



# 8 Street S.E. Closure

## Q&A

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### **Why is 8 Street S.E. closing if Green Line construction isn't starting until 2021?**

The closure of at-grade CP rail crossings has been part of a long-standing agreement with the City of Calgary. The crossing at 8 Street S.E. is being closed to accommodate Canadian Pacific Rail operations and reconfiguration, and as part of land negotiations for the Green Line project.

### **What will the closure look like?**

Until construction of the Green Line LRT begins there will be fencing installed across 8 Street S.E. on the north and south side of the tracks. There will also be concrete barriers and signage in the area to let people know that the street will be closed to vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. This fencing will be installed between January 15 and January 20.

The southbound left turn lane on westbound 9 Avenue S.E. will be turned into a through lane to cross the 9 Avenue S.E. bridge and the advanced left turn signal will be discontinued. Vehicles will still be able to turn onto 8 Street S.E. from 9 Avenue to access business parking through the alley just north of the CP tracks.

A cul-de-sac on the south side of the crossing will be built at the same time as construction for the Green Line for a permanent solution to the crossing closure.

### **How will this closure impact traffic in Ramsay and Inglewood?**

Vehicles will need to use Olympic Way/4 Street S.E. or 11/12 Street S.E. to move north and south in the area after the closure is in place. Traffic counts indicate that approximately 3,000 vehicles per day use 8 Street S.E. This would be considered local traffic, for example 11 Street S.E. sees approximately 11,000 vehicles per day. It is anticipated that the network will continue to operate with minimal disruption after the closure of 8 Street S.E.

### **Will there be a new access built between North Ramsay and Inglewood?**

The City is currently studying the impacts of future growth in the area on the mobility network in Ramsay, Inglewood and east Victoria Park. Potential solutions include underpasses and overpasses to cross the CP tracks at different locations in north Ramsay. The City is looking at a variety of options to help people move through Ramsay and Inglewood in the future.

### **Will emergency services vehicles be able to access Ramsay?**

The City's Transportation Department and Calgary Fire Department have been working together and have taken into consideration fire suppression and medical response times in Ramsay. CFD is aware of the closure and is prepared to respond to calls as quickly as possible using local knowledge from Fire Captains and 911. All routes into Ramsay from the south and east will remain the same. Fire engines coming into Ramsay from the west will use 9 Avenue and 11/12 Street S.E.

CFD and The City are also looking at either permanent or semi-permanent fire stations in the Ramsay area, however no decisions has been made on when these options will be built.

### **How will traffic after events at Stampede Park and Saddledome be managed?**

The City worked with the Calgary Flames and the Stampede to ensure signage is in place on the Stampede Grounds and information is provided to visitors about the closure and alternative routes. People leaving the Stampede Grounds will be directed to use Macleod Trail to go north and 25 Avenue S.E. to go south.

### **What happens to the east Elbow River Pathway once Canadian Pacific Railway start work to twin their bridge?**

On May 19, 2020 Canadian Pacific Railway began construction to twin their bridge. To accommodate construction The City closed the east side of the Elbow River Pathway under the CP bridge and 9 Avenue bridge, changing the pedestrian detour for the 8 Street S.E. closure. Pathway detour options include 4 St SE and 11/12 St SE. Pathway detour maps will be posted near.

The City will prepare a business case to fund the planning, design and construction of a new east Elbow River pathway from the Traverse bridge to the MacDonald bridge. The new pathway would pass under the two CP bridges, a new Green Line bridge, and the 9 Avenue bridge. It would be lower than today's pathway beneath the CP bridge, wider and with a more comfortable user experience. As you know, budgets are uncertain but we expect new opportunities to fund infrastructure through higher orders of government in the coming months.

The west Elbow River pathway south of the Traverse Bridge is scheduled to open in Q1 2021. In the next few years it may need to close for a period for Green Line bridge construction. In the future CMLC will redevelop the west Elbow River pathway to a higher quality to match the Riverwalk north of the Traverse Bridge.