



WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE OCTOBER NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT

*Customer Service and Engagement
OCTOBER 2023*



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We humbly acknowledge that the land on which we live, learn, work and play is Treaty 8 Territory, the traditional and ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene, and unceded territory of the Métis.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This report contains feedback that residents shared with facilitators at the October public engagement Neighbourhood Engagement Series in Abasand.

The Neighbourhood Engagement Series is an ongoing Municipal engagement series held in alternating urban neighborhoods on a regular basis. These sessions focus on building meaningful relationships by encouraging open and honest input and feedback from residents.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report shares feedback obtained from Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) residents during the October Neighbourhood Engagement Series held in Abasand. To address public safety and enforcement inquiries, this session was held in collaboration with representatives from Bylaw and RCMP.

PARTICIPANTS

English- and French- speaking residents from across the municipality attended this neighbourhood engagement. In addition to some Abasand residents, parents of École Boréale and Garderie Chez Madame Picolo students came to share their feedback.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- ✓ Social media posts, stories, and reels
- ✓ Facebook event
- ✓ Linked In event
- ✓ Electronic traffic signs
- ✓ Lawn signs
- ✓ Mac Calendar
- ✓ Email to public engagement newsletter subscribers
- ✓ [Rmwb.ca/participate](https://rmwb.ca/participate)
- ✓ Radio
- ✓ School newsletter
- ✓ School emails home

ENGAGEMENT TACTICS



- In-person open space meeting
- Online engagement portal with questions, FAQs, and ideas tools
- Community barbecue
- Dotmocracy



AWARE
40,973 times

people saw
communications and
advertisements.

INFORMED
214 times

people learned more
about these projects.

ENGAGED
53 times

people took action to
provide feedback on
these engagements.

KEY FINDINGS

Participants brought forward the following themes through conversations and online engagement tools.



PARKS & TRAILS



ROADS



TRANSIT

OVERVIEW



In-person engagement: We met in the foyer of École Boréale on October 25. This was a drop-in event featuring onsite subject matter experts, community barbecue and no formal presentation.



Online engagement: October 18 - 29, 2023.

Virtual option through online public engagement platform rmwb.ca/participate.

On October 25, the public engagement team met with neighbors from across Fort McMurray in Abasand at École Boréale for a community discussion. The session had 45 residents in attendance, with an additional eight participating online through the rmwb.ca/participate platform. Representatives from Bylaw and the RCMP were present to address safety and enforcement inquiries.

As the session took place at site of the Fort McMurray Francophone Association, French was the preferred language for residents to share their feedback and ask questions.

Throughout the gathering, the public engagement team shared information about ongoing construction projects, actively sought feedback on what mattered most to residents in their neighbourhood and asked for their perspectives on the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Residents were also asked about the soon-to-be-reconstructed skatepark in Abasand, specifically regarding their children's ages, experience levels and their preferred mobility devices (skateboard, bicycle, or scooter).

Participants took the opportunity to express their desire for the remaining portion of the Abasand perimeter trail to be paved, advocate for additional crosswalks in their community, and emphasize the importance of maintaining roads throughout the seasons.

WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT

- What matters most to you in your neighbourhood?
- [Solid Waste Management Plan](#)
To see the result of your feedback on the Solid Waste Master Plan, please [subscribe](#) to project page.
- Construction Notices in Abasand
- [Snow Angels](#)
- Abasand Skatepark re-build due to the Saunderson Pressure Reducing Station project.

WHAT WE HEARD

Thank you to all residents who participated and shared what is impacting you and your neighbourhoods. All the feedback from residents that is listed below has been shared with Council and the appropriate departments in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) for their review and consideration. The feedback below has been grouped by topic and includes information about some of the main points raised by residents.

PARKS

The parks team maintain municipal land and amenities. To explore the parks and trails maintained by the RMWB please visit our [parks and facilities](#) page.

Empty lots fall under municipal bylaw. You can visit the community standards webpage to read further on various bylaws that support maintaining property. If you wish to report a bylaw violation or request maintenance of municipal land, please call [Pulse](#) at 780-743-7000.

- **Can the remainder of the walking trail in Abasand be paved?** “Pave the walking trail all around Abasand, it is nice they paved the short section behind Arsenault, but can we get the rest done? It is horrible biking/pulling wagons/pushing strollers on the gravel.” (4 participants shared this view).
- **New amenity requests:**
 - “Pre-fire, we had some mountain biking trails in the region, and all have been destroyed. The city was supposed to rebuild some but nothing since. We really could use many more as it is a growing sport.”
 - An Abasand spray park
- **Maintenance and beautification:** With all the empty lots and roads with backyard fencing, there is so much overgrown grass. Can we have more lawn services, particularly on Abbostwood Drive?

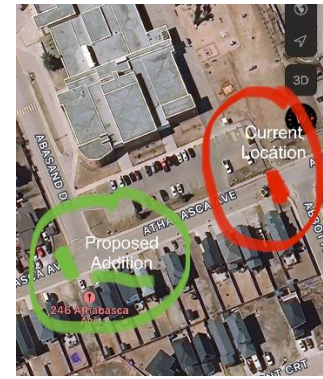
ROADS

Visit our webpage to learn more about [roads and construction](#) in the region.

- **Pothole repair:** Please fix the potholes in Abasand.
- **Residential speed reduction:** “I would like to see the residential speed limit reduced to 40km/h. This is already in place in [Edmonton](#), all the studies are already done.”



- **Please add crosswalks:** South side crosswalk - Father Beauregard
- **WMZ:** Residents expressed that they do not feel they should get a ticket if the plow fails to clear the road on scheduled day.
- **Abasand Hill:** Residents expressed their concern with the safety of the road through the winter months.



BYLAW & ENFORCEMENT

The [Municipal Government Act](#) allows the RMWB to create and enforce bylaws that address the safety, issues, and concerns of residents. All bylaws are passed by Regional Council. If you wish to report a bylaw violation, call Pulse at 780-743-7000.

If you would like to learn more about local bylaws, please visit [Bylaw and Animal Services](#).

- **Downtown crime:** Perception that downtown crime has increased. What can residents and business owners do?

TRANSIT

New transit route updates came into effect on December 1, 2023. Find your route using the Transit App or Google Maps. For full route maps and schedules, visit rmwb.ca/transit. Have a question about transit? Check out [our frequently asked questions](#).

- **Airport route:** How often does it go and where does it stop, or is it direct?
- **Routes:** Can we get more frequent routes coming to and from Abasand in between 8-10 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. This would be a great support for Abasand business work force.
- **Bus stop shelter maintenance:** Can the bus stop shelter at Acacia Dr. receive maintenance?

NEXT STEPS

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo would like to thank participants for their valuable input. Engagement findings will be shared with the public, Administration and Council. The Neighborhood Engagement Series will continue with visits to communities throughout the year. Want to be among the first to know when we are coming to your neighbourhood? Subscribe to our newsletter at rmwb.ca/participate.

Still have questions or concerns? You can reach out to the public engagement team directly at participate@rmwb.ca or submit a Pulse inquiry at rmwb.ca/pulse. Pulse inquiries are tracked and sent to the team members that can support you with answers, explain process and request maintenance.

We encourage you to continue using your voice to make our region even better by learning about all current projects. Visit participate.rmwb.ca to stay connected. Thank you for participating!



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