

# Takhini Neighbourhood Engagement Report 2026

*Conducted from February 26, 2026, through April 4, 2026, by the  
Takhini Neighbourhood Association*

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# Executive Summary

## Priority areas

Two priority areas remain paramount to members of the Takhini Neighbourhood Association who responded to the neighbourhood engagement.

**1. Green space**

Protection of McIntyre Creek, local parks, and trail systems continues to be a defining priority for Takhini members. Respondents remain deeply opposed to any development, road construction, or institutional facility that would diminish or fragment the neighbourhood’s green spaces. Protection of these natural areas is understood as essential for recreation, mental health, wildlife habitat, and community wellbeing. Concern about the possible relocation of École Whitehorse Elementary School to green space in Takhini is prominent, with a strong majority of respondents preferring the school remain downtown or be built at the Valleyview site.

**2. Traffic**

Traffic on Range Road has grown to nearly equal green space as the top community concern, with 32% of respondents identifying it as their most important issue in 2026, compared to 25% in both 2024 and 2025. Speeding, congestion, and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists are major concerns. The prospect of a second school on Range Road, combined with new multi-level residential construction and continued Whistle Bend traffic growth, has intensified calls for traffic calming, improved pedestrian crossings, and a long-term infrastructure strategy before any further development proceeds.

## Priority issues

The 2026 engagement identified four priority issues consistent with the past two years, with some notable shifts in emphasis. Green space protection and traffic remain the two dominant areas of concern. The possible relocation of École Whitehorse Elementary School is now framed explicitly as a site-selection issue, with a new survey question asking respondents which location they prefer. A new development concern has also emerged: the construction of multi-level residential buildings on Range Road.

**1. Protection of Green Space, Trails, and McIntyre Creek**

Protecting green space and trails remains the top community issue, identified as first choice by 33% of respondents. A further 20% identified it as their second choice. Opposition to any road through green space and to the relocation of the school onto green space is strong. Respondents want formal protection of McIntyre Creek and its watershed, better trail management, and stricter enforcement against motorized vehicle use in green spaces.

**2. Traffic Congestion, Speed Control, and Road Safety**

Traffic on Range Road was identified as first choice by 32% of respondents, a

significant increase from 25% in 2024 and 2025. Speeding, congestion at the Two-Mile Hill intersection, and unsafe conditions for cyclists and pedestrians are the main concerns. Respondents are increasingly alarmed that further development, particularly a second school and new residential density on Range Road, will make an already dangerous corridor unmanageable.

### **3. School Site Selection and Community Consultation**

The 2026 survey included a new question asking which site respondents prefer for the new École Whitehorse Elementary School. A clear majority, 57%, prefer the downtown location. A further 27% support the Valleyview site across from the CGC. Only 8% support the Takhini quarry and green space site. Respondents are firm that any new school should not be built on Takhini green space, and many emphasize the importance of keeping a downtown school to serve families in the city core.

### **4. Neighbourhood Amenities, Active Transportation, and Community Building**

Respondents continue to call for investment in day-to-day neighbourhood quality of life. This includes safer biking infrastructure along Range Road, upgraded playgrounds such as Bumblebee Park, better snow clearing on sidewalks and trails, and more community events to build social connection. Recreational and community facilities ranked as the second choice of 15% of respondents, a rise from prior years, suggesting growing appetite for investment in community amenity.

## **Recommended actions**

Based on the above priority areas and issues, it is recommended that the Takhini Neighbourhood Association Board of Directors act in the following manner:

### **Advocate for the downtown location for École Whitehorse Elementary School**

A strong majority of respondents prefer a downtown school. The Association should formally communicate this preference to the Government of Yukon and advocate against any siting that would require clearing green space in Takhini.

### **Advocate for formal protection of McIntyre Creek and neighbourhood green spaces**

The Association should continue pushing for formal zoning, conservation status, and trail protection for McIntyre Creek and surrounding green belts. It should actively oppose any proposed road through these spaces and press for the pumphouse road lands to be included in the proposed park boundaries.

### **Advocate for traffic calming and road safety improvements on Range Road**

With traffic concern now nearly matching green space as the top community issue, the Association should urgently lobby the City of Whitehorse for traffic calming measures, improved pedestrian crossings, and dedicated cycling infrastructure on Range Road, particularly at the Two-Mile Hill intersection. Any further development on or adjacent to Range Road should be contingent on a comprehensive traffic impact study.

### **Engage on new multi-level residential development on Range Road**

This is a new concern identified in the 2026 engagement. The Association should seek information from the City of Whitehorse on any proposed multi-level residential projects

on Range Road, assess their traffic and parking implications, and ensure community members are consulted early in any planning process.

### **Support upgrades to neighbourhood amenities and foster community building**

The Association should apply for grants to upgrade Bumblebee Park and other neighbourhood facilities, improve trail maintenance, and organize community events that strengthen social connections across Takhini.

### **About the survey**

An online survey based on established community issues was conducted from February 26, 2026, through April 4, 2026.

60 people completed the online survey, representing approximately 30% of association membership. As of September 2023, there were approximately 1,115 adult residents in Takhini according to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

## **Green space**

Protection of green space was the predominant priority identified by participating members. 33% of survey respondents identified it as the most important community issue, compared to 38% in 2025 and 34% in 2024. A further 20% identified it as their second choice.

Abuse of green space was identified by 13% of respondents as the most important community issue (down from 18% in 2024 and 2025), with a further 20% identifying it as their second choice.

McIntyre Creek Park remained the most important development issue to respondents, with 18% identifying it as their first choice and 10% as their second. The second-most important development issue was the possible relocation of École Whitehorse Elementary School to Takhini green space, identified as first choice by 22% of respondents and second choice by a further 15%. The possible road through green space from the Alaska Highway to either Whistle Bend or Range Road was the third-ranked development issue overall.

The existing green space in and around Takhini remains a defining feature of the neighbourhood. It is well loved, well used and unique in Whitehorse. Participating members voiced concerns about many threats to it, including the proposed school relocation, a possible new road, and new multi-level residential construction. They expressed continued disappointment in the misuse of green spaces by motor vehicles and the lack of bylaw enforcement.

## **Related issues**

- The establishment of a McIntyre Creek park is viewed as critical to protecting the green space. There was general agreement that the entire watershed should be protected, which would require that lands around the pumphouse road be added to the proposed park.
- Any road through the green space was strongly opposed by the majority of participants, though a small number felt that a connector road could reduce pressure on Range Road.
- The proposed relocation of École Whitehorse Elementary School to the Takhini quarry and green space site is widely seen as a threat to the neighbourhood's green space. Respondents strongly prefer that the school be located downtown or at the Valleyview site.

## **Selected comments**

- *"I think the most important issue for the community is maintaining the green space around us, protecting the environment and promoting safe active living options."*
- *"The protection of the creek and its wildlife habitat is central to many other issues around our neighbourhood."*
- *"Green space preservation is the critical issue for our neighborhood."*

- *“Our green spaces should not be the victim of poor city/YG planning. The trend in Whitehorse seems to be leaning toward the easier way (clearing trees) and not the long-term vision.”*
- *“I really don’t want a road through the green space.”*
- *“The green space around Takhini is easy to access and impressive, and I walk in it every day. I would like to see it protected better; there should not, for example, be snowmobiles or ATVs used in these spaces.”*
- *“I just really hate when people take vehicles through the green space. Had to jump out of the way of a four wheeler that was going way too fast.”*
- *“There is nothing more important to the value of this neighbourhood than preserving McIntyre Creek Park.”*

## **École Whitehorse Elementary School site**

For the first time, the 2026 engagement included a dedicated question asking respondents which location they believe would be best for the new École Whitehorse Elementary School. Of the 59 respondents who answered the question, 34 (57%) identified the downtown location as their preference. Sixteen respondents (27%) supported the Valleyview site across from the Canada Games Centre. Only five respondents (8%) supported the Takhini quarry and green space site.

The result is consistent with the concerns expressed about green space and traffic in prior years. Respondents who prefer the downtown location frequently cite the importance of keeping a school in the city core to serve downtown and Riverdale families, to support urban densification, and to avoid adding school traffic to an already-strained Range Road. Respondents who favour the Valleyview site note its proximity to the Canada Games Centre and ski trails and its relative distance from the Range Road corridor. Those who remain open to any site often emphasize that community consultation must happen before any final decision is made.

### **Selected comments**

- *“YG’s pre-selection of possible WES relocation sites ignores previous consultations indicating that a downtown elementary school is needed and wanted, especially by downtown residents. The two new sites proposed will also only decrease access for pedestrians and cyclists, meaning more buses, less community involvement.”*
- *“The newly proposed school site near the pump house is on supposedly protected park land so it should not be allowed to proceed. A downtown elementary school is needed downtown so families are encouraged to live there without having to bus local kids out of the core.”*
- *“We do not need roads or schools off the Alaska Highway. The traffic noise from the highway is deafening. WES should remain downtown.”*
- *“The new school and the proposed road pose the biggest threats to the loss of our green space.”*

- *“A downtown school gives a place for community activities and has so many other benefits.”*

## **Traffic**

Traffic on Range Road has become the near-equal of green space as the top community concern in 2026. 32% of respondents identified it as the most important community issue, a significant rise from 25% in both 2024 and 2025. A further 8% identified it as their second choice.

The Range Road and Two-Mile Hill intersection was the second-most important development issue, identified as first choice by 17% of respondents and second choice by a further 23%. The possible relocation of École Whitehorse Elementary School was the most important development issue overall, with its traffic implications cited frequently as a core concern.

Range Road bisects the Takhini neighbourhood and carries a volume of traffic that respondents consistently describe as unmanageable. Speeding throughout the day and night, extreme congestion during morning and evening commutes, and dangerous conditions for cyclists and pedestrians are the main concerns. New multi-level residential construction on Range Road has emerged as an additional traffic concern in 2026, with respondents worried that increased density will further compound existing problems without corresponding infrastructure investment.

## **Related issues**

- The establishment of a second school on Range Road would exacerbate risks to students at both schools and to residents in general, with an increase in traffic along Range Road and at the Two-Mile Hill intersection. A comprehensive traffic study is needed before any final school siting decision is made.
- New multi-level residential construction near the intersection of Range Road and Rhine Way has emerged as a fresh concern in 2026. Respondents worry about increased parking demand on Range Road and the cumulative effect of further density without infrastructure improvements.

## **Selected comments**

- *“We already have major traffic issues without a second school and new multi-level building construction on Range Road. It often takes five lights to get to Two Mile Hill trying to head downtown. There will need to be serious reconfiguration of Range Road access if the multi-level buildings go up near Two Mile Hill.”*
- *“Range Road already has issues with increased traffic and adding another school and more housing will only make it worse for pedestrians.”*
- *“More and more traffic along with large equipment using Range Road as a short cut to Porter Creek and Whistle Bend is making it more dangerous for community members to safely access trails and recreation facilities in Takhini.”*

- *“I have had a few high-conflict interactions with motorized vehicles in Takhini. Traffic and safety are my top concern. My daughter and partner cycle to work and preschool every day all year round. Safety is getting worse every month.”*
- *“Lots of speeding on Range Road especially in the summer and cars doing doughnuts in the Takhini parking lot in the early hours of the morning.”*
- *“Traffic monitoring and enforcement, especially during prime hours, does not seem to be a priority.”*

## **Other issues**

Many other issues were identified but ranked at a much lower level of priority by participating members. These included:

- Safe pedestrian and cycling access to Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre across the Alaska Highway (17% of respondents ranked this second or higher as a development issue, a notable rise from prior years)
- Alaska Highway multi-use trail (a new development issue in 2026; some respondents favour the plan while others question the cost)
- Sound barrier on Alaska Highway
- Crime
- Snow removal (including specific concerns about lane access in alleys)
- Community events (block parties, neighbourhood yard sales)
- Pet annoyances (dogs off leash, dog poop, roaming cats)
- Waste removal
- Recreational and community facilities, including the need to restore and upgrade Bumblebee Park

## **Selected comments**

- *“I can’t believe the number of pet owners who do not pick up after their dogs. They even let them poop in other people’s driveways. Or they toss the poop bags into trees.”*
- *“Please tell people to pick up after their dogs. Putting the poop in a bag and leaving it on the trail is not picking it up!”*
- *“The crime waves are ridiculous and appear to be tied to the drug trade and gangs. There needs to be much more work done by the RCMP.”*
- *“Snow removal is needed for the alley ways behind Antwerp and Cassino/Arnheim. We had to hire a snow removal crew privately because there was no room for us to put snow to allow our cars to get in and out of our driveways.”*
- *“A focus on strengthening the Takhini community seems like a prerequisite for advocacy campaigns. Block parties, barbecues, or other events would help us all get to know each other!”*

## **Communication**

The survey asked respondents how they would like to receive information from the association. 93% indicated that email was their first choice, a slight decrease from 97% in prior years. No-one chose Facebook as their first choice; 28% of respondents identified it as a second choice. The association website was identified as a second choice by 57% of respondents, a notable increase that suggests the website is becoming a valued communication channel.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Takhini Neighbourhood Association would like to acknowledge the privilege all respondents enjoy in living on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

We would like to acknowledge and give thanks for the assistance provided to this study by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics in assessing our neighbourhood demographics.

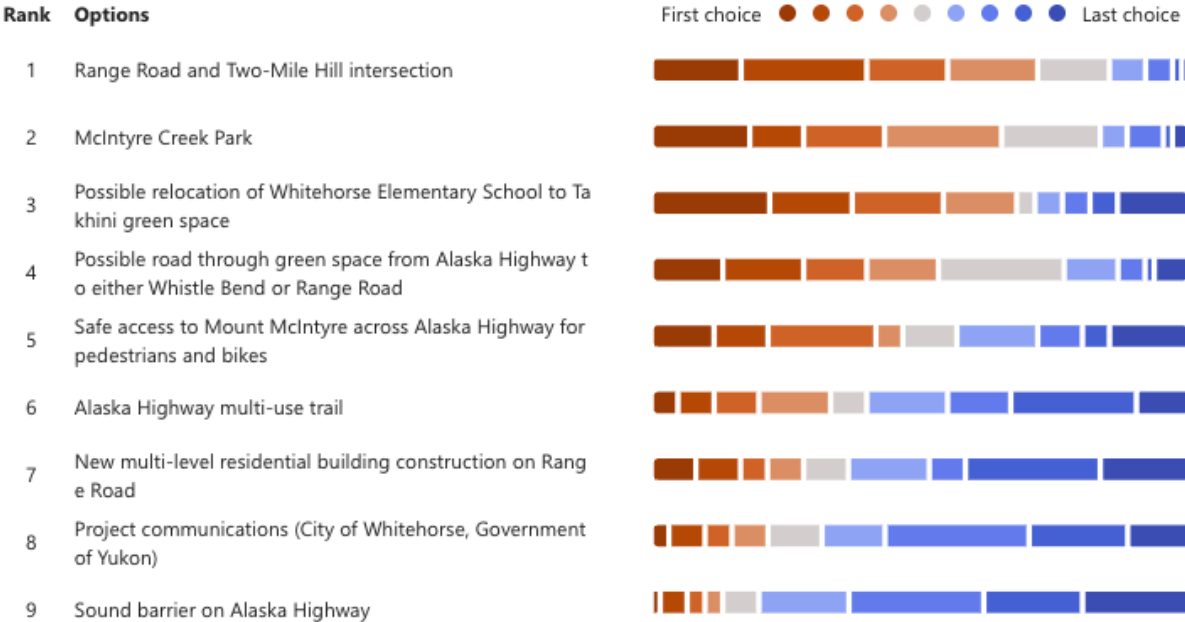
Finally, thank-you to all Takhini respondents who took the time to participate in the engagement sessions and complete the survey.

# Data tables

The following are data tables produced through the conduct of the survey.

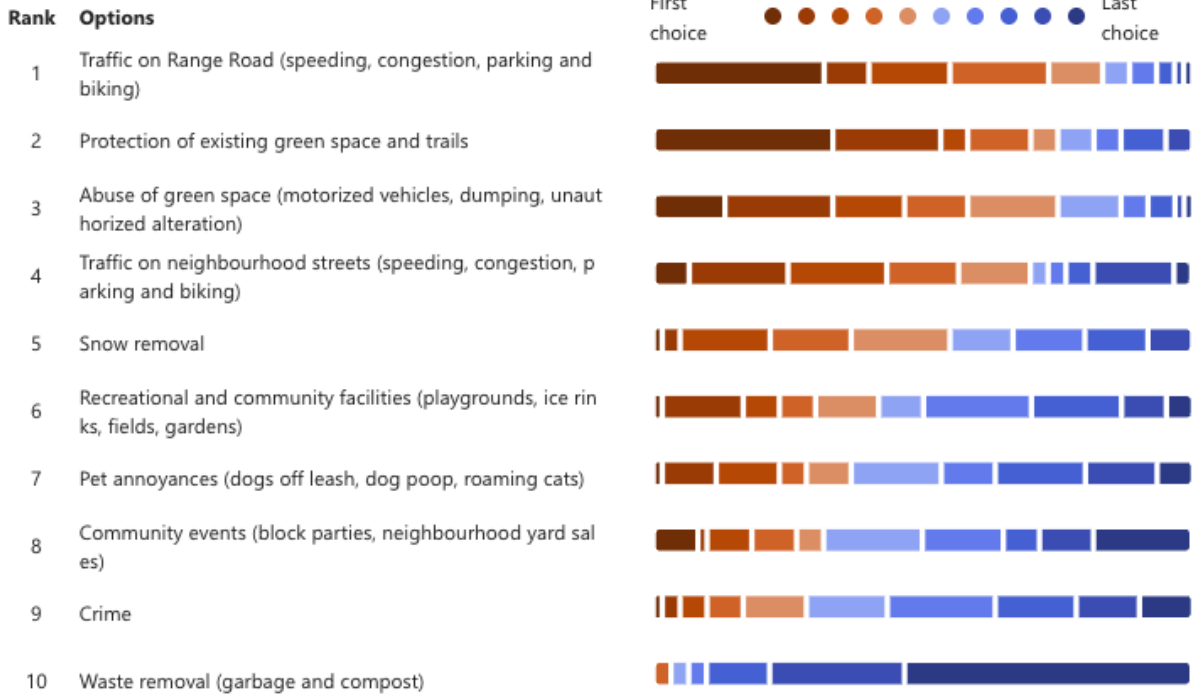
The following is a list of development issues identified by members. Drag items to sort the list into the order of importance to you.

60 Responses



The following is a list of community issues identified by members. Drag items to sort the list into the order of importance to you.

60 Responses



How would you like to receive information from the association? Drag items to sort the list below to indicate your most to least preferred options.

60 Responses

