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## Southwest ring road awaits approval step

By SHAWN LOGAN, CALGARY SUN

After being on the province's books for decades, the southwest portion of Calgary's ring road is coming closer to reality, say officials who unveiled a functional planning study for the freeway yesterday.

The contentious 20 km stretch of road, which will cover about 1,000 acres of Tsuu T'ina First Nation land, would go from Glenmore Tr. to Hwy. 22X.

Tsuu T'ina spokesman Peter Manywounds said a deal is taking shape, but it must still be approved in a vote by nation members before going to the federal government, a process that could take up to two years.

"All the requirements the nation had have been addressed in the functional study," he said.

The first stage plan of the southwest ring road will take a minimum of three years to build, said Alec Waters of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

Project engineer Aziz Merali said while cost estimates for the project aren't slated to be in place until the end of the year, he believes the price tag will be more than \$1 billion.

The planning study will be presented during two open houses at the North Glenmore Park Community Association today from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and tomorrow from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.