

## **16 Avenue NW at 29 Street NW Pedestrian Overpass (Ward 07)**

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Calgary Planning Commission receive this report for the Corporate Record.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- This report presents for the corporate record, the 16 Avenue NW at 29 Street NW pedestrian overpass project.
- The pedestrian overpass will provide an essential link for the adjacent communities and major activity centres and aligns with the goals and policies of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP).
- What does this mean to Calgarians? The pedestrian overpass is in an area where the surrounding land uses are high in population and employment. Large developments are in construction on both the north and south sides with a high potential for walking and cycling growth. The overpass would allow for more efficient use of existing and new infrastructure, public amenities, and transit.
- Why does this matter? The pedestrian overpass will contribute to the implementation of the vision, principles and policy in the Stadium Shopping Centre Area Redevelopment Plan (2014 December) and is consistent with the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP). The overpass will enhance connectivity within the UXBorough (formerly Stadium) and the Foothills Medical Centre developments and provides a safe, comfortable, and convenient 16 Avenue crossing west of 29 Street NW.
- Previous Council Direction: Council previously approved the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan, Investing in Mobility 2015-2024 in December 2012, and accepted the updated report in May 2014. Subsequently at the 2016 May 26 Meeting of Council, with respect to the Investing in Mobility Update, Council approved the funded list of transportation infrastructure projects which included the 16 Avenue NW and 29 Street NW pedestrian overpass. The project is funded, and the budget is from Capital Program 223, which is reserved for these purposes.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Site Context**

The project site is in a section of NW Calgary which is sometimes referred to as Calgary's second downtown due to the high concentration of employment and population (see Attachment 1, Figure 1). The pedestrian overpass will provide a safe alternate crossing for the second busiest pedestrian intersection outside of downtown, across 16 Avenue NW (eight lanes along the Trans-Canada Highway) (see Attachment 1, Figure 2).

The pedestrian overpass will be located west of the 16 Avenue NW and 29 Street NW intersection. To the north of the overpass is the UXBorough development which is presently being redeveloped to provide an attractive, vibrant mixed use centre. To the south of the overpass is the new Calgary Cancer Centre, which has recently been constructed within the Foothills Medical Centre. Site photographs are included in Attachment 1, Figures 3 to 8).

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### **Legislation & Policy**

#### *Municipal Development Plan (Approved by Council 2021 February)*

The 16 Avenue NW at 29 Street NW Pedestrian Overpass is located within an area with several Major Activity Centres (MAC) as identified on the MDP Urban Structure Map of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) (Attachment 1 – Figure 9: Urban Structure Map). Activity Centre policies identify pedestrian environments as a priority design element, focusing on pedestrian safety, convenience, comfort, and enjoyment. The pedestrian overpass aligns with this policy and will enhance the current and future environment within the Major Activity Centres area.

#### *Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP) (Adopted 2009 September) and RouteAhead (2012)*

The policies and vision of the Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP) and RouteAhead is to increase mobility choices and provide safe, accessible, customer-focused transit service for Calgarians. Customer experience can be improved by making walking and cycling attractive and convenient. The pedestrian overpass is along a primary transit route, including the Crosstown Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and aligns with the policy and the vision.

#### *Stadium Shopping Centre Area Redevelopment Plan (Approved by Council 2014 December)*

The vision of the Stadium Shopping Centre Area Redevelopment Plan is to create an attractive, vibrant, mixed-use centre which provides employment opportunities, residential accommodation, and services that are complementary to the surrounding communities and institutions. The vision includes a new pedestrian overpass which integrates into the developments with emphasis on integration with the buildings, public spaces and the network of walking and cycling routes. The pedestrian overpass aligns with the vision of the Area Redevelopment Plan.

### **Background**

A condition for approval for the major redevelopment on the north side (Development Permit DP2016-0305 and DP2017-5404) was an agreement that Stadium GP Limited, the owner of the UXBorough development, contribute to the cost of the portion of the pedestrian overpass on the development site. This portion of the pedestrian overpass allows pedestrians to reach the entrance to a medical office building, at bridge level, which leads to an elevator and stairs (Attachment 1, Figure 10). Access to the building, elevators and stairs will be 24hrs a day, 7 days a week, and if required security and emergency access to additional elevators in the building will be available. Construction of phase one of the UXBorough development is currently underway (see Attachment 1, Figure 11).

A condition for approval for the major development of a new Calgary Cancer Centre on the south side (Development Permit DP 2017-3023) was an agreement that the Province and Alberta Health Services, contribute to the cost for the design and construction of the pedestrian overpass. The pedestrian overpass aligns with the development application for the Calgary Cancer Centre, which excludes a direct access into the building and includes a ramp structure integrated with the pathways and urban environment (see Attachment 1, Figures 12 and 13). Construction of the Calgary Cancer Centre exterior is substantially completed in 2022, which clears the south site for the pedestrian overpass construction.

Planning and design of the pedestrian overpass has been done in collaboration with the major developments on both north and south sides of 16 Avenue NW. Both parties have received and supports the current designs.

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### **Design Review**

As part of the design review process, the proposed bridge infrastructure development was reviewed by both Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP) and Urban Design & Open Space team. Comments from the UDRP review are included in Attachment 3. Recognizing the design constraints presented by the underground utilities, vehicular staging and loading areas and land availability, advisory comments were provided including Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) design, aesthetics, pedestrian access and circulation, streetscape and landscaping opportunities, integration with adjacent buildings, wayfinding, ramp and staircase design and placement. The applicant's rationale and the resulting additional revisions to the site and bridge design elements were deemed appropriate and sufficient.

Accessibility design was reviewed by both Access Design Subcommittee and Community Strategies Accessibility team. Comments from the Access Design Subcommittee are included in Attachment 4. The applicant's rationale and the resulting additional revisions to the site and bridge design elements were deemed appropriate and sufficient.

### **Design**

The design of the pedestrian overpass provides a desirable experience while complementing the aesthetic designs of the Cancer Centre and UXBorough Shopping Centre and in consideration of the numerous site constraints. The main span is approximately 55 metres long and crosses over 16 Avenue NW with a single span (Attachment 1, Figures 14 and 15). The truss system was selected due to lightness and transparency. The bridge rectilinear form highlights the two neighboring development and creates a structural expression across the main span that is unique within the city context (see Attachment 1, Figures 16 and 17).

Connectivity supplementary project information is provided in Attachment 2.

### **Lighting**

The lighting on the overpass is designed to be integrated and will complement the lighting on the roadway and the adjacent developments. The bridge, ramp and stairs will be illuminated with handrail mounted LED luminaires directed down at the bridge deck for enhancing the experience at the pedestrian level (Attachment 1, Figure 18). The main span is illuminated with LED luminaires installed along the truss.

### **Landscaping**

The landscaping design will integrate with the existing vegetation and adjacent developments. Trees and shrub beds at the ramp and stair entrances softens the transition and enhances the overall pedestrian experience. The planned landscaping improvements will provide an opportunity for bridge users to sit and rest during their trip (Attachment 1, Figure 19). The planting strategy includes low-impact design incorporating hardy, low maintenance, native plant species as well as grass and shrub beds to minimize upkeep.

### **ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION**

- Outreach was undertaken by the Applicant
- Public/interested parties were informed by Administration

### **Communication**

In keeping with Administration's practices, project information was provided to community, utilities and internal City groups, with notices distributed and published online.

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Collaboration has been ongoing with the UXBorough and Cancer Centre developments throughout the project design process. Meetings were held with the adjacent developments and presentations provided in meetings with the area community associations including the South Shaganappi Area Strategic Planning Group and the University Heights Community Association.

Discussions were focused on providing information on the planned pedestrian overpass and answering questions. No written comments from the area Community Associations were received. Administration contacted the Community Association to follow up, and no response was received at the time of writing this report.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social**

The pedestrian overpass will provide a link to the major activity centres, developments, businesses, regional pathways and BRT stations and seeks to promote walking, cycling and public transit. By supporting social activities, this can improve well-being, interconnections, and the sense of community.

#### **Environmental**

The pedestrian overpass is designed for a 100 year design life. It incorporates the use of durable and low maintenance materials which minimizes lifecycle costs and provides long term value for the City of Calgary.

The pedestrian bridge aligns with the Calgary Climate Strategy goals, by supporting alternate modes of transportation including walking, cycling and transit.

#### **Economic**

Connectivity and efficient use of land, infrastructure and services supports business and investment. This can lead to growth in density for employment and population, which can decrease long term infrastructure and operating costs by slowing the outward expansion of Calgary.

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

The pedestrian overpass will be added to the City's bridge inventory list and will be maintained by the City of Calgary.

#### **RISK**

There are no known planning risks associated with this project.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Supplementary Project Information
2. Connectivity Supplementary Project Information
3. Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP) Review
4. Access Design Subcommittee Review

Department Circulation

General Manager (Name)	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform