

Did you try this?
Please let us know
what you think!



Are we there yet?

Your guide to more delightful drives The Mission Bridge Edition

As our City grows and our infrastructure investments and upgrades grow with it, we know construction can lead to longer commutes. We're looking for ways to make it a bit more pleasant for Calgarians and this pack is one of our experiments.

We've heard from Calgarians about how construction can impact their commutes. This guide is here to help, with ideas from fellow Calgarians on how to make a journey throughout the city a little more enjoyable. It's a prototype—an early idea we're putting out there to see what works best.

Music

A lot of commuters have reported that music makes their commute more pleasant. Here's some Mission Bridge inspired playlists for you to try out. *(Be sure to hit follow, that way we know you're enjoying the playlist)*

- We heard from the community around Mission Bridge that nature is near and dear to your hearts. [Here is a nature inspired playlist from a wide range of genres](#)
- We're hoping you'll send us some of your favourite songs to make a community playlist. [Here is the Community Playlist that we'll add to regularly](#)
- We also heard that a lot of you catch up with your kids while you're commuting. [Here is a playlist of kid's tunes to enjoy as a family](#)
- We know a longer commute to work can be particularly stressful in the morning [Here's some songs for waking up happy](#)

Podcasts

We've heard that the main challenge of a longer commute is that you have less time to spend on the things that are more valuable to you. Here are a few podcasts that many folks find help their commute feel more valuable.

- [The Gastropod Podcast](#) – teaches you all about the history of food
- [Search Engine](#) – A delightful exploration of any and all curious questions (FYI the topics in this one are not always kid-friendly)
- [Ideas by CBC](#) – A fascinating deep dive into learning and ideas, covers everything
- [Hidden Brain](#) – Teaches you all about psychology in a really accessible way

Conversation Starters

We've heard a lot of people like to use commute time to connect with family and friends. Here's some conversation starters you could try to make your next drive a connection experience.

- If you could have one superpower, what would it be?
- If you could live in a world from a book or a movie, what would it be?
- Which toy is your favourite right now and why?
- What's the coolest thing you learned at school/work today?
- If you had a time machine, what time would you travel to? What would you do?
- If you were a parent, what new rules would you make for your family? Which ones would you ditch?
- If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?
- Is cereal soup? Why or why not?
- Or, try [this generator](#) that gives you a new question every time!

Books

Did you know Calgary Public Library has a [Digital Library](#)? It's free to use like all other services at the library! All you need is a library card number and you can get that online. They have a free audiobook app called Libby where you can listen to a ton of great books. Here's a few book ideas that had no hold on them last time we checked:

- [The Paris Apartment by Lucy Foley](#) – An excellent whodunit murder mystery set in Paris
- [Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte](#) – Some say it's the most haunting and tragic love story ever written, will you agree? Only one way to find out...
- [Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer](#) – a beautiful book about understanding the world through both science, nature and Indigenous ways of knowing (we know folks who love this one so much they listen to it every year)

Activities

Bring back the activities that kept us entertained during road trips with family or friends! Try some of these game or activity ideas:

I Spy

- Choose a player who will select something either on the road or in the car without revealing what it is to the rest of the players in the car. Then they must repeat the phrase, "I spy with my little eye something that begins with the letter ..." as it relates to the answer.
- The other passengers then try to guess what it might be. While it's not the most complex car game out there, it is a great way to help young kids develop their spelling and grammar skills, particularly those who are still getting familiar with the alphabet.

20 Questions

- Choose a player who picks out a secret person, place or thing. Everyone in the car can take turns asking yes-or-no questions about what it is, or who it is, you may be thinking of. No two people should ask the same question, and no one can answer more than 20 questions.
- Whoever guesses the mystery thing first goes next!

Clipboard craft

- Try [making a clipboard](#) before you leave. Then your passengers can use it to [colour](#) or [learn to draw](#)!

Ways to Make your Commute Shorter

Leave earlier

- This one sounds a bit obvious and isn't always possible. But Calgarians who reported the best experience when avoiding construction are the ones who planned to leave earlier.

Try Walking or Cycling

- One thing that isn't impacted by the bridge closure is the walking/biking path. Did you know the City has a great [interactive walking and cycling map](#)? And a [guide to safe winter cycling](#)?

Strategize your route

- You can use [Google Maps](#) or [Waze](#) "Planned Drives" to strategize your route. Just enter dates and times for upcoming appointments and the app will automatically plan out your route and offer reminders for when to leave. The feature takes into account expected traffic conditions, construction and uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide you with the best options.