

Council approves work on 37 St.

By RENATO GANDIA, SUN MEDIA

Last Updated: 15th September 2009, 3:09am

City council has unanimously approved the concept plan for an interchange that will help ease traffic headaches at a clogged southwest intersection.

City politicians gave the go-ahead to a \$40-million interchange at Glenmore Tr. and 37 St. S.W., a project slated to begin construction next year which leaves options open to connect it to a future southwest ring road.

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart and Ald. Jim Stevenson were absent from the council meeting and were not able to vote.

When the Tsuu T'ina Nation rejected a deal to sell reserve land to the province for a ring road just west of 37 St., the city vowed to find solutions to the congested section of Glenmore Tr.

Ald. Brian Pincott said the clogged intersection has been a failure for a long time.

"Let's get on with it, enough waiting, enough talking," he told his colleagues.

"It is a bottleneck not just for the residents in the area, but it's a bottleneck for a lot of people to the west of the city."

Yesterday, construction crews began building a much-needed traffic circle just south of the busy intersection.

The traffic circle should take three or four weeks to be built, while the approved interchange should be done within two years.

Mayor Dave Bronconnier said the city is working with Alberta Transportation about the city's plans.

Proposed future improvements in the area include: Widening Glenmore Tr. to six lanes from Sarcee Tr. to east of Crowchild Tr.; an interchange at Glenmore Tr. and Richard Rd; extending 37 St. from Hwy. 22X to 146 Ave. S.W. in consultation with Alberta Transportation; and widening 14 St. from 90 Ave. to Anderson Rd.

RENATO.GANDIA@SUNMEDIA.CA