

SCOPING REPORTS FOR A CYCLING STRATEGY AND A PATHWAY SAFETY REVIEW

SUMMARY/ISSUE

Scoping reports for a comprehensive cycling strategy for Calgary and a safety review on Calgary's multi-use pathway system.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION/POLICY

At the 2010 March 08 Combined Meeting of Council, NM2010-12 by Alderman Farrell, Alderman Hawkesworth, Alderman Pincott and Alderman Ceci directed Administration to: "provide scoping reports for:

- a. the development of a comprehensive cycling strategy in light of the new mobility hierarchy identified in the CTP,
 - b. a safety review of the existing multi-use pathway system, and
- report to Council through the SPC on Land Use, Planning and Transportation no later than June 2010."

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the SPC on Land Use, Planning and Transportation recommends that Council direct Administration to:

1. Develop a comprehensive cycling strategy based on the scoping report in Attachment 1;
2. Conduct a safety review of the existing multi-use pathway system as per the scoping report in Attachment 2; and
3. Bring forward these reports to the SPC on Land Use, Planning and Transportation no later than 2011 May.

INVESTIGATION

With the recent approval of the 2009 Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP), there is an increasing need to provide transportation choices and an increased focus on sustainability, health and the environment. As a result, Council has directed Administration to prepare a scoping report for the development of a comprehensive cycling strategy.

While Calgary has an extensive multi-use pathway system, Calgarians have expressed a desire for better on-street cycling facilities. By engaging stakeholders and the general public, analyzing current and future demand, and through best practices research from other cities, Administration will develop a strategy to expand the bicycle system to include better on-street and off-street bicycle infrastructure and to deliver programs to encourage more people to cycle.

The strategy will focus on implementation. Administration has reviewed the guiding principles from previously-approved Council policies and plans (e.g. 2001 Pathway and Bikeway Plan) and believes that they remain valid. Attachment 1 details the framework for the development of a cycling strategy including an engagement process, a re-statement of vision, mission and objectives, a 10-year review of data and trends, recommended actions for implementation, and a monitoring plan.

Calgary's off-street multi-use pathway system of more than 700 km is the most extensive urban pathway system in Canada. Excellence in design, operations and safety has been a clear objective of its 40-year history.

The annual operation of the system includes a built-in inspection system that rates maintenance and lifecycle needs on a priority basis for attention including winter snow clearing sequences. Parks, in partnership with Animal and Bylaw Services, will undertake public education around pathway safety, use and enjoyment of the system and bylaw enforcement where required.

Over the last 40 years however, there have been significant changes in how Calgarians enjoy the system including the advent of new recreational sports; i.e. inline skating, an increase in year round use, as well as

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increased use for transportation purposes in addition to recreational use. The multi-use aspects of the system have grown significantly. All of these changes warrant a review around best practices in design, construction, operations and education from a safety perspective.

The scope for the pathway safety review is included in Attachment 2. Highlights include:

- a review of current policies, plans and work completed over the last 10 years,
- a select review of best practices research from other cities,
- a gap analysis of safety 'best practices' with any resulting recommendations and
- an implementation strategy.

The Calgary Pathway and Bikeway Advisory Council have been consulted and support the scoping attachments as per Attachment 3.

IMPLICATIONS

General

Creating a city where cycling is a viable option for both travel and recreation, supports the principles and direction of the MDP and CTP to reduce automobile dependence and to improve municipal sustainability.

This report has been reviewed for alignment with The City of Calgary's Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Policy Framework. The following implications were identified:

Social

Cycling and walking are affordable ways to travel and can improve health.

Improvements to bicycle routes and facilities will encourage all Calgarians, regardless of age, gender, income, or ability, to cycle.

Operation of a recreational multi-use pathway system adds enjoyment and value to the social fabric of Calgary.

Environmental

Creating a city where Calgarians will choose to cycle or walk will result in improved air quality and decreased greenhouse gas emissions. Having more Calgarians cycle or walk is a key, long-term strategy for reducing Calgary's per capita ecological footprint.

Economic (External)

Providing safe cycling and walking options for Calgarians can help attract and retain employees which, in turn, can help attract, retain and nurture business in Calgary. Active streets also support small business. This further helps maintain Calgary as a city where people want to live and invest, and keeps Calgary a competitive and international city.

BUSINESS PLAN/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The development of the scoping reports for a comprehensive cycling strategy (Attachment 1) and a pathway safety review (Attachment 2) will be undertaken within existing budgets in Transportation Planning and Parks. Funds to implement proposed priority projects and initiatives will be identified as part of the comprehensive cycling strategy and pathway safety review and incorporated in the TIIP capital budget planning process.

RISKS

There are no significant risks associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Scoping Report for Comprehensive Cycling Strategy
2. Scoping Report for Pathway Safety Review
3. Letter of Support from the Calgary Pathway and Bikeway Advisory Council, dated 2010 May 03

SCOPING REPORT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CYCLING STRATEGY

Purpose: Develop a comprehensive cycling strategy that identifies actions The City will take in the short, medium and long term in order to make Calgary a bicycle-friendly city for all – a city where cycling is a great option for transportation and recreation purposes.

Resources: Transportation Planning will lead the development of the strategy with support from Parks. Input will be required from the other business units related to particular actions.

Engagement Strategy: Engagement for the development of a comprehensive cycling strategy will adhere to the cornerstones of The City of Calgary's engage! policy: accountability, inclusiveness, transparency, commitment and responsiveness.

Administration will use two parts of the engage! spectrum including "Listen and Learn" and "Consult".

Administration, in addition to gathering information from cyclists and the general public, will form an external stakeholder committee to advise administration on the development of the cycling strategy. The committee will consist of representatives from various cycling organizations including, but not limited to, Calgary Pathway and Bikeway Advisory Council (CPAC), Bike Calgary, Calgary tour de nuit Society and Elbow Valley Cycle Club (EVCC). The committee will also have members from the general public that are not affiliated with any cycling organization.

Contents of Cycling Strategy:

Part 1 – Vision, Guiding Principles and Objectives

- Restatement of policies from the CTP/MDP and guiding principles from the 2001 Pathway and Bikeway Plan.

Part 2 – 10-year review (1999-2009)

- Review of last 10 years in relation to cycling:
 - Cycling trends and influencers
 - Data about cycling in Calgary
 - Achievements to date
 - Top cycling-related issues
 - Best practices from other cities

Part 3 – Implementation Strategy

- Develop recommended actions that support The City's ability to plan, design, build, operate and maintain a successful bicycle network.
- Develop recommended actions to encourage bicycle use, increase acceptance and understanding among roadway and pathway users, reduce the frequency and severity of bike accidents and reduce conflicts between cyclists, pedestrians and motorists.
- Recommended actions will identify:
 - timelines for implementation (focus on short and medium term actions)
 - project costs (capital and operating),
 - business unit(s) responsible for leading and supporting the action

SCOPING REPORT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CYCLING STRATEGY

Part 4 – Funding Programs

- Identify funding sources and resource requirements for the implementation of key short and medium term actions.

Part 5 – Monitoring

- Develop targets and performance measures to monitor the success of actions recommended in the comprehensive cycling strategy. Targets and performance measures will align with the 2009 Calgary Transportation Plan & Municipal Development Plan.
- Develop a timeline for how and when to report back to Council with a status on the recommended actions.

Appendix – Engagement Strategy

- Process and list of stakeholders

SCOPING REPORT FOR PATHWAY SAFETY REVIEW

Purpose: Complete a comprehensive safety review of Calgary's pathway system with recommendations and a proposed implementation strategy.

Resources: Parks will lead the development of the pathway safety review with input from other business units, particularly Transportation Planning. Resources will be found within Parks Budget to perform some pathway user counts and surveys, as well as conduct a safety review on the existing pathway system.

Engagement Strategy: Engagement for the development of the pathway safety review will adhere to the City of Calgary's engage! Policy: accountability, inclusiveness, transparency, commitment and responsiveness.

Administration, in addition to gathering information from pathway users, will solicit information and consult with an external committee consisting of representatives from various organizations including the Calgary Pathway & Bikeway Advisory Council, cycling clubs, hiking clubs, seniors hiking clubs, in-line skating clubs, nature clubs, and organizations representing people with disabilities.

Contents:

Part 1 - Description of Pathway System

- Includes definitions of regional and local pathways; types of connecting infrastructure (e.g. bridges; pedestrian overpasses); associated amenities (benches, signage, bollards); size, location, and extent of system; adjacent land use (types / quantification); interface with roads, sidewalks, trails; photos.

Part 2 - Vision and Objectives

- Restatement from the 2001 Pathway & Bikeway Plan including guiding principles.

Part 3 - 10-year review of Calgary's Pathway System

- Review of implementation of previous direction and achievements to date including 2009 Calgary Transportation Plan and Municipal Development Plan, 2001 Pathway & Bikeway Plan, Open Space Plan, 1996 Cycle Plan, Parks and Pathways Bylaw, Traffic Safety Act (Alberta) and other applicable legislation..
- Review of best practices from other cities (4-6 cities) – pathway systems, safety issues/challenges, numbers and types of users, operations and best practices, education/enforcement, performance measures, volunteer programs, maintenance budgets, dealing with new technology (e.g. segways).
- Examination of current public use – purpose and volume of use; seasonal use; activity types – numbers, timing, direction; with a comparison to 2005 Pathwatch Survey and 2006-07 Winter Pathwatch Survey
- Assessment of current situation in Calgary (with public engagement) identifying factors such as trends/influencers; strengths and weaknesses of current pathway system and safety; specific safety issues; and a review of Parks and Pathways Bylaws as they relate to pathway safety.
- Trouble calls and accident statistics, emergency response and accessibility.

SCOPING REPORT FOR PATHWAY SAFETY REVIEW

- Review of annual pathway condition assessment process done by Parks and a safety review of existing pathway system to current design and landscape standards.

Part 4 - Implementation Strategy

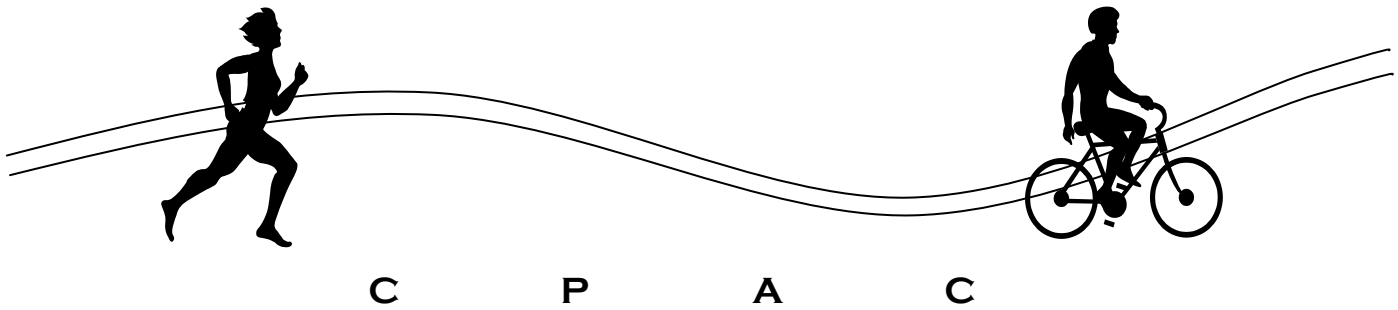
- Based upon an analysis of the information gained from the environmental scan, annual condition assessments, user data, safety review and public engagement.
- Identification of priorities; timelines: short (1-2 yrs), medium(3-5 yrs) , long term(5+yrs); costs (capital and operating); responsible business units and coordination of responsibilities. Direct tie to the Corporate 10-year capital plans.

Part 5 – Monitoring

- Develop targets and performance measures to monitor the success of actions recommended. Targets and performance measures will align with the 2009 Calgary Transportation Plan & Municipal Development Plan.
- Develop a timeline for how and when to report back to Council with a status on the recommended actions.

Appendix – Engagement Strategy

- Process and list of stakeholders



CALGARY PATHWAYS AND BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary AB T2P 2M5
May 3, 2010.

To : Anne Charlton, Director, Parks

Don Mulligan, Director, Transportation Planning

Re: Comprehensive Cycling Strategy and Pathway Safety Review Scoping Reports

The Calgary Pathways and Bikeways Advisory Council (CPAC) unanimously supports the acceptance and implementation of the two proposed Scoping Reports to achieve a Comprehensive Cycling Strategy and Pathway Safety Review. We believe that there is an urgent need to develop strategies and infrastructure that encourages and accommodates active modes of transportation so that Calgarians, as pedestrians and cyclists, can safely reach their work, school and recreational destinations. There are growing numbers of year-round cyclist and pedestrian commuters and recreational users who require pathways and bikeways that are safe for all persons, whether they are 8 or 80 years of age.

The strategy should focus on building infrastructure for priority routes that include pathways and bikeways:

1. within the centre city including contiguous connections to and from all city quadrants
2. to major activity nodes such as the university and hospital area
3. areas of concentrated business and industry.

We support the establishment of clear goals and the establishment of short, medium and long –term time lines to achieve these priorities.

Implementation of these Scoping Reports will lead to the realization of the goals and objectives identified in 'Plan It' and the Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP). We endorse the intent of the CTP and

believe the policies and descriptions regarding pedestrian and cycling options are essential to Calgary's future. Moreover the proposed primary cycling network, connectivity to improved transit, and concept of complete streets are important components of the Plan.

CPAC is an advisory committee established by the City of Calgary to provide citizens' perspectives, advice and input about pathways to City administrators. We represent the interests of many Calgarians who use the pathways and bikeways daily including pedestrians, runners, recreational and commuter cyclists, dog walkers, in-line skaters and handicapped persons. The Council acts as a liaison between pathway and bikeway users and the City of Calgary on matters related to planning, development, safety, education and management of pathways and bikeways.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on these Scoping Reports. We strongly support both the Comprehensive Cycling Strategy scoping report and the Pathway Safety Review. We urge their approval and recommend proceeding with the development of the actions recommended therein. CPAC would welcome opportunities to provide further input on an ongoing basis and to participate in the development and implementation of strategies as they are developed.

Sincerely,



Chris Alig
CPAC Co-Chair



Frans Hettinga
CPAC Co-Chair

cc: Blanka Bracic, P. Eng., Pedestrian and Bicycle Policy and Projects, Transportation Planning
Duane Sutherland, City of Calgary, Parks
CPAC Members
Mayor and Aldermen, City of Calgary