

SOUTH WEST RING ROAD COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Province of Alberta is moving forward with preparing for construction of the South West Ring Road, following Tsuu T'ina First Nation's vote in favour of the land agreement which would facilitate the completion of the ring road. Preliminary work is underway, and project details such as delivery method (i.e. P3 procurement) and timing have not yet been finalized. It is anticipated that the overall project will move forward as two separate projects: the West Calgary Ring Road from Highway 1/Trans Canada Highway to 69 Street SW, and the South West Calgary Ring Road from 69 Street to Macleod Trail/Highway 22X.

The City of Calgary Administration is actively coordinating with The Province of Alberta on project preparation at this time. Administration has identified dedicated staff and Departmental resources for this project, and continues to document an inventory of interests and coordinate with the Province of Alberta, including engaging with stakeholders and communities as necessary to date.

Coordination with Alberta Transportation on a communication and engagement plan is being pursued as part of that work. Administration is developing recommendations for communications and engagement plans to provide to the Province to help address City of Calgary stakeholders' anticipated issues, questions, and interest in the project. This work is currently ongoing, with communication and engagement activities coinciding with overall project preparation and timing.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Priorities and Finance Committee recommends that Council direct Administration to continue to work with the Province of Alberta on developing community communication and engagement plans for the West Ring Road and South West Ring Road projects with updates to the project Steering Committee on a quarterly basis.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

In 2013 November a verbal in-camera report, VR2013-0079, was presented to Council. A Motion Arising was passed which included the following:

"Direct Administration to work with the Province of Alberta to prepare a Community Engagement Plan, and report back to Council through the Priorities and Finance Committee no later than Q1 2014."

BACKGROUND

In 2013 October, the Tsuu T'ina First Nation voted in favour of a deal that will see them swap reserve land for Crown land and financial compensation in order to facilitate the construction of the southwest portion of Calgary's ring road. As a result, it is anticipated that Alberta Transportation will construct the remaining segments of the Calgary Ring Road along the west edge of the city as two projects: the West Calgary Ring Road (WCRR) from Highway 1/Trans Canada Highway to 69 Street SW, and the South West Calgary Ring Road (SWCRR) from 69

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Street to Macleod Trail/Highway 22X. This project will border multiple existing Calgary communities, each with a variety of stakeholder interests in this project.

Some specific details of both projects are:

West Calgary Ring Road Highway 1 to 69 Street	SW Calgary Ring Road 69 Street to Macleod Trail/Highway 22X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 km of six-lane divided roadway • 29 bridges • River bridge at the Bow River • River bridge at the Elbow River on Highway 8 • 7 interchanges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highway 1 systems interchange (partially constructed) ○ Old Banff Coach Road SW partial interchange ○ Bow Trail SW interchange ○ 17 Avenue SW partial interchange ○ Highway 8 systems interchange ○ 69 Street SW interchange ○ Valley Ridge Boulevard NW/Highway 1 interchange ○ 2 Avenue SW underpass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 km of six and eight-lane divided roadway • 37 bridges • Crossings of Elbow River and Fish Creek • Rail flyover • 13 interchanges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Westhills Way SW interchange ○ Sarcee Trail SW interchange ○ Old Strathcona Road SW interchange ○ 90 Avenue SW interchange ○ Anderson Road SW interchange ○ 130 Avenue SW interchange ○ 146 Avenue SW interchange ○ 162 Avenue SW interchange ○ Stoney Trail/Highway 22X systems interchange ○ Spruce Meadows Way SW/James McKeivitt Road SW interchange ○ Sheriff King Street SW/6 Street SW partial interchange ○ Macleod Trail SW interchange ○ 37 Street SW/Glenmore Trail interchange

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

It is anticipated that the project will be completed in phases/separate projects, in at least two separate project timelines. The Province is currently working to finalize the project phasing details, procurement processes, structure, and planning in anticipation of final project approval. Alberta Transportation is investigating the viability of delivering this segment of the ring road in two separate projects using the Public Private Partnership (P3) procurement process. If there is approval to move forward with a P3, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for WCCR could begin as early as spring 2014, with a contractor being selected by spring 2015. A subsequent RFQ for the SWCCR could begin in early 2015, if agreement obligations are fulfilled. A contractor for the second project could potentially be selected by early 2016, pending agreement discussions.

The Province anticipates subsequently starting communications and engagement activities with a focus on the communities adjacent to the first project to proceed. Engagement with a limited

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number of individual communities and stakeholders on specific issues is underway. Broader communication activities could commence by as early as the end of Q2 2014.

Some of the types of issues that are being and will continue to be investigated include:

- questions about project details, construction schedule/timing and anticipated traffic impacts,
- impacts/changes to existing facilities such as parks, pathways, and natural areas,
- community questions such as noise mitigation,
- pedestrian and cyclist accommodation around and crossing the ring road,
- emergency services requirements and considerations
- access changes for existing roads and some individual land parcels, and
- connecting roadway details.

Administration has identified dedicated staff and Departmental resources for this project, and continues to document an inventory of interests and coordinate with the Province of Alberta.

Administration is actively working with the Province as they finalize the project planning and, as part of that, the community communications and engagement activities. Dedicated City of Calgary Administration communications staff resources have been identified and it is anticipated that the communications staff member will be available on a full time basis in mid Q2 2014. The communications staff member is currently involved in other high priority projects for the Transportation Department, and will complete these obligations prior to commencing their full time role on the South West Ring Road project. At that time, Administration will provide recommended communications and engagement elements to Alberta Transportation to help address City of Calgary stakeholders' anticipated issues, questions, and interest in the project.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Administration is documenting stakeholders and issues of the project as part of the stakeholder engagement work and activities, while ensuring the recommendations provided to Alberta Transportation are in keeping with The City of Calgary's engage! policy.

An inter-departmental working group has been formed that includes representation from various Business Units that have interest or assets that may be affected by the ring road, and this group meets on a regular basis.

Administration is in the process of meeting with Councillors whose Wards border the project to ensure the appropriate stakeholders are identified as well as to identify key issues from each Ward.

Administration will make every effort to ensure that communication and engagement with stakeholders and communities will be coordinated with The Province of Alberta to help deliver consistent, timely, and accurate information. It is Administrations desire to have this information available via the internet for the general public's ease of access.

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Strategic Alignment

City Administration's input into the project is in keeping with the public and community engagement policies outlined in the Calgary Transportation Plan. The project is being undertaken as a multi-disciplinary initiative, and is endeavouring to include involvement of broad stakeholder groups to help ensure that impacted stakeholder groups are engaged in the process as this project moves forward.

Input into the project is aligned with City policies such as; Calgary Transportation Goal #1 (Align transportation planning and infrastructure investment with city and regional land use directions and implementation strategies), Sustainability Principle #9 (Connect people, goods and services locally, regionally and globally), and Sustainability Principle #10 (Provide transportation services in a safe, effective, affordable and efficient manner that ensures reasonable accessibility to all areas of the city for all citizens).

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

There are a number of social, environmental, and economic (external) factors that stakeholders and citizens may be interested in, and these issues continue to be documented.

The issues that are identified will be regularly communicated to the Province. The communication and engagement activities that The City will facilitate and will recommend to the Province will endeavour to provide timely information and appropriate engagement to anticipate and respond to stakeholder questions and concerns related to the Social, Environmental, and Economic (external) aspects as the project progresses.

Social

This project will involve changes to access for citizens, impacts for adjacent properties, information about what to expect as the project moves forward, and changes to traveller choices and patterns once construction is complete, with improved mobility along the west and south west edges of Calgary.

Environmental

This project involves four new water/river crossings and new construction in previously undeveloped areas which will need to be managed in a responsible manner. Several stakeholder organizations have expressed a desire to be involved in the project design phase.

Economic (external)

Additional goods movement and mobility options will be available when this project is complete, which will enhance business and traveller movement through and around Calgary and can offer support to smart growth initiatives and investments.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

There are anticipated operating expenditures for communication and engagement activities, including development of materials, facility rentals, and resources to prepare these materials.

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Communication and engagement activities which require operating expenditure will be allocated from the existing Functional Studies budget within Transportation Planning.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

The communication and engagement activities will not require additional capital budget.

Risk Assessment

There are a number of issues that will require effective communication and engagement throughout this project. The risk of any oversights of project stakeholder(s) or a lack of timely and accurate information being conveyed to the project stakeholders and Calgary citizens is of primary concern.

Administration will continue to work with the Province in an effort to ensure that the project is communicated in a timely and effective manner, and the appropriate stakeholders are involved throughout the project. This will help to mitigate these potential risks that could develop in the absence of effective communication.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Province of Alberta project planning activities for the South West Ring Road are currently underway, but not yet finalized. Communication and engagement planning is still ongoing, and Administration is actively working with The Province as they move forward in their planning activities.

ATTACHMENT

None