



December 1, 2009

Southwest Calgary ring road planning study gets underway

Province, City sign memorandum of understanding

Calgary... The Alberta government and City of Calgary are beginning the planning work for the southwest Calgary ring road.

A memorandum of understanding between the Alberta government and the City defines the planning study's scope and sets out each party's roles and responsibilities during the study phase. The memorandum also outlines items for future discussion and negotiation.

"The memorandum is a significant step forward and demonstrates that government is committed to completing the Calgary ring road," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. "The planning study will look at an effective solution to address the immediate traffic issues for Calgary residents and enhance connections to the provincial highway network."

The planning study will examine previous transportation studies of alternate alignments and look at new options. The study will examine potential routes, connection points, land requirements, technical issues, and potential environmental and social factors.

Planning studies are done before design and construction proceeds. Timelines for road design and construction will be determined after the planning study is completed.

"City Council is taking decisive action to address our mobility needs in southwest Calgary," said Mayor Dave Bronconnier. "We'll begin construction of the interchange at 37 Street SW early next year, we've done a lot of work and will continue to widen the Glenmore Corridor, and we're working very closely with the Province to get things moving on the entire southwest portion of the provincial ring road. Today's announcement is a major step forward."

Focus Corporation is conducting the study under contract to the Alberta government and will complete the work by December 2011. Visit <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/4043.htm> to view the agreement and for more information about the Calgary ring road.

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Backgrounder: Southwest Calgary ring road study highlights

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Southwest Calgary ring road study highlights

- The Alberta government will lead the planning study and has retained Focus Corporation to conduct the study.
- Planning work will review the Glenmore Trail-37 Street SW area first to ensure each party's objectives are considered in time for the city to meet its tender date for the Glenmore Trail-37 Street SW interchange.
- The proposed design will recognize the corridor's constrained right-of-way and close proximity to urban areas. Consideration will be given to balancing the need for a high-standard roadway with the presence of existing neighbourhoods.
- An access management plan will be completed for communities impacted by the proposed road.
- The study will work toward a highway-speed road with a maximum of eight core lanes. Initial construction may be less than eight lanes.
- Waterway crossings will consider protecting Calgary's drinking water and the transportation of dangerous goods. Emergency spill containment will be incorporated in the road's design.
- The planning study will validate the preferred route taking into consideration previous studies of alternative alignments.
- After the planning study is complete, items for future discussion include, but are not limited to: construction and cost responsibility; city assistance in purchasing land on behalf of the province; amendments to the Highway Transfer Agreement; and transfer of existing road right-of-way.
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