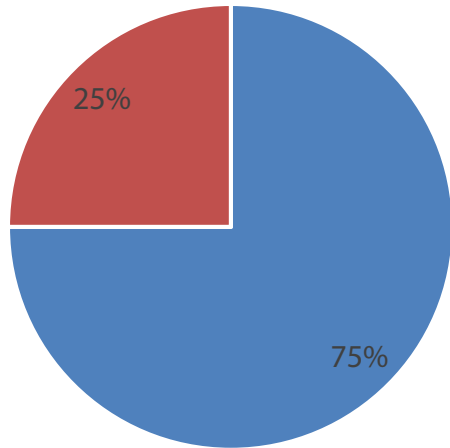


### Will the bridge be replaced?

The City has confirmed that Nanaimo Avenue Bridge does not fulfill a transportation network requirement. The plan is to remove it and continue the naturalized creek channel, which facilitates better hydraulic efficiency for the creek flows. The City would like to hear your thoughts and suggestions involving alternative options to restore and naturalize the area.

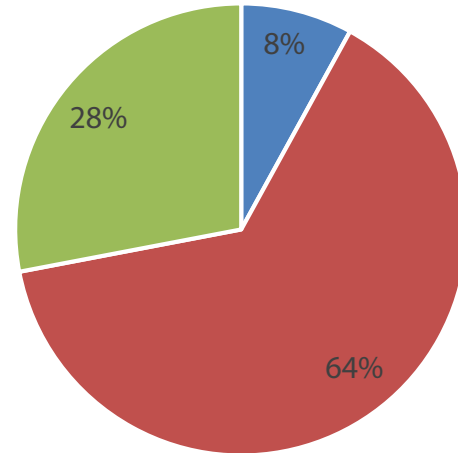


## Do you live in the neighbourhood (walking/riding distance) of Nanaimo Avenue Bridge?



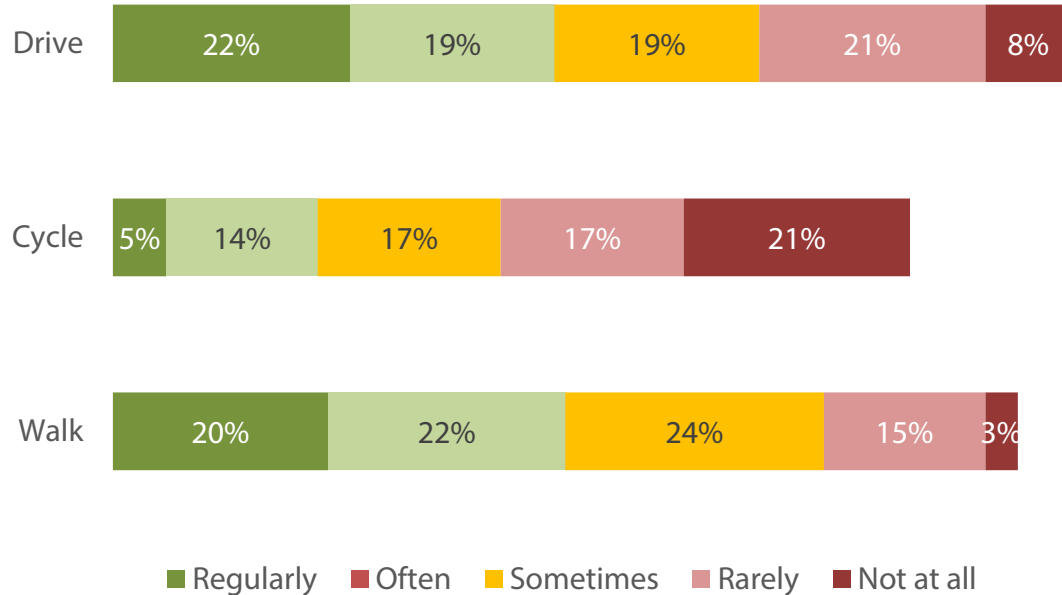
■ Yes ■ No

## How aware are you of the Penticton Creek Master Plan and the need to restore protection ...?



■ Not at all ■ Somewhat ■ Very

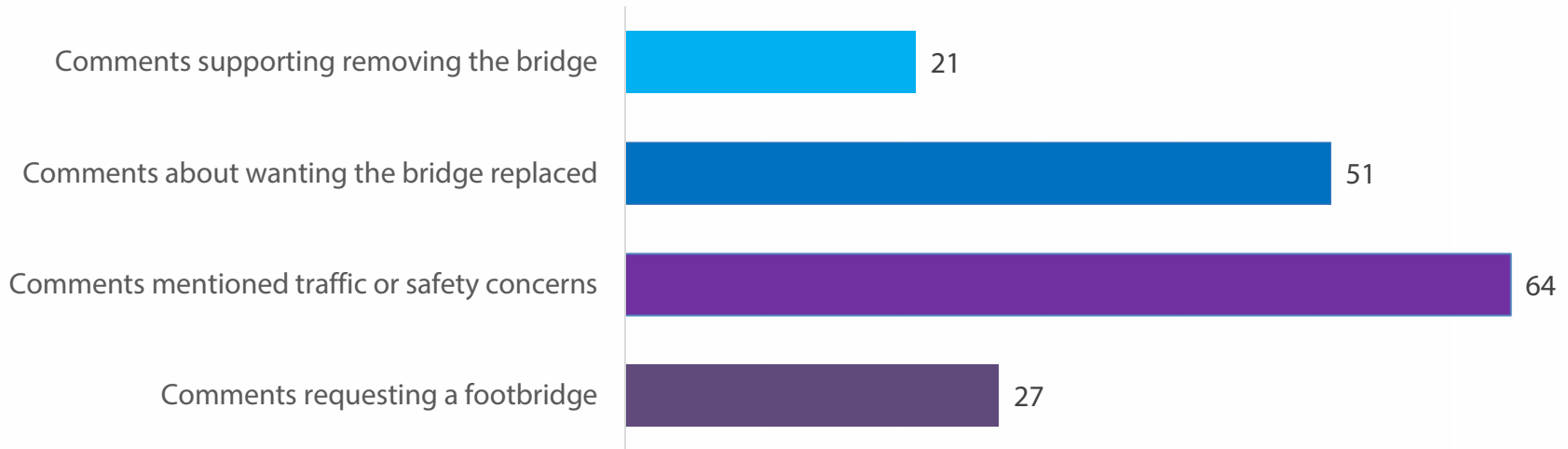
# How often do you use the Nanaimo Street Bridge?



- Heavily used by half of respondents for driving and walking
- Greatest use by walkers

# An independent engineer and the Fire Department determined emergency access and connectivity will continue to be acceptable with the removal of the bridge. Do you have any comments?

165 Total Responses



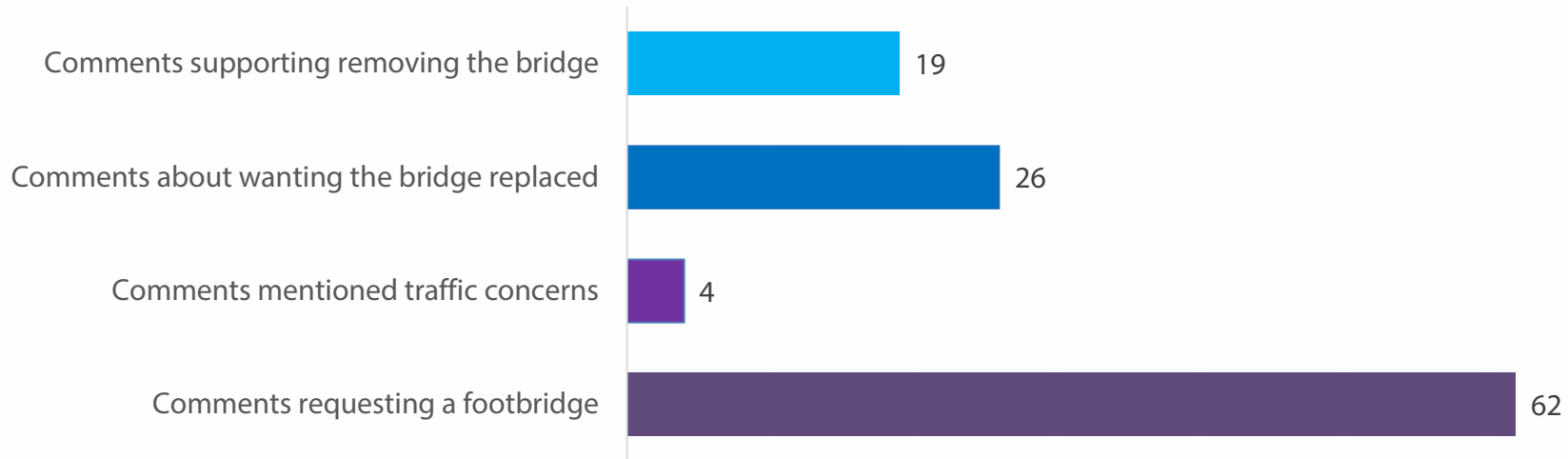
# Comments related to safety / connectivity

- This will greatly impact those who live east of the bridge when driving... It will mean left turns onto very busy streets (Pickering, Haven Hill, Abbott)
- It is a bus route that many people use, bridge should not be removed.
- Won't there be a ton of new traffic through this area with all the new building?
- Removing this bridge will force pedestrians and cyclists onto the busier nearby streets. At least, please, consider putting in a pedestrian and/or cycling bridge.
- Was timing of study appropriate during pandemic
- It is important to keep pedestrian connectivity throughout the downtown area.
- So many seniors in this area use the bridge with their walkers or scooters.
- More housing is planned for this area east of Ellis
- As a cyclist I think the intersection of the bridge and road and creek pathway will be safer with the bridge removed since no cars will be crossing the path at that point.



# As part of the plan to remove the bridge, the City will be considering options to restore and naturalize the area. Do you have any suggestions for this work?

171 Total Responses



# Comments about naturalizing the area

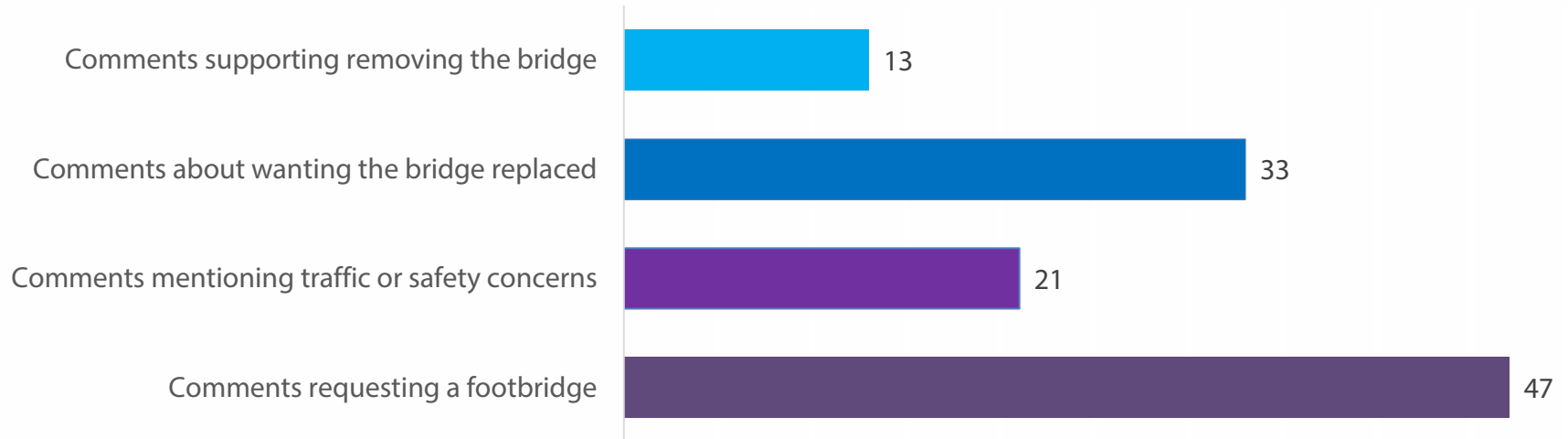
- The City is doing a good job on the creek restoration and naturalization and should continue to do this, but it need not be done at the expense of neighbourhood connectivity.
- Put it back the way it was before the bridge, reintroduce native fish species.
- Green space or a square either side would be nice. A walking foot bridge like those on the KVR would be amazing.
- Install a pedestrian and bike bridge. Then people can enjoy viewing the fish as well.
- I have a strong appreciation for the work already done to naturalize Penticton creek and the positive impact continued effort by the city this has and will have on fish stocks & other wildlife.
- Trees. Add lots and lots of trees. The pathway along the creek needs to be wider.
- There have been over 20 large douglas fir trees removed on this neighbourhood in the last couple years. The wildlife in this area NEEDs more shelter.





# Do you have any comments or suggestions for staff?

167 Total Responses



# General comments

- I highly recommend a walkable/cyclable bridge be built to support a "walkable city".
- The flow of traffic on Abbott/Westminster East has a dangerous corner caused by the hill. Vancouver Ave parking hinders sight lines for traffic turning left onto Vancouver Hill. I disagree with making this decision based on findings from a 2020 study of traffic volume and usage, conducted during COVID-19 when the city was overall far emptier than usual.
- We specifically chose this location for retirement because of its excellent walkability. Removal of the bridge would more than double our walking time to town, the bus route would need to be diverted and elderly folk or those with mobility issues would be negatively affected.
- Penticton creek has the potential to be a kayak play course if it were developed.
- Replacing the existing structure with a pedestrian and bike bridge over the creek in the current location would be an excellent improvement ... it could also be designed to serve as an observation platform for spawning kokanee as well as other wildlife.



# Key Findings

- Heard from a lot of people in the area
- Fairly good awareness of the Penticton Creek Master Plan
- Bridge heavily used by pedestrians as well as drivers
- Some acceptance to having it removed (about 10%)
- Need to understand bus route impacts (#3 and #16)
- Strong interest in having a footbridge/cycle path at a minimum (walk to downtown and markets / OCP)
- Consider a trial

