

## **Genesis Centre Parking and Travel Options**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 2017 June 12 Council directed Administration to consult with the Genesis Centre, surrounding communities and Attainable Homes to develop comprehensive measures to address parking at the Genesis Centre and transit connections to the facility. This issue arose during a public hearing on a land use redesignation south of the Genesis Centre.

Feedback was gathered more broadly on transportation concerns through the initial public engagement in August 2017. A cross-departmental meeting was held to learn about existing projects and plans for the area and discuss potential solutions to the perceived parking issues. Administration conducted additional cost-effective engagement in November and December 2017 with the users of the Genesis Centre and the public to identify barriers that people felt prevented them from walking, cycling and taking transit to the facility. The survey identified better pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure and more direct and faster transit service as potential solutions to make these modes more desirable.

A list of City projects and plans that may mitigate the parking and transit issues at the Genesis Centre, including the North Crosstown BRT, was established by Administration and is provided as Attachment 1. Additional potential solutions have been identified by Administration for the Genesis Centre, as the land's steward, to consider.

#### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

That the SPC on Transportation and Transit recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Direct Administration to consider identified missing connections in the Pathways and Bikeways Plan update for prioritization.

#### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT, DATED 2018 MARCH 08:**

That the Administration Recommendation contained in Report TT2018-0129 be approved.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

On 2017 June 12 Council gave First reading of Bylaw 163D2017 for a land use redesignation of 1.9 hectares of land at 7451 Falconridge Boulevard NE from Special Purpose – Recreation (SR) District to Multi-Residential – Contextual Medium Profile (M-C2) District. Council passed the following motion as it relates to CPC2017-156:

Adopt, Moved by Councillor Jones, Seconded by Councillor Stevenson, that Calgary Planning Commission Recommendations 1 and 2 contained in Report CPC2017-156, be adopted, after amendment, as follows:

That Council:

- 1) ADOPT the proposed redesignation of 1.90 hectares ± (4.68 acres ±) located at 7451 Falconridge Boulevard NE (Plan 1510804, Block 1, Lot 6) from Special Purpose Recreation (S-R) District to Multi-Residential – Contextual Medium Profile (M-C2) District, in accordance with Administration's recommendation;

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2) Give first reading to proposed Bylaw 163D2017; and

ADOPT, Moved by Councillor Jones, Seconded by Councillor Pincott, that Calgary Planning Commission Recommendation 3 contained in Report CPC2017-156, be adopted, after amendment, as follows:

That Council:

3) Refer second and third readings to Administration for further consultation with the applicants and the community to return to Council no later than 2017 September 11 Combined Meeting of Council.

MOTION ARISING, Moved by Councillor Stevenson, Seconded by Councillor Jones, that with respect to Report CPC2017-156, Council direct Administration to work with the Genesis Centre, the communities of Martindale, Taradale and Saddle Ridge, Attainable Homes and other stakeholders to develop comprehensive measures to address parking concerns, including better transit connections to the Genesis Centre, within the communities of Martindale, Taradale and Saddle Ridge and report back to Council with possible solutions and budgetary implications no later than 2018 Q1.

On 2017 September 11 Council received for information the Martindale Land Use Redesignation What We Heard Summary and gave Second and Third Reading of Bylaw 163D2017.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Genesis Centre is a recreation and community centre in the northeast community of Martindale containing recreation facilities, a YMCA, a Calgary Public Library branch and several other businesses and organizations. On average, it serves over 2,700 people per day. The public hearing in June 2017, on the land use redesignation heard many complaints regarding parking at the Genesis Centre, particularly on Friday afternoons and during special events. Prayer services are regularly held in the multi-purpose rooms on Fridays, and special events with attendance of 1,000-2,000 people are held approximately once per month.

After receiving the Council direction in June, Administration held two drop-in sessions in August 2017. These sessions highlighted The City's planning process and collected feedback related to transportation and parking concerns in the community. A project webpage was set up online through The City's Engage Portal to mirror the drop-in sessions. The high-level themes identified from the engagement included:

- Lack of event space parking for the Genesis Centre;
- Concern regarding impact of additional vehicles on congested areas and the design of Saddletowne Circle; and
- Need for additional pathways and connections for walking and biking.

### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

In October 2017, Administration conducted a meeting with internal stakeholders to review the feedback received at the August 2017 engagement sessions to develop possible solutions and identify other projects in the area that may affect transportation issues around the Genesis Centre.

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The Development Permits previously applied for by the Genesis Centre were also reviewed and no parking relaxation was given according to the designated land uses on the applications. Further investigation into the Friday afternoon parking issue indicates that while the parking lot gets busy, there is currently sufficient parking to support this use. The Genesis Centre has already taken steps to help ease the pressure on facility users during Friday afternoons and during special events.

Administration reviewed several possible parking solutions but ultimately determined that any changes to parking would need to take place within the Genesis Centre parking lots. These decisions would have to be determined by the operators of the facility and The City does not have the authority to make any changes to the property or their policies. Research and information compiled will be provided to the Genesis Centre to assist them in determining their parking plans in the future.

Administration identified many City projects that should alleviate some of the parking and transit issues as well as several other issues identified through the stakeholder engagement events. These projects are identified in Attachment 1. One of the major upcoming projects in the area is the North Crosstown BRT and associated service review, which will improve transit access to the facility from communities in North Calgary and beyond.

One of the themes in the engagement events in August and those in November and December of 2017 was regarding pathways and missing connections for walking and biking. Administration investigated several missing connections that if built, could increase the accessibility to the Genesis Centre. The Pathways and Bikeways Plan is currently being updated. These connections will be considered as part of the network development and prioritization plan.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

Administration has maintained interdepartmental conversations throughout the duration of the review. Consultation was also undertaken with Attainable Homes, the Genesis Centre and tenants, and the Nelson Mandela High School. Administration has asked Attainable Homes to provide a Transportation Impact Assessment as part of their Development Permit application.

Additional public consultation was undertaken in November and December 2017. Administration attended an Attainable Homes open house and hosted pop-up events at the Genesis Centre to speak to the public specifically about their experience "Getting to the Genesis Centre". The survey was also available online through the engage portal. A total of 387 responses to the surveys were collected in-person and online.

The online survey and pop-up events were advertised online through social media and targeted Facebook ads. The Facebook post was provided to the Martindale, Taradale and Saddle Ridge community associations for posting. In addition, the Ward 5 Councillor's office provided the information on the pop-ups and online survey to Red FM, a multi-cultural Calgary radio station, for advertising.

Key themes identified in the survey were:

- Weather and maintenance were detractors from cycling and walking, especially in the winter.
- Better pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure would make cycling and walking easier for some people.

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- More direct and faster transit service would make taking transit more desirable.

A complete summary of collected feedback and comments from the in-person events and online Engage Portal is found in Attachment 2.

### **Strategic Alignment**

The summary of ongoing and future work provided aligns with several Council priorities to develop a city of inspiring neighbourhoods that participate in civic life and a healthy and green city by encouraging sustainable transportation choices. It also supports the Calgary Transportation Plan key directions to increase mobility choices and optimize infrastructure.

### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

The engagement provided opportunities for citizens to identify areas of improvement in their neighbourhoods and learn about other possible travel options available to them. The interdepartmental collaboration provided opportunities to identify mutually beneficial projects and plans underway at The City to maximize citizen value.

### **Financial Capacity**

#### ***Current and Future Operating Budget:***

There are no impacts to current and future operating budgets identified in this report.

#### ***Current and Future Capital Budget:***

There are no impacts to current and future capital budgets identified in this report.

### **Risk Assessment**

Not making visible changes connected to the engagement at the Genesis Centre may result in stakeholders feeling that the engagement was not meaningful and could hinder future attempts at engagement and project implementation in the future. There is also a potential risk the Genesis Centre does not make changes to address the parking issues after receiving this report and additional information from Administration.

### **REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The public engagement and investigation into the perceived parking issue and other planned projects support the recommendation. The Genesis Centre will be provided with the information gathered to help determine solutions for special event parking issues.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Attachment 1 – Table of Identified Projects
2. Attachment 2 – Getting to the Genesis What We Heard Summary Report