

NORTHWEST LRT EXTENSION TO ROCKY RIDGE/ROYAL OAK AND TUSCANY

Open Houses Summary

In late June 2008, two public open houses were held to introduce the Northwest LRT Extension to Rocky Ridge/Royal Oak and Tuscany project. The first was held on June 17 at the Rocky Ridge Ranch Homeowners Centre, and the second on June 21 at Tuscany Elementary School.

In all, approximately 600 people from the surrounding communities attended. At the Rocky Ridge area open house, 242 households attended with the majority being from Rocky Ridge (131 households) and Royal Oak (90 households). At the open house held in Tuscany, 133 households attended with over 90 per cent of attendees residing in Tuscany (124 households).

Residents were asked to provide feedback regarding the open house and the project. We received 212 completed feedback forms from the two open houses. The feedback collected will be used to improve future open houses and to incorporate public input into the project where possible.

When asked about the effectiveness of the open house, more than 95 per cent of attendees felt that the information presented helped them understand the scope of the project, and that the information was presented in a format that was easy to understand. Residents were generally pleased with the staff's ability to answer questions.

Open house attendees were also given an opportunity to comment on the name of the future station. The most popular choices in descending order of mention were Rocky Ridge Station, Tuscany Station, Mountainview Station and Rocky Ridge / Tuscany Station. Additional feedback about the station name included avoiding hyphenated names, and that the name should indicate the location of the station.

Many residents are concerned about closing Rocky Ridge Road, and feel it will force motorists to travel through the communities and result in speeding, more accidents and longer delays. Specifically, residents are worried about increasing traffic volumes on Rocky Ridge Boulevard, Royal Oak Drive and Country Hills Boulevard, and the resulting increase in travel time. Other roads where people anticipate traffic issues include Tuscany Springs Boulevard, 12 Mile Coulee Road and Scenic Acres Link.

Several residents indicated there are not enough parking stalls provided. Tuscany residents in particular would like the station to be accessible to bicycles and have a sufficient number of bicycle storage lockers.

Overall, two concerns emerged from the feedback received: the closure of Rocky Ridge Road and the number of parking stalls. Residents also indicated that traffic management measures and noise attenuation will be needed within their communities because of the influx of vehicles driving to the Park and Rides.

Many attendees also explained they look forward to having a CTrain station nearby and are optimistic about the project.

NORTHWEST LRT EXTENSION TO ROCKY RIDGE/ROYAL OAK AND TUSCANY

June 17, 2008 Open House Summary

Public Open House
Rocky Ridge Ranch Homeowners Centre

of Households – 242*

of Comments Submitted – 137

Communities Represented

- Rocky Ridge -131
- Royal Oak - 90
- Tuscany - 6
- Cochrane - 4
- North of Country Hills Drive - 3
- Arbour Lake - 2
- Citadel - 1
- Hawkwood - 1
- Ranchlands - 1
- Scenic Acres - 1
- Silver Springs - 1
- Bearspaw – 1

* Based on the number of households, an estimated 400 people attended.

FEEDBACK FORM RESPONSES

	YES	NO
Did the information presented help you understand the scope of the project?	96% (128)	4% (5)
Was the information presented in a format that was easy to understand?	95% (125)	5% (6)
Was the staff able to answer your questions?	83% (106)	17% (21)

What do you think the station should be called? (shown in descending order of mention):

- Rocky Ridge Station (18)
- Mountainview Station (8)

- Rocky Ridge / Tuscany Station (7)
- Tuscany Ridge Station (4)
- Eamon Station (4)
- Eamon Road Station (3)
- Royal Oak Station (2)
- Rockyview Station (2)
- Royal Oak / Tuscany Station (2)
- Tuscany Station (2)
- Stoney Trail Station (2)
- Bearspaw Station (2)
- Rocky Ridge / Royal Oak Station (2)
- Rocky Royal Station (2)
- Others: Rocky Mountain Station, The Outpost, Rock Pile Station© (copyright Daniel B. Grant Phone: 990-4950), Folly Station, Royal-Ridge-Tusc. Station, Royal Station, Rocky Mountain View Station, Ridge Line / View Station, 12 Mile Coulee Station, Sunset Station, Foothills Ridge Station, Rockuscany Station, Esarte-Russell Station, Blazing Saddles Station (Rock Ridge), Royal Oak / Rocky Ridge Tuscany (RRT Station), The Ranch, Royal Ridge Station, Rocky Mountain Station

Additional comments about station name:

- I will likely be moving now so it doesn't really matter.
- None! No station!
- I hope we have enough time to think it over – please ask us later.
- Does not concern me.
- Rocky Ridge or Tuscany; but please stop the terrible practice of hyphenated station names.
- It should indicate location, not random title like Royal Ridge.

Where do you anticipate traffic issues? (shown in descending order of mention):

Roads

- Rocky Ridge Road Closure (50)
- Country Hills Boulevard (13)*
- Rocky Ridge Boulevard (11)*
- 12 Mile Coulee Road (8)
- Royal Oak Drive (7)*
- Rocky Ridge Drive (5)
- Rockyvalley Drive (4)
- Tuscany Springs Boulevard (3)
- Royal Oak Way (2)
- Everywhere (2)
- Royal Birch Road
- Royal Birch Boulevard
- Eamon Road (access from south end Royal Oak / Rocky Ridge only via Country Hills Boulevard)
- Rocky Valley Drive
- Royal Birch Way
- Rocky Vista Drive
- Left turn from Rock Bluff Close onto Rocky Ridge Boulevard
- Extension of Country Hills Boulevard to 12 Mile Coulee Road
- Crowchild Trail
- None

*Most comments about traffic issues on these roads related to the closure of Rocky Ridge Road.

Rocky Ridge Road Closure Comments

- There will be no way for me to exit my neighborhood without going a very long way around. I have no access to Crowchild Trail. Traffic will increase in other areas as people try to exit the neighbourhoods.
- How do I access Crowchild? I work in Cochrane so that means driving way up to Country Hills to Stoney? Kind of crazy. If I need to go to my Doctor in Market Mall I have to go way around again. I'm a senior and this is very frustrating and I don't understand.
- I live on Rockyvalley Drive and I foresee issues with the Royal Oak traffic that will now be using this as a way to access Crowchild Trail. There are times now where I have been almost hit as people come out of the Co-op parking lot as I am walking across the street. With more traffic, people will have trouble turning left out of the parking lot and it will cause problems as people park along Rockyvalley Drive. The amount of traffic that the Rocky Ridge Road closure would redirect down Rockyvalley Drive causes me to be concerned and will be considering the impact to our condo unit and the potential decrease in our market value as this roadway will become a major thoroughfare. This closure will cause even more concern if parking will not longer be available on Rockyvalley Drive due to the amount of traffic. We have issues with people parking on the roadway. If this roadway is closed to parking we will have big issues where people in our townhouse complex can park.
- Closure of Rocky Ridge Road is not a well-engineered plan. 15,110 cars per day being forced to traveling further through community playground and school zones.
- I would suggest that you temporarily close Rocky Ridge Road and Crowchild for a few days and you will see how your lack of planning (no planning) will affect Rocky Ridge and Royal Oak. There are alternatives such as building a tunnel under Crowchild from Rocky Ridge Road.
- With the blocking of Rocky Ridge Road, I anticipate significant traffic on Royal Oak Drive. This is currently quite busy / fast in the current configuration. Further, you have a playground zone and sports fields which take this road down to 2 narrow lanes. Please look at photo radar in the playground zones, and parking controls in peak hours along this road.
- With closure of Rocky Ridge Road, traffic for Crowchild Trail will significantly increase on Royal Oak Drive through a residential area resulting in speeding, frustration with delays and longer lines of traffic.
- Issues due to closure of Rocky Ridge Road. Significantly increased traffic on Royal Oak Drive and through residential communities. More accidents, speeding, frustration, long traffic delays throughout Rocky Ridge and Royal Oak.
- Rocky Ridge Road closure is a huge issue; everybody here seems to be being shut off (losing direct access to) Crowchild. Second, our poor children would have to face major delays and safety issues with school busing. They are already spending too much time on the bus: my daughter goes to GATE program at Queen Elizabeth – it takes her over an hour (!) to get there. There could be better road planning to provide access Rocky Ridge – Crowchild, not just be cutting us off. The design could have been put up for a tender (competition) among architects / road designers and I am sure there would have been a wiser solution. Competition always produces best results.
- The intersection of Rocky Ridge Road and Rocky Ridge Blvd. When Rocky Ridge Road closes, a signal should be considered. There is a high accident rate now.

Intersections

- 12 Mile Coulee Road and Crowchild Trail intersection (9)
- Rocky Ridge Road and Country Hills Boulevard (7)
- 12 Mile Coulee Road and Country Hills Boulevard (3)
- Country Hills Boulevard and Stoney Trail intersection (3)
- Crowchild Trail and Stoney Trail intersection (2)
- 12 Mile Coulee Road and Rockyvalley Drive intersection (2)
- Rocky Ridge Road and Rocky Ridge Boulevard intersection (2)

Intersection Comments

- Concern about volume on Country Hills and Stoney intersection with lights at that intersection. There should not be lights, but rather a full free interchange.
- At 12 Mile Coulee Road and Crowchild Trail. Volumes will be pushed that way and the turning lanes are not set up for those proposed volumes.
- 12 Mile Coulee Road needs double turning lanes onto Crowchild Trail from Rocky Ridge.
- Rocky Ridge Boulevard and Rockyvalley Drive intersection will be very congested during rush hour. Traffic will be backed way back at 12 Mile Coulee during rush hour if there is no interchange built.

Station Parking

- Hard to get in and out of parking lots (2)
- Parking lots should be smaller to prevent traffic coming in from the west and going through Rocky Ridge to the LRT parking
- Not enough parking spots so people will be forced to park on the road
- Poor access to the stations for cars from MD of Rockyview, Cochrane, Bowness and rest of northwest
- I am concerned by the traffic volume and speed on Tuscany Springs Blvd. towards the Tuscany (south) Park and Ride. It nears a playground with a playground zone (speed 30 km/hr). Currently there is a lot of abuse on speed putting children at risk. The Park and Ride will add to the problem. Also, because of the limited parking there will be a problem of excess parking on near streets. However, child safety near the playground is most important.

Other comments

- I live in lowest Rocky Ridge. Getting out of Rocky Vista Drive to go north to Country Hills or Rocky Ridge Road – will there be a light?
- Country Hills Blvd. needs to be twinned from Rocky Ridge Road to 12 Mile Coulee Road.
- Major traffic will increase along Rocky Ridge Drive. We already have problems with cars speeding along the road. Increase of vehicles will increase the problems along this road as many drivers will access this road as a short cut to get to 12 Mile Coulee Road. This is a major concern with families living along the Drive. We all have small children playing outside.
- The Rockyspring access to the 112 Avenue, future Country Hills Blvd.
- At Rocky Ridge Road / Eamon Road because everyone who lives in Royal or Rocky has to go through there to take C-train.

Additional Comments: The comments submitted have been grouped into the following topic areas (shown in descending order of mention):

- Redesign and do not close Rocky Ridge Road (53)
- Not enough parking stalls (31)
- Country Hills Boulevard must be completed to 12 Mile Coulee Road before closing Rocky Ridge Road (8)
- Need more noise attenuation for the community (8)
- Great work, looks good (8)
- Traffic increase and speeding concerns in community (7)
- Want the station to be built as quickly as possible (4)
- Lights will need to be installed at intersections with Rocky Ridge Road (4)
- Traffic calming required in communities (4)
- Concerned about property value decreasing (3)
- Need more pedestrian pathways (3)
- Need to keep emergency vehicle access during road closure (2)
- Concerned about crime at LRT station (2)
- More green space (2)
- Should not be able to access parking lots from Crowchild Trail (community access only)
- Interchanges become too big and land intrusive

- Curious as to what the station will look like
- There should be a Cochrane open house
- Concerned about the city owned land adjacent to the North Park and Ride currently designated as “transit oriented development”. I feel a more appropriate use would be a buffer zone between current residential and proposed parking.
- The spot east of the proposed parking lot on the north side that is slotted for additional parking should be left as a barrier to the homes near by.
- Temporary detour roads are not properly maintained during construction phases.
- A lane for electric scooters, bicycles and electric cars should be added on Crowchild Trail
- Add a third lane to the Crowchild Trail bypass.
- Buses traveling in the opposite direction should not be leaving the station at the same time or 5 minutes apart. A gap of 30 minutes should be allocated otherwise both buses leave the station either at the same time or within 5 minutes and then there is not bus for another half hour.
- Personally, I support concept 2 of South Park and Ride. Parking lot in Concept 1 is too close to existing residential buildings (Tuscany Springs Gardens).
- North of Country Hills Boulevard on the Rocky Ridge Road single lane road owned by the City of Calgary. This road is very narrow up to 144 Avenue. There is not enough space for pedestrians on both sides of the road to walk or cycle (no pathway) which is very dangerous for community people.

NORTHWEST LRT EXTENSION TO ROCKY RIDGE/ROYAL OAK AND TUSCANY

June 21, 2008 Open House Summary

Public Open House
Tuscany Elementary School

of Households – 133*

of Comments Submitted – 75

Communities Represented

- Tuscany - 124
- Rocky Ridge -6
- Royal Oak - 2
- Cochrane – 1

* Based on the number of households, an estimated 200 people attended.

FEEDBACK FORM RESPONSES

	YES	NO
Did the information presented help you understand the scope of the project?	99% (74)	1% (1)
Was the information presented in a format that was easy to understand?	97% (73)	3% (2)
Was the staff able to answer your questions?	96% (72)	4% (3)

What do you think the station should be called? (shown in descending order of mention):

- Tuscany Station (16)
- Stoney Trail Station (7)
- Rocky Ridge / Tuscany Station (5)
- Mountainview Station (4)
- 12 Mile Coulee Station (4)
- Tuscany Ridge Station (3)
- Eamon Station (3)
- Others: Crowchild West, Tuscany / Royal Oak Station, 12 Mile Coulee Station, Tuscarock, Tuscany Ridge, Foothills Station, Sierra's Station

Additional comments about station name:

- As long as it's only one name it doesn't matter to me. Please stop with the hyphenated names.

Where do you anticipate traffic issues? (shown in descending order of mention):

Roads

- Tuscany Springs Boulevard (20)
- Scenic Acres Link with lights (6)
- None (6)
- Crowchild Trail (4)
- Rocky Ridge Road Closure (3)
- 12 Mile Coulee Road (2)
- Tuscany Drive

Intersections

- Crowchild Trail and Stoney Trail intersection (3)
- 12 Mile Coulee Road and Crowchild Trail intersection

Station Parking

- People from Cochrane will fill up the parking lots (4)
- There should be more parking
- There needs to be lots of bicycle parking

Other comments

- It will be very difficult to get in and out of Tuscany (6)
- Lights should be taken out of the design

Additional Comments: The comments submitted have been grouped into the following topic areas (shown in descending order of mention):

- Not enough parking stalls (9)
- Great work, looks good (7)
- Concerned about traffic increase on Tuscany Springs Boulevard (7)
- Park n' Ride Concept 2 is better (4)
- Need more noise attenuation for the community (3)
- Park n' Ride Concept 1 is better (3)
- Accommodate walkers, wheelchairs and wide strollers (3)
- Need traffic management measures installed in community (3)
- Please ensure there is enough storage for bicycles at the Park n' Rides (3)
- Want the station to be built as quickly as possible (2)
- New bus routes (74, 174) should start right away (2)
- Bicycle access is crucial (2)
- Don't get rid of bus route 130 (2)
- Need more pedestrian crossings on Tuscany Springs Boulevard (2)
- More landscaping and green space (2)
- Redesign and do not close Rocky Ridge Road
- Concerned about crime at LRT station
- Parking restrictions need to be put into place in community (resident only parking passes)
- This is the wrong location, should be moved to 12 Mile Coulee Road
- Maximize the use of available land for high density development (TOD)
- Going down hill towards Scenic Acres, instead of traffic lights please consider a traffic circle