

Safer Mobility Plan Annual Report 2020

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation and Transit recommend that Council: Direct Administration to report back to the SPC on Transportation and Transit on the Safer Mobility Plan Annual Report 2021 by Q4 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This report provides an annual overview of activities in support of safer mobility and Vision Zero in Calgary. 2019 collision statistics are presented reflecting safer mobility investments made in 2018 and prior. Progress towards the major injury and fatality collision targets of the Safer Mobility Plan 2019-2023 are discussed along with 2020 accomplishments and actions for 2021.
- *What does this mean to Calgarians?* The City of Calgary and partners are working towards a reality where all Calgarians arrive home safely every day without the threat of death or serious injury.
- *Why does this matter?* Every year more than 500 Calgarians suffer death and serious injury on our roadways. These injuries and fatalities are preventable through implementation of evidence-based strategies and we are making steady progress towards that goal although continued effort is required.
- 2020 has been a year of focused implementation of high value measures and network screening to identify highest benefit projects with emphasis on alignment with our ultimate goal of Vision Zero (mobility free of major injuries and fatalities) through the five E's of traffic safety (Engagement, Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Evaluation). We have made continued progress towards speed reduction strategies and continue to make meaningful changes to our transportation environment.
- In 2021, we will intensify construction of safety improvement projects and implementation of countermeasures with emphasis of reducing most severe collisions, continue to pilot new technologies, and expand our data sources and partnerships.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A city that moves
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

The City of Calgary uses a multi-faceted and collaborative approach to provide safer mobility for all road users:

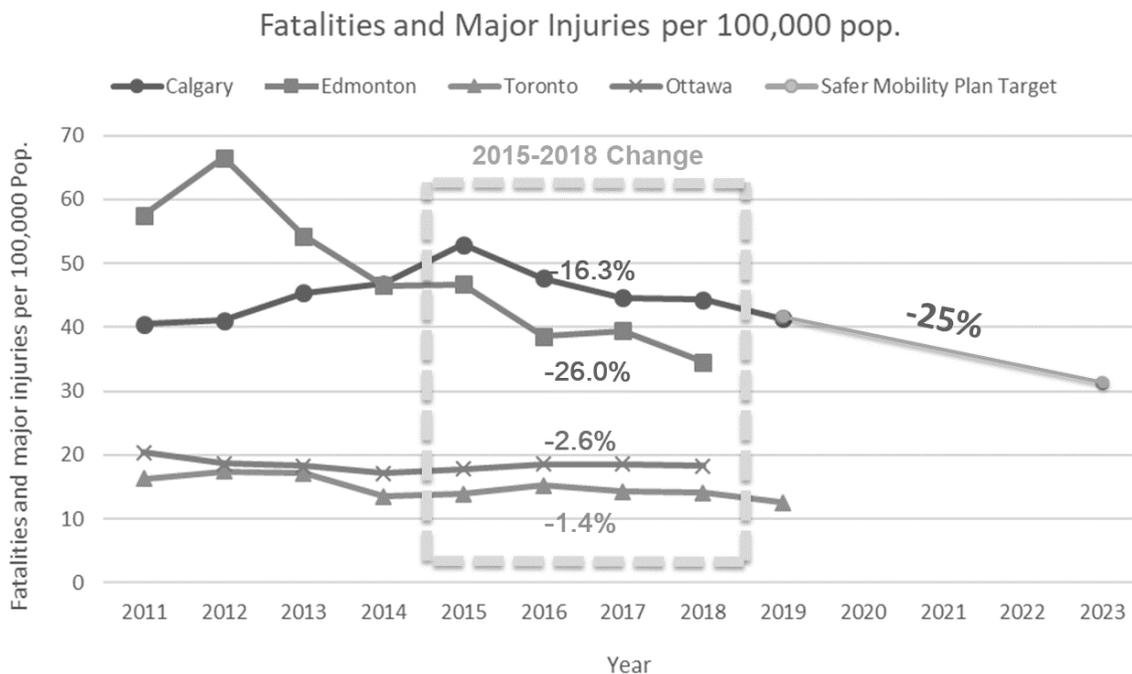
- We collect and analyse data to identify problem locations and cost-effective solutions.
- We develop public education programs and address public concerns identified through 3-1-1 service requests and other sources.
- We pilot new measures and develop new initiatives based on the findings.
- We collaborate to ensure that every project delivered addresses existing safety issues and improves safety outcomes. We follow best practices and regularly scan global and national literature for emerging trends and technologies
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Safer Mobility Plan Annual Report 2020

In 2019, there were 19 collisions resulting in death (16 in 2018), 2,353 collisions resulting in injuries (2,496 in 2018) and 34,537 property damage only collisions (34,788 in 2018) on Calgary roads. The societal cost of these collisions was estimated to be \$1.15 billion in 2019. Pedestrians were involved in 3 fatal collisions (8 in 2018), and 101 major injury collisions (115 in 2018), while cyclists were involved in 32 major injury collisions (28 in 2018), with 1 fatal cyclist collision (also 1 in 2018).

For comparison purposes, selected cities are shown in the table below, using the most recently available comparable data. While Calgary is continuing to improve its performance year over year, we need to do more to reduce our most severe collisions to the per capita levels of other major Canadian cities with higher levels of investment.

Summary of Collision Statistics for Various Canadian Cities



*2019 fatality and major injury data not available for Ottawa and Edmonton.

The Transportation Department has been taking actions based on the direction of existing policy documents to improve safety. These actions and achievements are described in detail in Attachment 2 along with Project Sheets outlining the outcomes of several past projects. The 2019 Traffic Collision Summary presents additional information about collision trends in Attachment 3 and Attachment 4 outlines Safer Mobility investment and innovations being implemented on our roadways.

In 2020 we were able to make progress on several important projects that alter the road environment to reduce collisions. Projects with highest collision reduction potential particularly among more severe collisions were prioritized, including roadway geometry improvements, high

Safer Mobility Plan Annual Report 2020

entry angle right turns (smart rights), and pedestrian safety improvements such as the following highlights:

- New pedestrian crosswalk improvements and traffic signals at 44 locations. Signal phasing and timing improvements including 10 Leading Pedestrian Intervals.
- Implementation of targeted, cost-effective measures identified to improve safety under the Safety Improvements Capital Program and as part of other projects, for example:
 - Shaganappi Tr & Dalhousie Dr NW
 - Country Hills Blvd & Harvest Hills Blvd NW
 - 16 Avenue & 68 Street NE
 - 114 Avenue SE & Barlow Trail SE
 - 40 Avenue & Market Mall Access NW

We are participating in new and exciting collaborations to help with implementing and studying the impact of the changes we are making, including:

- Video Analytics at top ranking locations through the Aviva Micro Traffic Grant Program, where the City of Calgary was selected as one of five Canadian cities to receive 75% funding towards studies at 10 locations and 100% towards after-studies if further changes are made.
- School Safety Research Project (collaboration with University of Calgary) – 24 Traffic Calming curb locations and 26 In-Road Pedestrian Sign locations (Project Sheet provided in Attachment 2).

With more work to do, our focus in 2021 will be on implementing proven safety improvements, collaborating with our partners to help them achieve best possible safety outcomes, and identifying new strategies to more effectively improve traffic safety outcomes for future years.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

Collaboration with the Calgary Police Service is a critical part of improving traffic safety. Other key traffic safety partners include external stakeholders such as Alberta Transportation, the AMA, Safer Calgary, and citizens. We work closely with the Student Safe Travel Advisory Group led by the Calgary Board of Education, the group includes the Calgary Catholic School District, Alberta Transportation, Calgary Police Service, and the City of Calgary. The purpose of the group is to streamline the intake process for school related concerns, improve communication and coordination among all responsible organizations and to find educational and low-cost solutions covering the five E's.

Traffic safety initiatives are communicated on an ongoing basis through safety campaigns, publications, 311, message boards, participation in forums such as public open houses and web-based information such as YouTube, Calgary.ca and social media.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Many families have been touched by tragedy on our roads. Progress towards mobility free of major injuries and fatalities is of vital importance to Calgarians, their personal health and welfare. The perception of safety is tied to greater interaction between citizens in their communities, increasing connection and quality of life. On the other hand, studies show disparities between equity factors and collision outcomes; therefore, data-driven investment in road safety often aligns with increased safety in communities that need it most.

Environmental

Providing a safer environment for Calgarians who are walking or cycling helps encourage reduced automobile dependency and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Economic

Enhanced safety of mobility supports a thriving economy. Reductions in collisions reduce direct costs for the City of Calgary and businesses, and financial burdens of litigation, health care costs, property damage and lost productivity, as well as indirect costs such as reduction of quality of life and pain and suffering. The total impact is estimated to be \$1.15 billion in 2019.

Service and Financial Implications

Improving traffic safety on Calgary's road network aligns with goals outlined in the Calgary Transportation Plan that are focused on mobility, encouraging active modes and improving public safety. Actions within the Safer Mobility Plan are directly aligned with the objectives of the Pedestrian Strategy and One Calgary for a City That Moves to ensure Calgary's transportation network offers a variety of safe, affordable, and accessible transportation choices.

Existing capital funding - base

\$4.75 million. The recommendations in this report are accommodated within the approved capital budgets and operating budgets for 2019-2022.

RISK

In its current state the transportation system has inherent risks. With deliberate and focused action these risks are minimized through the continued development, piloting, and implementation of traffic safety initiatives. This is necessary to remain competitive among other major Canadian cities making strides towards better safety outcomes for its citizens and contributes to the reputation of Calgary as a progressive city with an excellent quality of life.

There are many social, environmental and economic factors that influence traffic safety outcomes that are beyond direct control of the City of Calgary, which underscores the need to collaborate with other agencies as identified in the Safer Mobility Plan.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Council Direction, Background
2. Calgary Safer Mobility Plan – Annual Report 2020
3. 2019 Traffic Collision Summary
4. Safer Mobility Investment and Innovation

Department Circulation

General Manager	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Doug Morgan	Transportation	Approve