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Deerfoot safety targeted

By [SHAWN LOGAN](#), SUN MEDIA

Reduced speed limits, the introduction of car pool lanes and signals to control interchange traffic entering Deerfoot Tr. are all being considered as ways to make the busy thoroughfare safer, a city committee heard yesterday.

The land use, planning and transportation committee was given its first look at an ongoing safety study on the 50-km stretch of road, which accommodates 220,000 vehicles daily and is seeing the number of collisions increase along with traffic volumes.



Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart, who along with Ald. Andre Chabot called for the review, said she's pleased to see some previously difficult to come by information on the provincially operated highway made available.

"It was just like being on a witch hunt trying to find information before -- now we've finally got the partners all at the table co-operating in one place," she said. "We're going to see where we can fix things and how much it's going to cost."

The report marks the first phase of the safety audit, a joint study by the city and province, and details some of the most accident-prone interchanges and the primary contributing factors to collisions.

The report also discusses potential solutions, including lowering the speed limit to 80 km/h, putting in car pool and truck lanes, putting tow trucks on standby to clear collisions and making use of photo radar on bridges.

"There's a myriad of improvements that could be done and that's what Phase 2 is all about," said Troy McLeod, the city's manager of traffic engineering.