

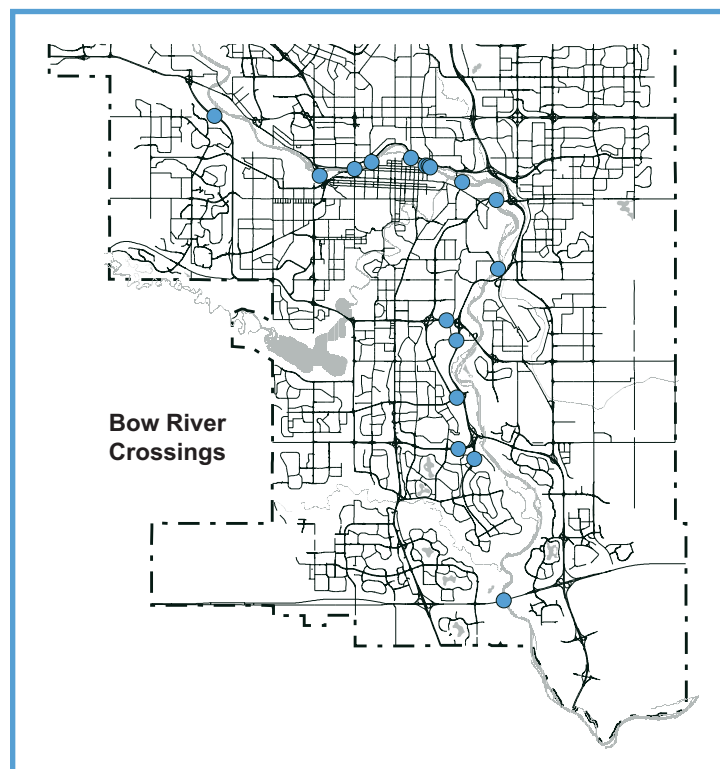


VEHICLES AND PEOPLE CROSSING THE BOW RIVER

The Bow River passes through the centre of Calgary. The City of Calgary has monitored traffic crossing the Bow River by counting the vehicles and people between 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on a typical spring weekday. This information is a useful way to measure traffic growth in the city.

KEY FINDING

From 1991 to 2001 the number of vehicles crossing the Bow River grew by just over 24%. During the same period the population of Calgary grew by just under 24%.



Summary of Trips Crossing the Bow River between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Year	Automobiles		Trucks	Calgary Transit		Other Bus		Total	
	Vehicles	Occupants	Vehicles	Vehicles	Occupants	Vehicles	Occupants	Vehicles	Occupants
1991	478,404	600,230	21,708	2,168	71,791	2,364	12,364	504,644	684,385
2001	590,497	720,665	29,312	2,925	83,250	3,622	20,273	626,355	824,188
2002	591,683	728,430	31,120	2,836	86,110	3,952	25,552	629,591	840,092

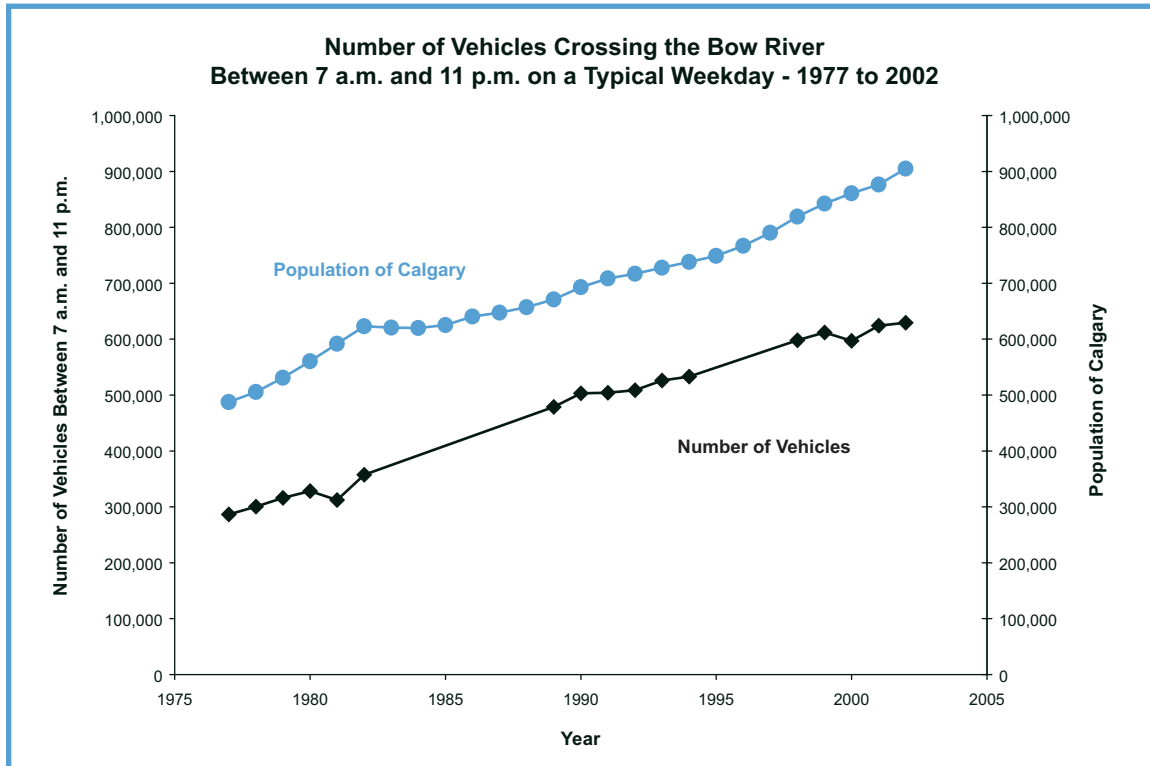
NOTE: The number of passengers in trucks was not collected in 2001 and 2002, therefore it was excluded from the total occupants for these years and 1991.

The Transportation Data Section of Transportation Planning produces the *Mobility Monitor* with the goal of making people working in the field of transportation more aware of the information the section can provide. The Transportation Data Section is responsible for collecting information on travel for use in planning and operating the City's roads, transit and pathways.

- The number of vehicles crossing the Bow River between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. grew by 120,711 from 1991 to 2001, and by 3,237 from 2001 to 2002. The number of passengers per automobile went down slightly between 1991 and 2002.
- The number of transit users crossing the Bow River between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. grew by 11,459 from 1991 to 2001, and by 2,860 from 2001 to 2002.

KEY FINDING

From 1977 to 2002 the number of vehicles crossing the Bow River grew by 120%. During the same period the population of Calgary grew by 86%.



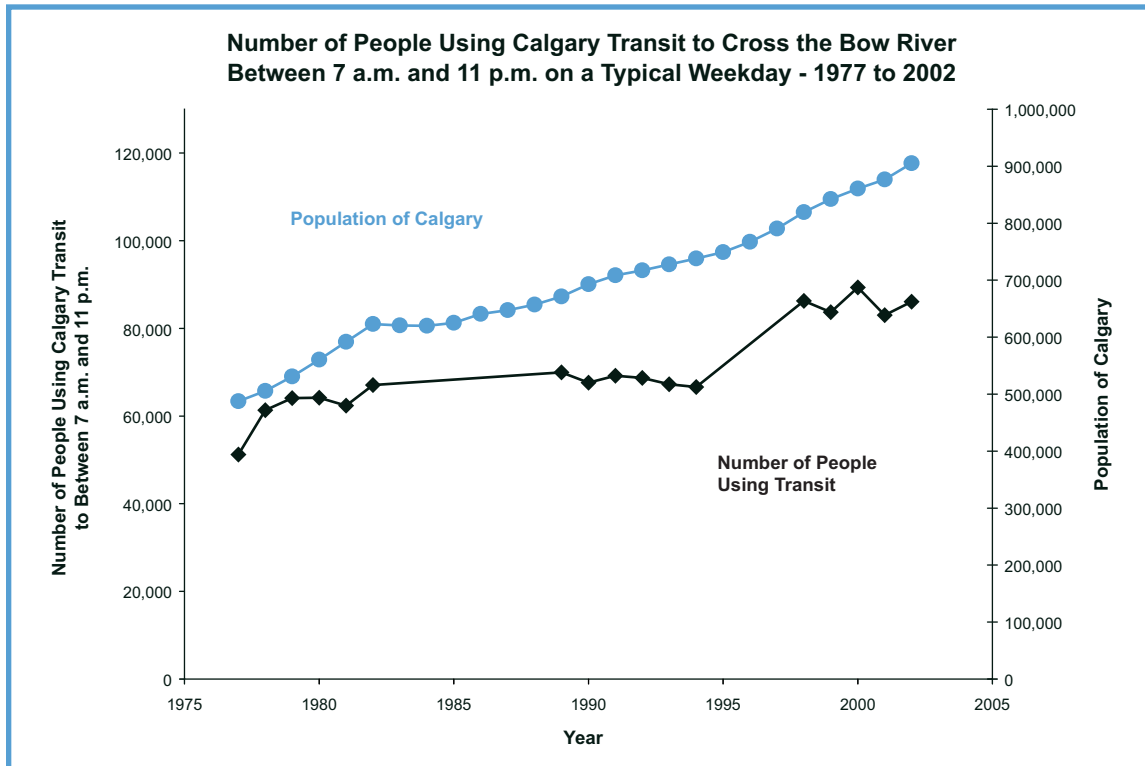
- The number of vehicles crossing the Bow River grew at a rate of just under 6% per year between 1977 and 1990. The decrease in 1981 is because of substantial decreases on the Baines, Cushing and Bonneybrook Bridges. This growth continued in spite of a drop in the population growth after 1982. From 1990 to 1999 the growth rate in the number of vehicles dropped to less than 3% per year.
- In 2000 there was a drop in the number of vehicles crossing the Bow River. This is likely in response to the closure of the Centre Street Bridge. While there were increases in 2001 and 2002, the number of vehicles crossing the Bow River grew less than 1% per year from 1999 to 2002.
- From 1977 to 1990, the number of vehicles crossing the Bow River grew faster than the population of Calgary. From 1990 to 1999, the number of vehicles crossing the Bow River grew at about the same rate as the population of Calgary. From 1999 to 2002, the number of vehicles crossing the Bow River grew slower than the population of Calgary.

Bow River Crossings

The City's count program of the Bow River crossings does not in fact follow the Bow River for its entire length. In the northwest, the count program boundary runs south of Bowness. In the southeast it follows Deerfoot Trail. This was done in order to maintain continuity of data and keep costs lower.

KEY FINDING

From 1978 to 1994, the number of people using transit to cross the Bow River showed very little change. There was a dramatic increase from 1994 to 1998, but again little change from 1998 to 2002.



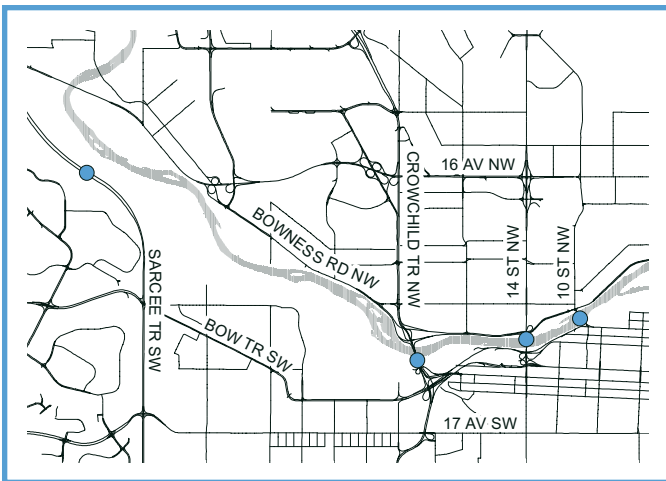
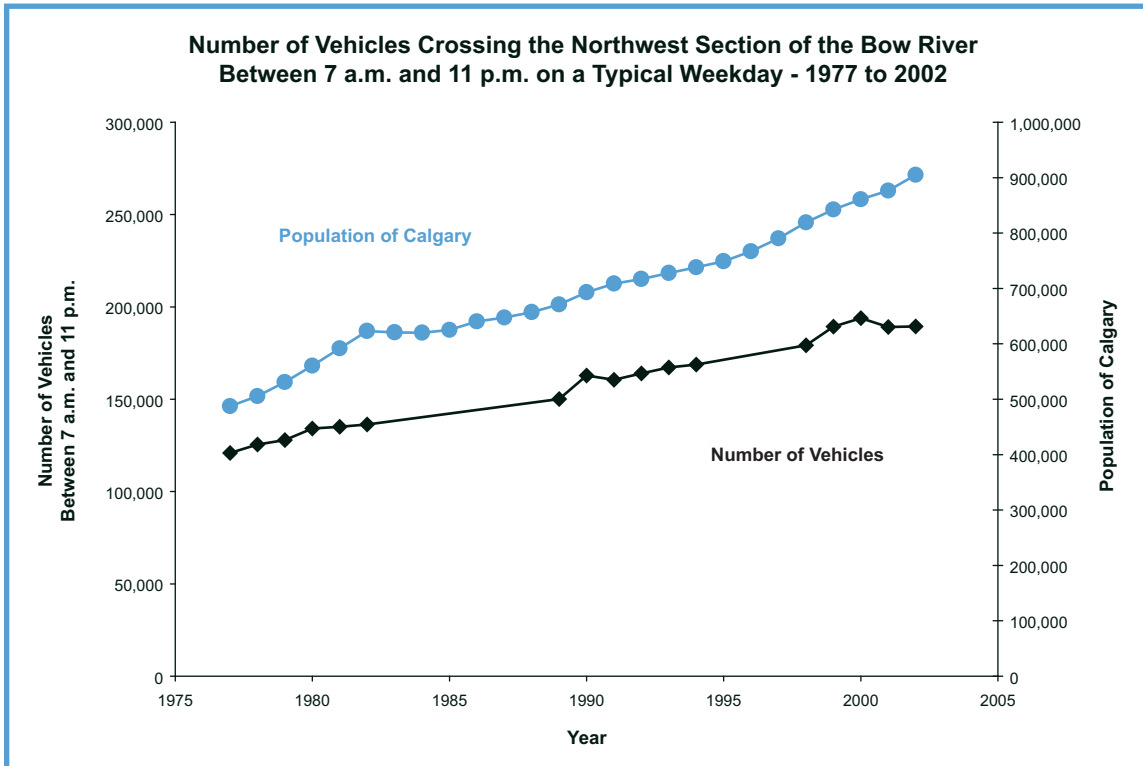
- From 1977 to 2002 the number of people using Calgary Transit to cross the Bow River grew from 51,000 to 86,000. This increase of 35,000 people represents an annual growth rate of just under 3%. The population of Calgary grew at an annual rate of just over 3% during the same period.
- During the period 1994 to 1998 the number of people using Calgary Transit to cross the Bow River grew by about 7% per year. During this same period the population of Calgary grew by just under 3% per year.
- The number of people using Calgary Transit to cross the Bow River does not appear to be strongly related to population growth.

Counting Vehicles and People Crossing the Bow River

The data used in this *Mobility Monitor* was collected as part of The City's screen line traffic count program. Traffic crossing the Bow River was counted from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. for one day. The actual locations that were counted have changed over the years. Some modifications were made to make all of the historical data compatible with data collected at locations currently used.

KEY FINDING

From 1977 to 2002 the number of vehicles crossing the section of Bow River between Louise Bridge and Sarcee Trail increased by 57%. During the same period the population of Calgary grew by 86%.



- From 1977 to 1990, the number of vehicles crossing this section of the Bow River grew at an annual rate of just under 3% per year, less than half of the growth rate for all of the Bow River crossings. During this same period the population of Calgary grew by slightly more than 3% per year.
- From 1990 to 1999, the growth rate was slightly less than 2% per year, and from 1999 to 2002 the growth rate was less than 0.1% per year. These growth rates are lower than the growth rate for all Bow River crossings and lower than the growth rate in the population.

How Accurate and Reliable is This Data?

How concerned should you be by the potential for error in the data presented in *The Mobility Monitor*? Traffic on a road can vary by 10% or more from one day to the next. To minimise this, The City tries to do the counts of traffic crossing the Bow River on the same day each year. Even so, a change from one year to the next may be due to some random event, such as the weather, accidents or illness. For this reason, it is wise to look at trends, since changes that are consistent over a long period of time are more likely to be real, and not just the result of random events.