

Calgary to get tally on cost of taking over Deerfoot Trail

BY KIM GUTTORMSON, CALGARY HERALD MARCH 8, 2010



Cars travel along Deerfoot Trail in the archive picture. A 220-kilometre network of high-occupancy-vehicle lanes through-out Calgary is being proposed to drop the number of vehicles going into downtown.

Photograph by: Calgary Herald Archive, Calgary Herald Archive

CALGARY - Council will get an idea in November of what it would cost them to take back responsibility for Deerfoot Trail.

“We want to know the full potential of operating and capital impacts if a transfer happens back to the City of Calgary,” said Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart, who requested the risk report with Ald. Gord Lowe.

The province has said that in the future, possibly mid-decade, it would like to return control of the highway to the City of Calgary.

A handover would likely come sometime after further Stoney Trail extensions provide a north-south bypass.

While some aldermen wondered if it was too soon to get the information, Colley-Urquhart said it's better to be prepared.

“There's a significant amount of money at stake,” she said, adding the province could always change its mind about the date. “We have to be very proactive around this.”

The province has been responsible for the 50 kilometres of Deerfoot Trail for 10 years, covering the

cost of snow clearing, safety upgrades and repaving.

Snow clearing and maintenance is said to run up to \$8 million a year, which is almost equal to a one per cent tax property tax increase.

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