

Community Feedback

The City launched the Edsall Road & Yoakum Parkway project to create safer, more accessible streets for everyone—whether walking, cycling, driving, or using mobility assistance. To inform these improvements, the City first sought input from community members about their experiences on the corridor.

Flyers promoting the feedback opportunity were posted at bus stops, shared with community groups, and emailed to property managers, business owners, and other key stakeholders along the corridor.

SUMMARY

The community feedback form consisted of 6 questions. A total of 119 people submitted feedback via the online form. The form was prepared in English and Spanish. The full list of responses will be included as Appendix D in the Edsall Road Corridor Improvements Study Existing Conditions Report.

Question	Answered	Skipped
1) Which modes of transportation do you use in the project area?	119	0
2) Why do you typically travel on Edsall Road or Yoakum Parkway?	118	1
3) Please select any issues or challenges you experience on Edsall Road and Yoakum Parkway.	117	2
4) What do you like about Edsall Road?	77	42
5) What do you like about Yoakum Parkway?	81	38
6) Is there anything else you want to say about your experience here?	70	49

TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

Questions 1 and 2 asked the community what modes they use in the project area and why do they typically travel in the project area. These were multiple choice questions and participants were encouraged to select all that apply. The percentages are calculated over the total responses; therefore, the sum of these values is not 100%.

Question 1: Which modes of transportation do you use in the project area? Select all that apply.

Response	Number	Percentage
Drive (Car, truck, motorcycle, SUV, or passenger)	107	89.2%
Bus (DASH, Metrobus, Fairfax Connector, Shuttle)	45	37.82%
Walk	66	55.46%
Bicycle, e-bike, or scooter	25	21.01%
Wheelchair or other mobility-assist device	2	1.68%

Question 2: Why do you typically travel on Edsall Road or Yoakum Parkway? Select all that apply.

Response	Number	Percentage
I live or work near the project area.	93	78.81%
I travel through this area but do not stop.	18	15.25%
I use Edsall Road or Yoakum Parkway to access shops or restaurants.	68	57.63%
I use Edsall Road or Yoakum Parkway to get to nearby parks.	46	38.98%
I use Edsall Road or Yoakum Parkway to get to nearby schools.	6	5.08%
Other (please specify)	18	15.25%

The following quotes highlight some examples of other reasons people travel on Edsall Road and Yoakum Parkway.

- “I regularly use Edsall and Yoakum to visit friends”
- “I live nearby and go for walks just for enjoyment”
- “The bus to the metro!”
- “Walk along the sidewalks walking dogs along both roads”
- “I use these roads to get to 395. They are central to the West End of Alexandria.”

CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

Question 3 asked respondents about challenges and concerns they have as regular users of Edsall Road and Yoakum Parkway. It asked them to select all the concerns that apply to their experience, from a list. There was an opportunity to specify other concerns.

Question 3: Please select any issue or challenges you experience on Edsall Road and Yoakum Parkway. Select all that apply.

Response	Number	Percentage
It is difficult to cross the street at signalized intersections.	46	39.32%
It is difficult to cross the street at intersections without traffic signals.	45	38.46%
People drive too fast.	68	58.12%
There are too many traffic delays.	19	16.24%
It is difficult to access bus stops.	13	11.11%
The bus stops are not comfortable.	25	21.37%
The street is not accessible for people with disabilities.	19	16.24%
The traffic signals are not timed well for people driving.	28	23.93%
The traffic signals are not timed well for people walking or biking.	32	27.35%
There are no dedicated bicycle facilities	47	40.17%
None of the above	13	11.11%
Other (please specify)	36	30.77%

The following quotes, grouped by theme, highlight some examples of other challenges respondents identified for Edsall Road. For the full list of responses, see Appendix D.

Pedestrian Safety

One recurring theme is the difficulty of crossing the street at intersections. Respondents highlight speeding vehicles, poor signal timing for pedestrians, blind spots, as major concerns:

- "Drivers do not care about pedestrians. You have to have a death wish to walk very far in this neighborhood."
- "Too many blind spots and curves to sidewalks and roads. The trees are also not well maintained and hinder visibility."
- "Pedestrian crossing light crossing Van Dorn on Edsall is timed about 20 seconds too short. Even walking as fast as I can I cannot cross in time."

Traffic Delays

Many residents experience traffic delays, particularly at the intersection of Edsall Road and Van Dorn Street.

- “The Van Dorn X Edsall intersection always busy. Turning left from Edsall onto Northbound Van Dorn: often not enough time to make it within one light cycle. Probably need 2 turn lanes”

Limited Bus Accessibility

Accessing bus stops is challenging. Some bus stops lack comfort and accessibility features:

- "The reason I do not take the bus to this neighborhood is that there are almost no north / south buses in the City."
- “They need to put the bus stop back across the street on Edsall Rd (Southbound) returning from the metro stations for women walking that long path of Yoakum Parkway early morning/late evening in the dark.”

Lack of Bicycle Infrastructure

Without dedicated bicycle infrastructure, biking and other active transportation modes feel unsafe, resulting in people choosing other modes or routes.

- "There is no bike or scooter access path. You have to ride directly in front of or behind moving vehicles on Edsall Road and Yoakum Parkway."
- "Extremely dangerous to bike on these roads... the traffic lane width and traffic speed & density on these roads discourages bicyclists."

Poor Lighting and Visibility

Insufficient lighting, particularly on Yoakum Parkway, impacts safe nighttime travel.

- "The sidewalks are not very lit, and walking at night feels unsafe, especially on Yoakum Parkway when heading towards Stevenson."

EDSALL ROAD

Question 4 asked respondents “What do you like about Edsall Road?” Of the 119 respondents, 77 provided feedback to the open-ended question.

Generally, people who primarily drive appreciate the multiple lanes, convenient access to the highway, and connection to nearby roads. People also appreciate the landscaping and greenery, access businesses, and the presence of sidewalks.

- "Effective signals and traffic lanes mean there are few traffic delays."
- "It's 4 lanes, which helps with traffic coming off the highway"
- "Having 4 lanes to minimize traffic delays and a reasonable speed limit of 35"
- "I use it often to drive from Whiting to the highway, and I appreciate that it is a multilane road given all of the traffic."
- "Transportation access"
- "I like how close it is to so many smaller immigrant businesses. Also when there are less cars its actually quite pretty"
- Nice way to avoid Stevenson"
- "Attractively landscaped"
- "Access to so many other streets, areas, and businesses"
- "Convenient access to the highway, shopping and public transportation."

YOAKUM PARKWAY

Question 5 asked respondents "What do you like about Yoakum Parkway?" Of the 119 respondents, 81 provided feedback to the open-ended question.

Respondents value the wide median, park-like atmosphere with trees, and less traffic compared to Edsall Road.

- "I think it's one of the prettiest roads in the area."
- "I enjoy all of the trees along the street and the separated sidewalks. Having some space between the street and the sidewalks helps create a safer feeling pedestrian area. The tree coverage is very helpful in providing shade and makes the area feel much more welcoming and residential."
- "It has parking and traffic runs smoothly."
- "Not much. It at least has a sidewalk, but otherwise is hostile to any transit, bikes, or pedestrians. Basically anyone not in a personal car is treated as an afterthought."
- "It's a convenient Segway into Edsall road and while it is nicely maintained it feels dangerous to drive through due to the speeding and lack of pedestrian awareness"
- "The sidewalks that aren't curb tight and the street lights are fully Dark Sky compliant. The use of shark's teeth at crosswalks to indicate right of way."
- "I like living on the street because it's generally quiet and convenient access to get on the 395 going North or South or to take me on to van Dorn street to head east on the 495 to OTX."
- "It works very well currently and I do not believe it needs any upgrades. Parking is very well controlled so that there are unobstructed views of traffic from the multiple driveways."

OTHER THOUGHTS

Question 6 asked respondents “Is there anything else you want to say about your experiences here?” Of the 119 respondents, 70 provided feedback to the open-ended question.

Some common themes from the responses include concerns about pedestrian and bicycle safety, the lack of walkability, demand for dedicated bicycle infrastructure, calls for reduced speeding and traffic calming measures, and concerns about maintenance, upkeep, and cleanliness. There were several responses that indicated a general satisfaction with the current state of operations on Edsall Road and Yoakum Parkway and opposition to reduced roadway capacity.

Safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists

Many feel unsafe walking or biking in the area due to speeding vehicles, lack of dedicated bike infrastructure, and dangerous intersections.

- “Edsall in particular is hostile to anyone not in a motor vehicle.”
- “Hey!!! Why aren’t there any protect bike lanes in such a dangerous stretch of road?”
- “Better lighting on Edsall Rd and Yoakum Parkway. Better sidewalks. Put up no turn on red signs. Signs for no u-turns. Cameras or warning signs at dangerous intersections Edsall road is too bumpy tears up your car.”

Lack of walkability

Despite dense housing, the area lacks amenities within walking distance, and safe pedestrian crossings are limited.

- “Despite so much dense housing, the area isn’t very walkable. Few crossings, and few places to get safely and easily. Not very safe for bikes either.”
- “Would drive less if there is more frequent buses to and from Pentagon area mid-morning and early afternoon. More bike paths, consecutive sidewalks.”
- “WB Edsall to NB Van Dorn needs a ‘No Right Turn on Red’ as it is difficult if not impossible to see oncoming traffic. This is an intersection looking for a fatal accident and is easily preventable.”

Demand for dedicated bicycle infrastructure

Numerous respondents desire dedicated bike lanes or paths to improve safety and encourage cycling.

- “Wish there were dedicated bike facilities”

- “I support bold redesign to improve transit access, bicycle infrastructure, and pedestrian safety.”
- “Add more bike stations along Edsall and van dorn would be ideal”
- “I live in the west end and ride my bike whenever I can, but have never ridden on edsall or yoakum because they do not feel safe”

Calls for reduced speeding and traffic calming measures

Respondents suggest lower speed limits, speed bumps, or increased enforcement to address speeding.

- “We need a way to reduce speeding. Also, there are areas of the road that are constantly potholes and the lanes are very thin.”
- "Without speed bumps and with only one crosswalk with large light-up signage, Yoakum is extremely unsafe to even walk my dog. Yoakum is a poorly monitored straightaway that people race on daily and even local residents do not look up from their phones when speeding through its crosswalks. It is only a matter of time before either I or my wife are killed trying to take a walk."

Concerns about maintenance and upkeep

Trash, overgrown vegetation, potholes, and malfunctioning signals are among the issues raised.

- “Some of the areas on Yoakum are overgrown with weeds & tree branches overhang the sidewalk making it difficult to walk.”
- “It needs more trees, more maintenance, more lights give a clean and safe environment for the neighborhood.”
- “Ther are portions of sidewalk and real estate that are in desperate need of care and clean up”

Opposition to change

a subset of respondents believes the roads currently function well and are wary of significant alterations.

- “Would prefer posted speed limits do not change or else not go below 30 mph”
- “I oppose any plans to reduce capacity in an already severely congested West End.”
- “NO MORE BIKE LANES!”

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