



June 2005 Newsletter

**Alderman
Diane Colley-Urquhart**

DRIVER BEWARE!

Thanks to funding from both Federal and Provincial governments, the City of Calgary is able to move forward a number of priority infrastructure road projects that were identified in the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Project list approved by Council. Residents of Ward 13 are too familiar with road construction, detours, and delays as we completed a number of major road projects last year. The going has been tough for the past few summers as you maneuvered through endless miles of road construction and I would like to thank you all for your patience. Most of the roadwork and LRT construction has been completed and are finally realizing the benefits.

Over \$500 million of overdue major roadwork projects are scheduled to begin this season throughout the city. Numerous road upgrades within communities are also planned, as well as underground water and sewer projects that will contribute to a slow commute for the coming months. Included in the list of major projects are:

- Glenmore Trail/Elbow Drive/5th Street Interchange, 2005 – 2007
- Glenmore Trail widening – Macleod Trail to Crowchild Trail, including Causeway upgrading, 2005 – 2008
- Highway 22X widening – Macleod Trail to Bow River Twinning, 2005
- Bow Trail SW widening – 33rd Street to Strathcona Blvd., 2005 – 2006
- McKnight Blvd/36th Street Interchange and LRT Extension, 2005 – 2007
- Crowchild Trail/Sarcee Trail widening to Nose Hill Drive and Northwest LRT Extension, 2005 – 2008
- Beddington Trail widening - Deerfoot Trail to Country Hills Boulevard, 2005 – 2006
- 36th Street NE widening – McKnight Blvd. to 64th Avenue, 2005
- 16th Avenue NW widening – 14th Street West to 6th Street East, 2005 – 2007
- 52nd Street SE widening between Glenmore Trail to 130th Avenue South, 2005
- 68th Street East widening between Memorial Drive and 17th Avenue South
- Traffic Calming, Mount Royal and other communities
- Blackfoot Trail over CPR Yard (Alyth) Bridge rehabilitation
- Various paving projects, including Macleod Trail South

In addition, the Province of Alberta has planned the following projects for this construction season:

- Stoney Trail Ring Road between Highways 1 and 2

- Deerfoot Trail/Douglasdale Interchange

We will see an unprecedented level of construction this year and moving through every quadrant of the city, no matter which mode of transportation you use, will be difficult. The City utilizes a number of methods to communicate up-to-date information on traffic issues including congestion, roadway conditions and detours.

Capital Works Committee: Is comprised of representatives from City departments, utilities, Province of Alberta and contractors and meets regularly to discuss construction plans to ensure a coordinated approach to all road work projects.

Detours: Major detour information is summarized on the City website (www.calgary.ca/detours) and is updated regularly. Also check "City Beat" press releases on the website by clicking on "City Newsroom" on the City's homepage for up-to-date detour and road closure information. The City also utilizes on-site Dynamic message signs to communicate upcoming lane closures and detours.

Traveler Information Website: The City, in partnership with Transport Canada, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Motor Association and the City of Edmonton have recently launched a regional traveler information pilot project website (www.travelinfotest.ab.ca) to deliver information on road conditions, roadwork projects and traveler weather.

The City is currently finalizing a number of initiatives that will be rolled out this year to assist with traffic management:

Traffic Management Centre (TMC): This new facility is now operational and will enable City staff to more efficiently monitor traffic conditions city-wide and respond more effectively to incidents as they develop.

Traffic Detour & Incident Management Plan: The plan will identify shortfalls of our existing process both in terms of traffic management for planned and non-planned activities and their associated communications, and identify where improvements must occur. A specialized Traffic Plan has been developed specifically for traffic management for the Glenmore/Elbow/5th Street interchange project. Council has approved a 6 month trial stand-by tow truck for both morning and afternoon peak periods to clear any accidents and stalls through the construction area as quickly as possible. Stand-by tow trucks are also being considered for a number of other major road construction sites.

Traffic Camera Images: Real-time traffic camera images will be provided on the City's website.

Shawnessy Traffic Management: In 2004, Calgary Roads deployed an automated incident detection system along Macleod Trail, from Canyon Meadows Drive to Shawnessy Blvd. This system includes 6 traffic cameras along the corridor, with real-time software analysis to detect problems in traffic flow. The system will be expanded this year to include 3 portable Dynamic message signs that will alert motorists in the area of congestion on Macleod Trail, allowing them to adjust their route and mode of travel accordingly.

Intelligent Work Zones: Will be operational later this year to provide a real-time "congestion map" with 8 Dynamic message signs with cameras around a work zone to inform drivers of congestion and expected delays. Additional traffic cameras will be added to assist the TMC in monitoring roadways so as to provide timely response to incidents.

Highway Advisory Radio (HAR): Is expected to be operational later this year and will provide information to travelers in a corridor on their radios (via short-range roadside radio transmitters) of closures, construction activity and alternate routes.

You, too, can take measures to ease congestion and detour frustrations by considering mobility plans that will reduce the demand on the roadway system. Consider the statistics:

- Calgarians make 653,000 trips to and from work daily (137 million work trips yearly!)
- 64% of these work trips are in vehicles occupied only by the driver (over 1 billion kilometers traveled to and from work annually!)
- 53% of these work trips are made during the congested morning and afternoon 4 hour peaks
- Congestion reduces travel speeds, increases fuel consumption and vehicle emissions
- A trip during the morning peak takes 30% longer than the same trip off peak
- Transportation is responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas production in Calgary

Think about the following commuter options to get to work:

Carpool: Calgary's Regional Carpool Program continues to provide access to ride-matching services at www.carpool.ca for Calgary and region, or form your own.

Off-Peak Travel: Speak to your employer about adjusting your work day so that you can travel during less congested, off-peak hours, or take advantage of a compressed work week.

Telework: Ask your employer about working at home, even for one day a week.

Public Transportation: Ride the bus or CTrain, even if only during the construction season.

Active Commuting: If you work close to home, choose to walk or ride your bicycle instead of driving your car during the pleasant Calgary summer.

Consolidate Trips: Plan your day to include all of your business and consumer stops in one trip.

Plan Ahead: Give yourself reasonable time to get to your destination, especially when traveling less familiar routes.

If we all do our part, even once per week, we can reduce the number of vehicles on the road, road exhaustion as a result of stressful driving, vehicle emissions, gas consumption and costs to operate personal vehicles.

As always, you can contact my office regarding this or any other civic matter at 268-1624, by email at dcolley@calgary.ca, or through my website, www.aldermandiane.ca. Alternatively, you can contact 268-CITY (2489).