

Community Association Response

On behalf of the SCA Community Association (SCA CA), we are writing to express our deep concerns about traffic safety and congestion on 93rd Street, especially during school pick-up and drop-off times. With two large schools on this street, and a third school just a block away, traffic conditions are not only inefficient but dangerously unsafe. Additionally, emergency response times are severely impacted.

While the proposed 1200-1500 CCSB high school is desperately needed, the current traffic situation requires urgent mitigation before any additional development occurs.

Key Concerns

1. Traffic Safety and Emergency Response Delays

- Existing traffic studies highlight significant delays during peak school hours.
- Emergency services—including police, fire, and EMS—face dangerous delays reaching residents.
- This poses an unacceptable risk to community safety and requires immediate action.

2. Increased Congestion from Proposed High School

- A road around Calgary Academy was initially proposed to enhance safety but was abandoned when the ring road was developed.
- Now, a new high school is planned between two existing large schools and a third mid-sized school, worsening congestion.
- Increased student parking on residential streets will create additional hazards, especially during winter months.

3. Accessibility Issues for Residents

- Residents on 93rd Street frequently experience blocked driveways.
- A hit-and-run pedestrian incident has already occurred due to the congestion.
- Essential service vehicles (e.g., emergency furnace repair, plumbers, delivery trucks) struggle to access homes.

Community Feedback

- *One homeowner on Aspen Hills Drive commented that they believe that a large school will never happen, as someone from government will step in to prevent it.*
- *A second homeowner just two doors down on Aspen Hills Drive commented that they said that they believe that the government will have a plan that will solve the traffic issues.*

- *A homeowner on Aspen Hills Way said that the Catholic School Board told her that traffic won't be an issue with the additional school because of a new road around Calgary Academy. She is looking forward to the school so that her children can attend in the future.*
- *At least three households on 93rd Street, one on Aspen Hills Way, one on Aspen Hill Drive, and one on Aspen Cliff Close have asked what more they can do to get someone from the City or the Province to select a new location for this much needed school as they all worry about safety.*

Proposed Solutions

1. Install a Tall Fence or Sound Barrier

- A continuous fence along 93rd Street (from Webber Academy to Calgary Academy) and the north/west sides of Calgary Academy extending to 17th Avenue.
- No openings or gates to prevent unauthorized access and improve safety.

2. Encourage Active Transportation

- A fence blocking access from 93rd Street would encourage Aspen Hills students to walk or bike to school.
- Restricting vehicle access would deter students from outside the community from parking in residential areas, further reducing congestion.

3. Reevaluating Parking Solutions

- While Cortina Drive may seem like an alternative for student parking, it falls within the Springbank Hill community.
- We propose collaborative discussions with the Springbank Hill Community Association to find equitable solutions.

Concerns with Opening 93rd Street to 17th Avenue

- Calgary Academy's youngest students have playgrounds at the front of the school, which would be dangerously close to an expanded road.
- As Calgary Academy serves special needs students, this road would create additional safety and disruption concerns.
- Relocating school facilities to accommodate traffic flow would cost millions due to infrastructure limitations.

Unintended Consequences of a New Road Around Calgary Academy

- Opening 93rd Street to 17th Avenue or building a new road around Calgary Academy would allow drivers to bypass up to five traffic lights, creating:
 - **Severe gridlock during school hours**
 - **Excessive speeding during off-peak hours**
 - **Higher accident risk and pedestrian hazards**

Streets/Neighbourhoods Impacted by Existing Schools

The current congestion already affects residents in:

- Castle Keep
- Aspen Cliff
- 14th Avenue
- Aspen Stone: Aspen Stone Terrace, Aspen Stone Mews, Aspen Stone Road, Aspen Stone Crescent, Aspen Stone View, Aspen Stone Way
- Aspen Hill Place
- Aspenshire Close
- Aspen Hills: Aspen Hills Way, Aspen Hills Manor, Aspen Hills Drive, Aspen Hills Terrace, Aspen Hills Green, Aspen Hills Common, Aspen Hills Villas, Aspen Hills Court, Aspen Hills Close
- Aspenmont Heights, Aspen Stone Boulevard

Inadequate Community Notification

- The current posted sign for the proposed school is not visible to most affected residents.
- Adequate notification would require signage at three key intersections:
 1. 17th Avenue & Aspen Stone Boulevard
 2. 85th Street & Aspen Stone Boulevard
 3. 85th Street & 14th Avenue

We urge decision-makers to prioritize safety, emergency response accessibility, and long-term traffic solutions before moving forward with the proposed high school. We welcome collaboration on sustainable solutions that balance the educational needs of our community with the safety and well-being of our residents.

Best Regards,

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