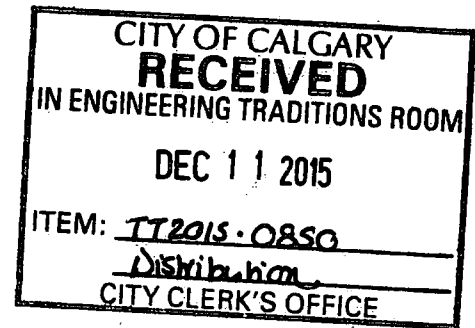


BIKE CALGARY

December 11, 2015

Councillor Shane Keating
Chair, Standing Policy Committee on Transportation and Transit
City of Calgary

Re: Centre City Cycle Track Network Pilot Project Update



Dear Councillor Keating,

Bike Calgary works to improve conditions for Calgarians who ride bicycles and to enable those who would like to. Our 2200+ members represent all areas of the city, and we strive to connect Calgary's communities through bicycling.

We wish to communicate our ongoing support for the cycle track network and Stephen Avenue shared space.

We have been actively engaged in the consultation process for the project through the Centre City Bicycle Projects Committee and Stephen Avenue Bicycle Advisory Committee. We are fully supportive of the engagement and consultation processes that these committees have undertaken.

The Bicycle Ambassador program has been effective at engaging people travelling in, next to, and across the cycle track network. Their focus on education and encouragement has helped many people navigate safely and confidently in and around the network.

Since its opening earlier this year, the network has allowed Bike Calgary members and a wide variety of Calgarians to move around the Centre City by bicycle safely, efficiently, and comfortably.

In particular, we highlight the following successes of the improved infrastructure:

- The infrastructure is well used: ridership has increased significantly with the introduction of the network
- A wide variety of people are taking advantage of it: the proportion of female riders has increased, and people of all ages and abilities can be seen riding their bikes
- Fewer people are biking on the sidewalk: as people have been given a safe and comfortable place to ride, they do not feel the need to use the sidewalks
- The infrastructure is well maintained: snow and ice have been cleared effectively and minor repairs have been made quickly
- Vehicle traffic flow along the roads with cycle tracks has not been significantly slowed, and the number of car parking spaces has been increased

Even though it's only been open for less than six months, the cycle track on 5 St SW is now the busiest on-street bikeway in the city. Not coincidentally, 5 St SW is also the cycle track with the strongest network connections: to the Bow River pathway system, 8 Ave SW, and 12 Ave SW. The particular success of 5 St SW highlights the importance of having a well-connected network.

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This notion can be extended to the network's role in city-wide mobility. With improved connections to bikeways in neighbouring communities and the city as a whole, Calgary can build on the successes of the Centre City network and allow even more Calgarians to travel by bicycle safely, efficiently, and comfortably.

Bike Calgary commends the work done by the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation and Transit, Council, and Administration on the cycle track network and Stephen Avenue shared space. We look forward to their continued success.

Yours sincerely,



Agustín Louro

President, Bike Calgary