



## Rocky Ridge Pedestrian Improvements Engagement Analysis

Date: 2013, January 31

### Executive Summary

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Since the 2010 closure of Rocky Ridge Road at Crowchild Trail N.W., The City of Calgary's Roads business unit has worked with area residents to address traffic concerns on three occasions. In each instance, Roads has attempted to accommodate community concerns regarding traffic patterns, pedestrian safety, traffic calming and speeding concerns.

Upon the request of the area alderman's office, to address driver compliance concerns, Roads is currently undertaking steps to implement traffic changes along Rocky Ridge Boulevard. The existing traffic patterns, and the resulting changes, are based on previous requests from the community for pedestrian crossings along Rocky Ridge Boulevard.

Although area residents feel this road is improperly designed, overly busy and driven dangerously, studies by The Calgary Police Service and The City of Calgary, Transportation Department have revealed this is not the case.

### Engagement Summary

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The City of Calgary Roads business unit has conducted three engagement sessions with various stakeholder groups of Rocky Ridge. These engagement sessions have been held at the request of both the community association and the area alderman. The topics Roads has been asked to address at these sessions have varied but have always included a fundamental opposition to the closure of Rocky Ridge Road.

The closure of Rocky Ridge Boulevard has resulted in requests to:

- Improve pedestrian safety by signing and marking Rocky Ridge Boulevard at most intersections,
- Install road markings for lane clarity,
- Install traffic calming measures, and
- Reduce speed limits and increase enforcement.

These engagements have included meeting with the area alderman and the community association, hosting a live chat (garnering approximately 15 online participants) and culminating with an open house attended by approximately 35 people.

Attendees reported various concerns with area traffic, ranging from vehicle sightlines and school bus parking locations to traffic volumes and short cutting; however, the vast majority of concerns at the open house session were regarding vehicle speeds and pedestrian safety (mostly the location of bus stops for children). Eventually, all respondents linked the cause of these concerns to the closure of Rocky Ridge Road.

### Current Status / Next Steps

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- Roads is in the process of addressing pedestrian safety concerns along Rocky Ridge Boulevard by removing unnecessary traffic devices and aligning remaining traffic devices with industry standards.
  - The final changes will require warm weather for completion, likely in early spring.
- Once these improvements to pedestrian safety are completed, Roads' traffic engineers will study the changes to the area's traffic patterns and assess whether there has been an overall improvement.
- Recently, area residents identified a growing concern regarding future commuter traffic cutting through the neighbourhood to use the planned Park 'n' Ride.

### Key Findings

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- Some residents were receptive to the proposed changes and requested that we make those changes to their streets, located off of Rocky Ridge Road.

- Satisfying a previous request by the community to install more crosswalks than advised by industry best practices has likely been the major contributor to the perceived low compliance rates of motorists at marked crosswalks along Rocky Ridge Boulevard.
- Calgary Police Service has performed several rounds of traffic enforcement in the area revealing that speeding is not outside the norm for Calgary communities.
- Traffic pattern studies have found there to be no unusual numbers with traffic volumes or short cutting.
- The area has been designed and constructed to industry standards. Sightlines and visibility should not be a problem based on construction; however, there are some complaints of large vehicles parking near intersections contributing to this concern.
- Transportation Planning's assessment of Rocky Ridge Boulevard has found that the installation of traffic calming measures is not possible due to the need to maintain unencumbered access for emergency vehicles. Traffic circles, although an elegant solution, are a cost prohibitive solution.
- In short, it is the assertion of Roads that the communities concerns regarding traffic in the area are largely perceived and not a result of design or compliance issues.

## Open House November 1, 2012, Survey Findings

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26 surveys were submitted.

Of those submitted the following are stats for issues raised in those responses.

- 19 for speeding
- 14 for driver attentiveness
- 7 for pedestrian safety
- 6 for pedestrian attentiveness
- 5 for street crossing locations, sign visibility and sightlines
- 3 for road markings
- 2 for jaywalkers

Suggested measures to take to reduce the perceived issues:

- 5 for opening Rocky Ridge Road
- 4 for more police enforcement
- 4 for traffic calming measures
- 2 for improved street lighting at crosswalks
- 2 for improved signage
- 1 for less crosswalks,
- 1 for bus stop relocation,
- 1 for crosswalk patrols,
- 1 for removing the two lane design,
- 1 for adding crosswalk signals,
- 1 for creating a pedestrian corridor and
- 1 for closing Rocky Valley Drive.

- Only one person said we should do nothing to the area.
- Six people reported they were happy with the proposed design changes.
- 12 reported that they disagree with the changes.
- 15 people reported they were aware of the proposed changes and understood them while 11 people reported that they did not know about the proposed changes and did not understand them once they were informed.
- Half of the respondents reported that they would like to receive information through their community association and the rest of the respondents preferred receiving information through community boards (signage), email and online – equally distributed.