

Bishop O'Byrne High School

October 23 and 25, 2014

Macleod Trail and 162 Avenue S Interchange

The City of Calgary is working to complete an updated plan for an interchange at Macleod Trail and 162 Avenue S / Sun Valley Blvd. The purpose of this initial information session is to introduce the project and provide interested community members with background information and an opportunity to provide input in the early stages of the study. Your feedback is an important part of the planning and evaluation of the interchange.

How does this interchange fit into The City's Transportation Network?

The interchange at Macleod Trail and 162 Avenue S will be an integral part of The City of Calgary's overall transportation network that includes commuters, cyclists, pedestrians, transit users and HOV. The interchange will help to enhance Macleod Trail as a gateway to the City from the provincial highway network, and will complete the free-flow section from 194 Avenue to Lake Fraser Gate.

What are the long term benefits of the interchange?

Construction of the interchange and roadway at this location will:

- Enhance mobility for commuters, cyclists and pedestrians while accommodating access to surrounding businesses and services.
- Improve access and connectivity to and from Macleod Trail for the communities of Sundance, Midnapore, Shawnessy, Somerset, Bridlewood and Evergreen, and the Shawnessy Towne Centre.
- Coordinate with planned provincial improvements at Macleod Trail and Stoney Trail (formerly Highway 22X), in conjunction with the planned Southwest Ring Road..
- Increase road capacity to accommodate priority growth areas in southwest Calgary, including transit-oriented development around area LRT stations.

Who is doing the work?

The City of Calgary has retained ISL Engineering and AECOM to complete the study. The City's Transportation Infrastructure (TI) business unit is leading the project with support from the Transportation Planning business unit. TI will take the project through to design and construction, once the planning study is complete.

How long will the study take?

This Interchange project has two stages:

- **Stage A:** Functional planning and preliminary engineering which is currently underway
- **Stage B:** Detailed Design Tender Preparation/Contract Administration

The final report of the planning study should be completed by the Summer of 2015.

How will the broader community be involved?

Stakeholder communication and engagement is an important component of the Macleod Trail / 162 Avenue Interchange planning process. Opportunities will be provided over the coming months for stakeholders and the public to offer ideas and concerns related to specific aspects of the interchange design. Comments and questions from community members and other stakeholders will be carefully considered by the project team. Where possible, input will be incorporated into the plan. If input cannot be incorporated, the City will explain why.

These open houses are the first of three planned engagement events for the study.

What are some of the opportunities and challenges being faced with this project?

- Congestion during peak travel periods has created a high degree of driver frustration. It is important that the interchange plan is able to accommodate traffic during construction.
- 162 Avenue / Sun Valley Blvd is a primary access point for pedestrians across Macleod Trail. Pedestrian and cyclist crossing of Macleod Trail will be improved in the interchange plan..
- 162 Avenue / Sun Valley Blvd is part of the City's Primary Cycling Network, providing a cross-town connection between southwest residential communities and the Fish Creek / Bow River pathway networks. High quality cycling access needs to be provided across Macleod Trail, which is safe and comfortable for users of all abilities.
- Macleod Trail south of Anderson Road may be a suitable candidate for median-lane HOV (High Occupancy Vehicles) lanes in future, providing an express HOV system from Anderson Road to Stoney Trail or beyond.
- Macleod Trail is an important connection to Calgary from the provincial highway network.
- The physical appearance of the interchange is important to leave a positive and pleasing impression with visitors and residents, and a safe, engaging environment for pedestrians and cyclists. This will involve a combination of landscaping and bridge design.

When will construction take place?

Construction of the interchange is expected to take two years. Pending budget approval by City Council, it is expected that construction would begin in 2016, with the interchange open to traffic in late 2017.

What will the interchange cost?

The current budget for the interchange is set at \$55 million. Updated estimates will be prepared as part of the planning study.

Why is the interchange being built now?

City Council has identified the West Macleod area south of Stoney Trail and west of Macleod Trail as a Priority Growth Area for the City. The interchange will facilitate this growth, as well as address existing traffic issues.

What is the connection between this project and the Southwest portion of the Calgary Ring Road?

Alberta Transportation's Southwest Calgary Ring Road project is separate from but in the vicinity of the Macleod Trail / 162 Avenue Interchange project. The City is working with the Province to ensure that plans for roadways connecting to the Ring Road are coordinated and minimize impacts during construction. The Province is currently hosting a number of open houses about the Southwest Ring Road, with information available at www.sw-crr.ca.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit the project website at www.calgary.ca/macleod162ave.
- Phone 311.
- Email macleod@islengineering.com.

