



Macleod Trail / 162 Avenue South Interchange

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is this project all about?

The City's Transportation Department is building an interchange at Macleod Trail and 162 Avenue South. This interchange will be an integral part of The City'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.

2. Why is the interchange being built at this time?

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 help to facilitate this growth, as well as address existing traffic issues, and coordinate this project with the Alberta Government who is responsible for the construction of the Southwest Ring Road (Stoney Trail).

3. What was the major milestone achieved in October 2016?

The opening of the south side overpass bridge in October, 2016, resulted in the free flow of traffic on Macleod Trail with the removal of signal lights. The partially completed 162 Avenue overpass is handling both east and west traffic while crews complete the north side bridge. Pedestrian and cyclist access is also provided across Macleod Trail on the new overpass.

4. What are some of the benefits of building an interchange at this location?

Construction of the interchange and roadway at this location will:

- improve 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 Shawnessy Towne Centre
- coordinate with the Alberta Government the planned provincial improvements at Macleod Trail and Stoney Trail (formerly Highway 22X), in conjunction with the Southwest Ring Road
- increase road capacity to serve priority growth areas in southwest Calgary, including transit-oriented development around area LRT stations.

5. What is the construction timeline?

Construction began in the fall of 2015 with anticipated completion in the fall of 2017.

6. Will there be impacts to the flow of traffic in the area during construction?

Yes. Construction on this project will result in a number of lane closures and detours. The City will do its best to mitigate these impacts to local businesses and commuting traffic during construction. During the spring and summer of 2017, the intersection at Shawville Blvd. and 162 Avenue will be the site of construction work as part of improving traffic flow at the intersection.

7. What kind of interchange is being built?

After completing an analysis of the traffic flow at the intersection and evaluating several designs, it was determined that a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) was the most appropriate layout for an interchange at



this location. While the Diverging Diamond has been constructed in other parts of the world, this will be the first urban DDI in Canada.

8. How does the DDI work?

The diverging diamond interchange (DDI) is designed in such a way that the two directions of traffic on 162 Avenue will briefly cross to the opposite side of each other on bridges over Macleod Trail. This allows more effective traffic flow at the signalized intersections within the interchange, and enables left-turning vehicles to proceed without crossing opposing traffic. This design significantly reduces delay and improves efficiency compared to a more traditional diamond interchange.

Check out the video on the project webpage to see how the interchange will work once it's completed.

9. What are the other benefits of the DDI?

- consolidation of the pedestrian and cyclist corridor to the centre of the bridge resulting in more convenient pedestrian and cycling travel across the interchange
- less space required for interchange bridges
- increased capacity for turning movements to and from ramps
- free-flow left-turn movements from both directions on 162 Avenue to Macleod Trail northbound and southbound
- simplified and more efficient traffic signal operations with less delay for traffic.

10. Who is doing the work?

- The City of Calgary is leading the project
- ISL Engineering is responsible for design and construction administration
- Graham Infrastructure LP is general contractor for constructing the interchange and associated works.

11. What is the budget for the project?

The project budget is \$78 million.

12. What kind of public engagement and communication has taken place regarding this project?

Stakeholder communication and engagement has been an important component of the interchange planning process. Four public information sessions have been held, first to gather information about the original functional study for the project and then to provide information about the construction schedule. The most recent event took place on March 15, 2017.

In addition, two information sessions have also been held specifically for area businesses.

13. Is there any public art related to this project?

The design concept for the project's public art is inspired by the perception of motion as it will be experienced by pedestrians, drivers and cyclists moving through the site at various speeds. Artist Vicki Scuri has developed a pattern language of overlapping curves suggested by the diverging diamond. The undulating curves are reminiscent of the rippling currents of the nearby Fish Creek and Bow River, promoting a perceptual experience of motion and place. Check out the public art design PDF in the Related documents section on the project webpage.

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