

Ring road plan praised

Provincial byelection contenders support city's idea for Glenmore Tr. and 37 St. S.W. interchange

By DAVE DORMER, SUN MEDIA

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Without any apparent backup plan of its own, the provincial government should be supporting Calgary's efforts to get construction started on an interchange at Glenmore Tr. and 37 St. S.W., say two of the candidates running in the coming byelection.

Mayor Dave Bronconnier said he expects a report will be presented to council at the Sept. 14 meeting, recommending work begin on making turning easier at the busy 37 St. S.W. intersection this spring, but no decision has been made on funding from the provincial government.

The need to find a route for the southwest portion of the ring road was made even more urgent when the Tsuu T'ina First Nation voted to turn down a deal that would have seen a section run through their traditional territory, said Calgary-Glenmore Liberal candidate Avalon Roberts, and she's been hearing just that while door knocking over the last few days.

"As I understand it, the city does have a Plan B, and we haven't heard anything from the province about Plan B, which is kind of interesting when you negotiate for years and don't have a thought about what we're going to do if it doesn't work out."

Wildrose Alliance Leader Paul Hinman said the lack of a Plan B from the province is just another misstep by the ruling Conservatives.

"There's no question we failed at Plan A, so Plan B is we have to go down 37 St. and develop it and get it done."

Hinman said he would like to see the funding formula reworked so cities don't have to go to the province for every major project.

"We need to change the formula so a percentage of the personal and corporate tax that leaves a jurisdiction comes back," he said.

Conservative candidate Diane Colley-Urquhart was not available for comment.

Eric Carpendale is running for the NDP and Len Skowronski for the Social Credit.

Voters go to the polls on Sept. 14.

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