



**Alderman Diane's
Building Construction Quality Standards Notice of Motion
brings together industry and development stakeholders
to discuss building expectations gap
November 2005**

March 2006 Newsletter

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

CALGARY TRANSPORTATION PLAN REVIEW MODERNIZES CITY'S VISION

Ten years ago, the 1995 Calgary Transportation Plan (also known as the GoPlan) was approved by Council as the guiding document that addressed roads and transit infrastructure, land use and housing density, walking and cycling networks, their impacts on our communities, the environment and costs. A commitment was made at that time for a review in 10 years and in July 2004, Council approved a comprehensive process to compare today's reality to the vision of the 1995 plan, identify trends and assess their impact on Calgarians. CTP2005, as it is also known, is about striking a balance between quality of life for our community, the environment and mobility while managing the cost to taxpayers.

The first part of the review included a public survey in 2004 to determine whether there had been a change in the transportation priorities of Calgarians. Key findings indicated that:

- Satisfaction with the transportation system has declined since 1992;
- Lowest level of satisfaction is for roads, highest for cycling facilities;
- The main transportation issues and areas that require improvement are capacity and maintenance of roads, and frequency and reliability of transit;
- Calgarians continue to support a future transportation system that includes alternate transportation options that include cycling, walking and transit;
- Calgarians continue to value safety and environment over increased housing density (unchanged from 1992);
- Support by Calgarians who drive alone to work or school to move towards another mode of travel is modest. Increasing the convenience of transit would have the highest likelihood of influencing this change.

Planners have also analyzed trends and impacts. Calgary's unprecedented growth in the last 10 years has resulted in better-than-expected results in some areas including increasing downtown

residential densities, and less-than-expected results in others such as encouraging employment centre development in suburban areas and around transit hubs. There has also been an increase in the number of cross-city trips by the population growth on the west side of the city accessing the greater number of jobs created on the east side. Capital spending over the first 10 years since the GoPlan was approved is on-target at approximately \$1.4 billion and has included enhancements and additions to the road, transit and pathway systems. Key findings indicate:

- 60% more traffic on Calgary roads compared to 10 years, as a result of a population increase of 24% and a 29% increase in travel per person per year;
- The number of new apartments and condo units has increased over 400% in the past 8 years, compared to the previous 8 years;
- 14 new interchanges and 44 kilometers of new or upgraded higher speed roads have been constructed in the last 10 years;
- Transit ridership is up 46% and service is up 43% in the last decade;
- Results of recent public surveys indicate support for plans that place more emphasis on transit, walking and cycling;
- 36% more buses and 30% more trains have been purchased, 9 additional kilometres of LRT track and 5 new LRT stations have been constructed in the last 10 years; and
- More than 500 kilometers have been added to Calgary's pathway and bikeway system in 10 years, with the bike and pathway system now at 870 kilometers.

Recommendations for changes to transportation processes and procedures from detailed analyses of survey results and reviews will be presented to a Strategic Planning Session of Council on 2004 March 21.

The second component of the CTP update process will be conducted from 2006-2008 and will include a review of the vision and overall plan to ensure an alignment with *imagine*Calgary's 100-year vision and the new Municipal Development Plan, the document that guides growth and development within the city.

Planners have developed an easy to use, on-line presentation in text, voice and video that highlights the first decade of the 30-year Calgary Transportation Plan. The presentation is available on the City's website at www.calgary.ca/ctp2005. Click on "Key Findings Presentation."

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 new reconstructed website, www.aldermandiane.ca. Alternatively, you can contact '311.'