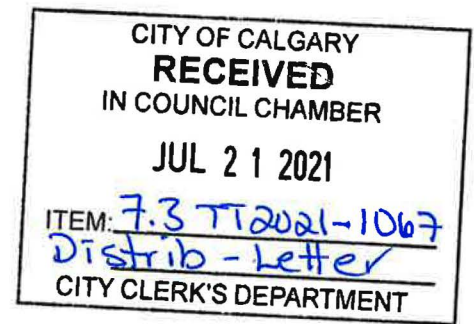




July 20, 2021

To: City of Calgary Transportation and Transit Committee

Re: Support for the current temporary closure of Crescent Road



The Crescent Heights Community Association (CHCA) supports the current temporary closure of Crescent Road to cars and large motorized vehicles until alternative design solutions can be implemented. We understand that alternative design solutions may include, but are not limited to, a permanent closure of Crescent Road.

We feel that there are three significant opportunities with the current closure:

First, a temporary closure is giving us pause – it is providing us with a temporary solution and some relief from the negative and disruptive issues that we have been facing daily on Crescent Road and in the surrounding area.

Second, this closure of Crescent Road is supporting physical distancing and much needed safe outdoor recreation space for the remainder of the pandemic. As we are now opening things back up, it is providing us with the opportunity to reactivate the community as restrictions have been eased. We anticipate increasing numbers of people will be out enjoying our public spaces this summer as Calgarians embrace the lifting of restrictions. Residents and the CHCA Community Action Team are organizing free public events and activations along the road including curbside concerts, games, art and ice cream.

Third, and very importantly, the current closure will also help to inform future design solutions for Crescent Road. As we try to find ways to encourage positive activities and discourage negative ones, the current closure will help us determine to what level we can continue to attract those positive activities to the area and if these changes help to curb the negative behaviours that are happening. It will also help indicate what impact the changes to Crescent Road will have on residents on other streets and avenues in the community – whether we are removing the problems or just shifting them, and whether this could be a positive long-term change for the entire community and our visitors.

We support that the temporary closure remain in place until community engagement has been completed, designs have been explored and alternative solutions are in place. We believe that listening to and engaging our residents and the greater community will be essential to creating those designs and finding solutions.

Crescent Road and McHugh Bluff are a true special treasure to the City of Calgary. It is a beautiful, historic space and it deserves to be respected and enjoyed by everyone – but it needs to be a safe and comfortable space for everyone to enjoy. We believe that the current closure of Crescent Road will help us work towards creating a welcoming environment and attract the people and activities that will enhance one of Calgary's best gems.

Sincerely,

Marie Semenick-Evans  
Director, Transportation Planning and Mobility  
Crescent Heights Community Association

Kirstin Blair  
President, Board of Directors  
Crescent Heights Community Association