

May 6, 2025

**RE: Policy Amendment, Road Closure and Land Use Amendment in Beltline (Ward 8)
adjacent to 1121 – 12 Avenue SW, LOC2024-0202
(Connaught Open Street)**

Mayor Gondek and Calgary City Council:

The Connaught School Council executive fully supports making the Connaught Open Street Public Realm project a permanent public park space. We represent the families of more than 500 students at Connaught School and we are an advisory body to school administration.

This project is the result of creative and thoughtful community-focused problem solving from students at Connaught School. They proposed an open street as a way to create much-needed public space and encourage more active transportation to school by making the streets adjacent to the school safer and more appealing. Their vision is an inspiration and we support them in improving our community.

Following the original temporary pilot of the Connaught Open Street (2022), we surveyed all families and staff at Connaught School. The response was overwhelmingly positive with more than 90% of people wanting to see the project become permanent as it was or with improvements. The current design for the permanent project delivers on the promise of community-driven improvements.

From that survey, 90% also felt the project successfully "improved safety for children, families, and staff" during their commute and throughout the day. Nearly 60% appreciated the additional recreation/park space for families and the wider community.

One parent wrote: "This initiative is very important to our family... prioritizing pedestrians is very important to a vibrant, liveable, and equitable downtown core. We so appreciated this project and will be sad to see [the temporary pilot project removed]."

One teacher wrote: "It has been amazing having the Open Street project... This project has made the whole area feel safer and more inviting. It has been wonderful and I hope we get to keep it going!"

The proposal before City Council today represents the hard work, hopes, and dreams of so many people in our community--especially children and their families. We are invested in this project and sincerely hope to see it become a permanent public park.

Sincerely,



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