

Diane as Deputy Mayor getting into the Olympic Spirit at Canada Olympic Park for the running of the torch



Stand-by Tow Trucks making a difference - Having an organized and effective team of tow trucks on stand-by along major commuting routes is a practice I have been pushing for a number of years. An initial pilot project was completed in 2005 and was a great success, saving up to 30 minutes in response time per crash. Despite the success of the pilot, the program was shelved until last year when I brought it again to the forefront. In October of 2009, I brought forward a Notice of Motion asking City Administration to

revisit this successful practice and create a report on implementing a permanent stand-by tow truck service. The report came back in December and the program was launched in February. The hotspots identified by the transportation department were: Crowchild Tr. as it crosses the Bow River; Memorial Dr. between Deerfoot and Edmonton Tr.; Macleod Tr. between 162 Ave. and Anderson; and Glenmore Tr. between Crowchild and 14 St. S.W.

The tow trucks are placed strategically along the major routes with the mandate of removing vehicles from the way of traffic and taking them to a nearby safe area where the owners can wait for their own towing company to come and take them to a shop.

The small fleet of stand-by trucks have already made a major difference to commute times. In the first five days of operation, the new fleet cleared 55 traffic-blocking vehicles off Deerfoot, Crowchild and Glenmore, preventing serious traffic back-ups and jams.

Bus Rapid Transit Network Plan

Commuting to and from downtown is something we all have to live with and can be especially frustrating for those far removed from a C-train line. The costs of new LRT lines are substantial and require many years of development and construction. With this in mind I brought forward a motion asking for a review of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Calgary and the creation of a comprehensive network plan for the entire city.

BRT is a distinctive, frequent, and limited stop bus service, similar to LRT. The current bus routes (301,302,305) operate on regular roads with transit priority at traffic signals and other enhanced service features such as improved passenger waiting areas and larger shelters at some stops.

My motion, which passed unanimously, asked that City Administration prepare an implementation plan for BRT examining a range of options for better service including the possibility of creating bus-only roads similar to the City of Ottawa in advance of future LRT lines. These 'Transitways' would not be removing current roads, but rather would be on land designated for future LRT lines.

City of Calgary Telework Week Coming Soon

The week of April 19-23rd will be Calgary's first annual Telework Week thanks to my motion in Council which passed unanimously. Calgary's Telework Week will be the first of its kind in Canada and will actively promote telecommuting as a flexible work alternative.

Evergreen Traffic Signal

The intersection of Fish Creek Boulevard and Everridge Drive/Evercreek Bluffs will finally be getting a traffic signal this year. Traffic Operations is unable to give a precise date of installation but have said they plan to have the signal installed in the first half of this year.

As always, you can contact my office regarding this or any other civic matter at 403-268-1624, or by email at dcolley@calgary.ca.