

SHAGANAPPI

TRAIL

CORRIDOR

STUDY

A long-term vision for future transportation needs

Information Package

April 2013

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Onward! Providing more travel choices helps to improve overall mobility in Calgary's transportation system.



THE CITY OF
CALGARY

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What is the Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study?

The City of Calgary is conducting a long-term study for Shaganappi Trail between Bowness Road and Stoney Trail to determine future transportation requirements. The study includes a corridor study for Shaganappi Trail between Bowness Road and Crowchild Trail and a High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) implementation study from Bowness Road to Stoney Trail. This information package focuses on the corridor study section between Bowness Road and Crowchild Trail. There is currently no funding available to implement recommendations from this study.

While there is currently no funding available to implement recommendations from this study, conducting the study now will allow The City to better prioritize and plan for future transportation infrastructure projects and ensure plans are in place when funding becomes available.



Map of Shaganappi Trail Corridor study and HOV study area.

What is a corridor study?

Corridor studies are typically completed 10 to 30 years in advance of construction to identify issues such as how much room is needed for a new roadway or upgrades for an existing roadway.

Study Purpose

The purpose of this study is two-fold:

1. **To align future corridor plans for Shaganappi Trail with the Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP) and land use plans.**

The 60-year CTP provides policy direction on Calgary's transportation system that moves Calgary towards a more sustainable future. The CTP:

- » Identifies Shaganappi Trail between Bowness Road and Stoney Trail as part of a network of roadways that accommodate high-occupancy vehicles (HOV) (i.e. vehicles with one or more passengers, including buses), high frequency transit service, and people who bicycle.
- » Reclassifies Shaganappi Trail from Bowness Road to Crowchild Trail to an Arterial Street* from a Skeletal Road**.

What is the Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study?

*An **Arterial Street** connects communities to major destinations (e.g. University of Calgary), includes same level intersections rather than raised interchanges, and accommodates cycling, transit, and vehicles of varying sizes (e.g. cars, delivery trucks, etc.). Examples include Nose Hill Drive, 14 Street N.W., and Country Hills Boulevard.

A **Skeletal Road is a high speed, high volume roadway that facilitates long distance travel, includes same level intersections and raised interchanges, and accommodates transit and vehicles of varying sizes. Examples include Crowchild Trail, Beddington Trail and Glenmore Trail.

2. **To develop a long-term vision for Shaganappi Trail that accommodates all modes of transportation and is integrated with surrounding communities and land uses.**

Future plans for Shaganappi Trail must accommodate people who bike, take transit, carpool, and drive alone, and identify how these transportation requirements can fit well with neighbouring communities and future land development.

Study Scope

The original scope of the Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study looked specifically at the long-term transportation needs from Stoney Trail to Bowness Road, including the 16 Avenue interchange. Since the October stakeholder meetings (see page 12 for stakeholder list) and the first public open house held in November 2012, there have been two specific changes to the study scope:

1. Short-term improvements between Crowchild Trail and 32 Avenue will be considered as part of this corridor study. Implementation of short-term improvements is subject to available funding.
2. The 16 Avenue interchange at Shaganappi Trail will no longer be part of this study but will be part of a future 16 Avenue study as a result of stakeholder and public feedback.

The current scope of this study consists of:

- Determining the long-term transportation needs for all travellers along Shaganappi Trail including people who walk, bike, take transit, carpool, and drive. Key considerations include:
 - » HOV (includes carpools and transit vehicles) implementation from Stoney Trail to Bowness Road.
 - » Pedestrian and cycling connections from Crowchild Trail to Bowness Road.
- Developing a plan to identify priority areas for future study and implementation. The following considerations will be explored in future studies:
 - » Environmental impacts.
 - » Geotechnical (e.g. underground conditions).
 - » Traffic noise.
 - » Detailed bridge planning (e.g. pedestrian overpasses).
 - » Drainage (e.g. water run-off).

What is the Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study?

Incorporating public input: 16 Avenue interchange

Feedback about the 16 Avenue interchange indicated that stakeholders and community members will need to understand more about future land use and requirements along 16 Avenue in order to properly comment on the interchange options. In light of this feedback, The City has removed the 16 Avenue interchange from the scope of the current Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study, focusing instead on areas north of the interchange.

The 16 Avenue interchange will be considered as part of a separate future study of the 16 Avenue corridor itself, which will provide a better opportunity to evaluate concepts in light of potential land use and corridor revisions along that roadway.

Study Outcomes

The outcomes of this study will answer two key questions:

1. **What land is required for the future Shaganappi Trail** that meets the long-term transportation needs of all travellers (i.e., people who walk, bike, take transit, carpool, and drive)?
2. **How can a future Shaganappi Trail best provide infrastructure for all travellers** that fits well with adjacent communities and lessens potential community and property impacts?

Where we're at in this study

- **July 2012** – Project kick-off with internal and external stakeholders.
- **July to October 2012** – Development of preliminary concepts.
- **October to November 2012** – Public Engagement (Phase 1) including internal and external stakeholder meetings and a public open house to introduce the project and gather input on preliminary concepts.
- **December 2012 to March 2013** – Consider public input and revise preliminary concepts.

Next steps

- **March to April 2013** – Public Engagement (Phase 2) including internal and external stakeholder meetings and community sessions to identify additional considerations for design concepts and evaluation criteria. **See page 7 for more information and to RSVP.**
- **May to October 2013** – Consider stakeholder and public input, and revise and evaluate design concepts. Provide project updates online.
- **November 2013 to early 2014** – Report back to stakeholders and community members on how input was incorporated, and share evaluation results and recommended plans.

What is the Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study?

For more information

Visit the project page by searching “Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study” on www.calgary.ca for project updates, presentation materials and summaries of public input. You can also contact:

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Transportation Engineer
Transportation Planning
The City of Calgary
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Corridor Studies: Why plan so far in advance?

Corridor studies are typically done 10 to 30 years in advance of construction using forecasted population, land use, and transportation data to ensure sufficient time for more detailed engineering and design studies to be completed in the future. This enables The City to develop plans that anticipate future transportation needs of Calgarians and implement those plans when the need emerges in the future.

To take full advantage of funding opportunities when they become available, The City must be prepared to mobilize quickly on key projects. This means engineering plans and designs need to be completed in advance so projects are shovel-ready.

By conducting corridor studies well in advance of construction, The City can evaluate proposed development plans along a corridor to ensure that any approvals given today are consistent with the needs of the future.

Upcoming opportunities for public input

Public engagement is an important component of the Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study. The first phase of engagement, from July to November 2012, focused on introducing the project to stakeholders and the public. Phase 2 of engagement will focus on hearing from adjacent community members and the general public. Two public engagement sessions have been planned to invite input from community members and stakeholders.

Date: April 23 or 25, 2013

Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Location: Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church (4612 Varsity Drive NW)

Session format

Note: These are not drop-in sessions. Attendees are encouraged to arrive 5 to 10 minutes prior to 6 p.m.

1. **Welcome and introductions, followed by a short presentation about the study.**
2. **Focused conversations** - Attendees at each table will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and comment on key elements of the study including the study evaluation criteria.
3. **Dotmocracy** - Attendees will be invited to review the design concepts being considered and provide new ideas on how the design concepts can better address the key themes identified in the previous exercise.

RSVP deadline: April 19, 2013

If you are interested in attending one of two scheduled sessions, please **RSVP online by April 19 via the project web page** on www.calgary.ca (search for "Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study").

Our Engagement Promise

Phase 1: Listen & Learn (July to November 2012)

The first phase of engagement for the Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study, which took place July to November 2012, was focused on a "Listen and Learn" level of engagement. At this level, the engagement promise is **to listen to stakeholders and community members and learn about their views, issues, concerns and expectations.**

Phase 2: Consult (April 2013 to November 2013*)

The upcoming engagement opportunities (April 2013) are planned at a "Consult" level of engagement. At this level, the engagement promise is to **incorporate stakeholder and community input to the maximum extent possible, and advise how consultation affected the decisions and outcomes.** It's important to understand that this does not mean all input can be incorporated—it means that all input will be considered, and where input cannot be incorporated we will report back and explain why.

*Subject to change

For more information about The City's engage! Policy, visit "About Get Involved" on www.calgary.ca.

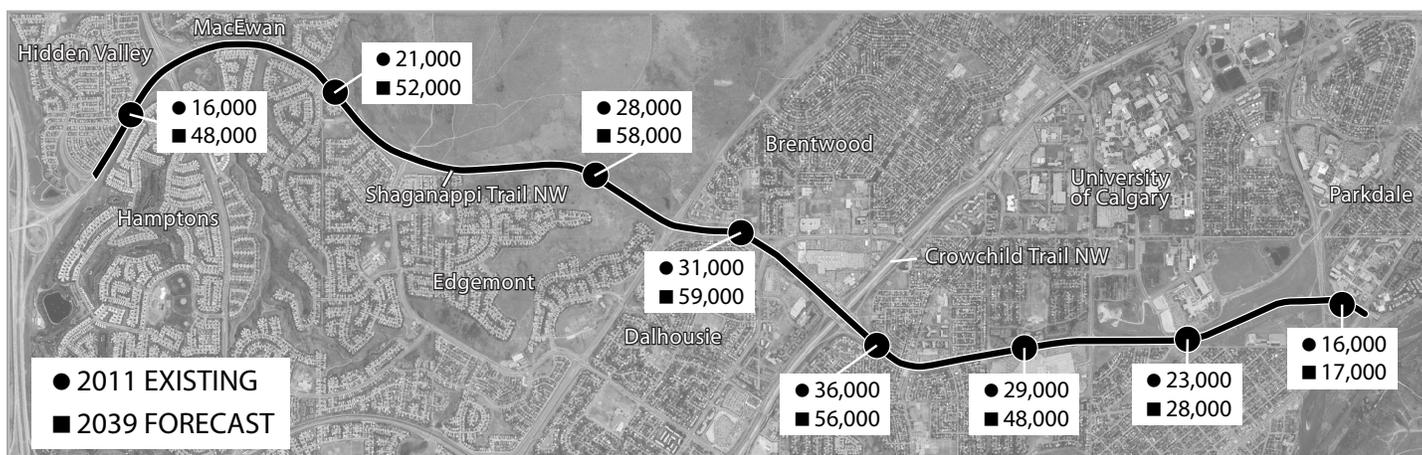
Why is this corridor study needed?

Travel demand on Shaganappi Trail will continue to increase over the next 10 to 30 years. The development of new residential communities such as Sage Hill and Nolan Hill are already underway. Future developments in the University of Calgary and West Campus area will further increase transportation demand along this corridor.

Simply put, more Calgarians will visit, live and work in major activity centres or destinations along Shaganappi Trail over the next 30 years. The increase in travel demand is expected to exceed what the current Shaganappi Trail can accommodate. In some cases, there are clear gaps already, such as the lack of infrastructure for pedestrians or cyclists along Shaganappi Trail.

The figure below shows the current (2011) and forecasted (2039) traffic volumes along Shaganappi Trail.

Future demands on Shaganappi Trail are expected to exceed what the current roadway can accommodate.



Source: City of Calgary.

How can mobility choices help meet future needs?

Shaganappi Trail will continue to function as a primary route for motorists in the future, but its proximity to residential communities and direct connections to existing and future major destinations also makes it an ideal corridor for people who walk, bike, take transit, or carpool. Providing different mobility choices can help ease future transportation demand and make travelling along Shaganappi Trail more convenient and efficient for everyone.

Existing and future land uses along Shaganappi Trail

Why include adjacent lands and their future development in plans for Shaganappi Trail?

- A mix of future residential and commercial developments along Shaganappi Trail will increase population and transportation demand in the area.
- Plans for Shaganappi Trail need to support the transportation needs of all travellers (people who walk, bicycle, use transit, or drive) in ways that complement surrounding communities and future developments.
- In some locations, lands that were reserved for interchanges may now be surplus. Future development of these lands will need appropriate access to and from Shaganappi Trail, or adjacent communities, for all travellers.

Key considerations for adjacent land uses include:

- Access to and from lands identified for future higher density and mixed-use developments, for all travellers.
- Improving the area between new developments and Shaganappi Trail to create safer and more pleasant spaces along the roadway.
- Creating attractive public spaces along Shaganappi Trail that people can enjoy.

For people who walk

Why include walking in future plans for Shaganappi Trail:

- Future residential and mix-used developments along Shaganappi Trail will increase population and the need for pedestrian connections in the area.
- Close proximity between people living along Shaganappi Trail and the major destinations nearby makes walking a convenient and affordable option.
- Enhancing the walking environment along Shaganappi Trail will support people's interest and ability to walk to nearby destinations. This can help ease vehicle traffic on Shaganappi Trail and reduce future parking need at major destinations.

The table below outlines the approximate time it takes to walk between some of the major destinations along Shaganappi Trail.

Walking between...	Approximate Distance	Time
Varsity Dr. and Market Mall	1.0 km	13 mins
Market Mall and University of Calgary (Collegiate Blvd.)	1.1 km	14 mins
Collegiate Blvd. to Alberta Children's Hospital	1.6 km	20 mins
Alberta Children's Hospital to Foothills Hospital	2.0 km	25 mins

Source: Google Maps

How can mobility choices help meet future needs?

Key considerations for people who walk include:

- Access to sidewalks along Shaganappi Trail and pedestrian crossings across the roadway.
- A comfortable and enjoyable walking experience that feels safe.
- A direct and convenient route between major destinations and access to transit service.

For people who bike

Why include cycling in future plans for Shaganappi Trail

- Future residential and mix-used developments along Shaganappi Trail will increase population and need for cycling connections in the area.
- Proximity between people living along Shaganappi Trail and the major destinations nearby, and the Bow River pathway system, makes cycling a convenient and affordable travel option.
- Providing bikeways to support people’s interest and ability to ride their bicycles to nearby destinations can help ease vehicle traffic on Shaganappi Trail and reduce future parking need at major destinations.

The table below outlines the approximate time it takes to bike to key destinations along or close to Shaganappi Trail.

From Varsity Drive and Shaganappi Trail intersection to...	Approximate Distance	Time
Market Mall	750 m	3 mins
Dalhousie LRT Station	1.5 km	5 mins
Brentwood LRT Station	2.0 km	7 mins
University of Calgary (Collegiate Blvd.)	2.1 km	9 mins
Alberta Children’s Hospital	3.0 km	12 mins
Bow Valley Pathway	3.5 km	14 mins
Bowmont Park Natural Area	4.1 km	15 mins

Source: Google Maps. Existing bikeways where possible.

Key considerations for people who ride bikes include:

- A direct and convenient route between major destinations and the Bow River pathway system.
- Bikeways that are free of debris and obstructions, and are well-maintained.
- Well-marked bikeways and appropriate signage that help identify cycling routes.
- A comfortable and enjoyable riding experience that feels safe.
- Options to combine cycling with the use of transit service.
- Options that separate cyclists and pedestrians, where possible.

How can mobility choices help meet future needs?

For people who take transit

Why include transit in future plans for Shaganappi Trail

- Transit service at least every 10 minutes will provide a convenient travel option for those who visit, live and work along Shaganappi Trail.
- Proximity to transit hubs (e.g. Brentwood station, future hub at West Campus) makes taking transit a convenient option for people who visit, live or work along Shaganappi Trail and need to travel elsewhere in the city.
- Transit service at least every 10 minutes means there will be more buses sharing the road. Future plans need to accommodate more buses while minimizing disruption to other vehicle traffic. One option being considered is implementing HOV lanes.

“Frequent, fast, reliable transit service at least every 10 minutes, 15 hours per day, every day”

(Calgary Transportation Plan, 2009).

Key considerations for people who take transit include:

- Transit hubs, stations and bus stops that are within short walking distances to major destinations.
- Transit service that is reliable and efficient.
- Transit priority measures such as advanced signals or dedicated access points.
- A comfortable and enjoyable experience that feels safe.
- Amenities such as bus shelters, LRT stations, buses and train cars that are clean and well maintained.

For people who drive (carpool or drive alone)

Why include automobile and HOV considerations in future plans for Shaganappi Trail

- A concentration of residential and mix-used development will make carpooling or ridesharing a convenient option for people who live or work along Shaganappi Trail.
- Shaganappi Trail is a primary access route between northwest Calgary and numerous activity centres such as the University of Calgary and the Alberta Children’s Hospital, among others.
- Transit service at least every 10 minutes means there will be more buses sharing the road. Future plans need to accommodate more buses while minimizing disruption to other vehicle traffic. One option being considered is implementing HOV lanes.

Key considerations for people who carpool or drive alone include:

- Maintain and improve access to adjacent communities and major destinations.
- Optimize traffic flow along Shaganappi Trail and at intersections throughout the day, recognizing that there may still be some traffic congestion at peak travel times.

What public input has been gathered?

Public engagement is an important component of the Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study. Early in the study, the project team invited the following external stakeholders, considered to be key community and business representatives, to attend a project kick-off meeting in July 2012 and a project update meeting in October 2012.

External Stakeholders

Ward representatives:

Alderman Dale Hodges (Ward 1)

Alderman Gord Lowe (Ward 2)

Alderman Gael MacLeod (Ward 4)

Alderman Druh Farrell (Ward 7)

Community association presidents of:

Brentwood

Dalhousie

Edgemont

Hamptons

Hidden Valley / Hanson Ranch

MacEwan

Montgomery

Parkdale

Sandstone

Varsity

Business / Landowner representatives:

Alberta Children's Hospital

Attainable Homes Calgary

Calgary Co-op

Canadian Tire (Dalhousie)

Foothills Medical Centre

Market Mall

Northland Kia

Northland Village

Petro Canada

Shaganappi Chevrolet

Shaganappi Village Shopping Centre

Shell Canada

Other external stakeholders:

Alberta Transportation

South Shaganappi Area Development Council

South Shaganappi Area Strategy Planning Group

West Campus Development

Cycling communities (e.g., Bike Calgary)

What public input has been gathered?

Opportunities for input to date

In 2012, the project team organized several opportunities to gather feedback from key community and business representatives:

- Project kick-off meeting (July 16 and 24, 2012)
- Varsity Civic Affairs committee meeting (September 27, 2012)
- Project update meeting (October 16, 2012)
- Public open house (November 6, 2012)
- Project update meeting (March 5, 2013)

Highlights of what we've heard so far

From community and business representatives at stakeholder meetings:

- Concerns about vehicle traffic short-cutting through Varsity community.
- Improve access and connections to future West Campus developments, and across Shaganappi Trail south of 32 Avenue.
- Improve pedestrian and vehicle access to and across Shaganappi Trail from Varsity Drive.
- Access to adjacent communities, Market Mall, University of Calgary and West Campus.

From community residents and general public at the open house:

- General agreement that the Arterial designation along Shaganappi Trail between Crowchild Trail and Bowness Road is good and there is no need for major expansion to improve traffic flow.
- Traffic on Shaganappi Trail results from congestion on Crowchild Trail as drivers seek an alternative route.
- Feedback supports separate pedestrian and cycling facilities to improve connections to the University of Calgary, Market Mall and medical facilities along and across Shaganappi Trail.
- Mixed reaction for widening Shaganappi Trail to six lanes between Crowchild Trail and 32 Avenue due to potential property impacts on either side of Shaganappi Trail.
- Notable opposition to the design concept that has no property impact and no widening of Shaganappi Trail, but requires lane reversals and reduced community access during peak hours to accommodate future traffic volumes.
- Desire for improved transit service, bus stop locations, and pedestrian and traffic signal timing.
- Agreement that something needs to be done at the 16 Avenue area to improve traffic flow, address merging and safety concerns at the current interchange, and pedestrian and cycling connections to river pathways.
- Mixed reaction to the use of roundabouts on Bowness Road.

The verbatim comments collected from attendees at the November open house are available in a summary report online. Search for "Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study" at www.calgary.ca.

Corridor Study Terms of Reference Policy

The City of Calgary's Transportation department is currently creating a new Corridor Study Terms of Reference Policy in response to Council's Notice of Motion (NM) 2012-51, presented on December 17, 2012. The new policy aims to enable citizens to have a greater opportunity to provide meaningful feedback and be a part of the process to design a corridor. The City plans to provide Council a policy for approval in May 2014.

The Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study was already underway at the time of Council's Notice of Motion. Based on Council's direction for corridor studies to become more citizen-focused, and feedback from the public at the November open house, the Shaganappi Trail Corridor Study's engagement process was revised to give additional opportunities for community members and other stakeholders to provide more meaningful input in the decision-making process.