



Airport Trail Tunnel

Letter to Garth Atkinson, President & CEO of Calgary Airport Authority
January 2008

2008 January 07

Garth Atkinson, President & CEO
Calgary Airport Authority
Calgary International Airport
2000 Airport Road NE
Calgary, AB T2E 6W5

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on Dec. 18th. The Calgary International Airport (CIA) is so important to this vibrant city and to Ward 3 and I certainly appreciate you bringing me up to speed on your expansion plans.

When we met, we covered a lot of ground but the main topic was the new north-south runway, which you plan to have in service by 2013. I am deeply concerned about the possibility of the runway project being completed without the Airport Trail tunnel being built in advance of runway construction. You indicated that the decision to commence the runway design process without the tunnel was due to correspondence you had with the City of Calgary in the spring of 2007 in which you were advised that as city funds were not currently available for a project this size, the City would not be constructing the tunnel at this time.

This is an expressway that would be the best access route to the airport for approximately 200,000 residents living on Calgary's east side. It would also be the main route, via the TransCanada Highway and the new east freeway, for Saskatchewan and Alberta residents living east of the city to access the airport. I feel the responsibility for this major road lies not just with the Airport and the City, but also with the Provincial and Federal governments. As clarification for those copied on this letter, if this tunnel is not constructed, the Airport Trail interchange on the new East Freeway, now under construction, will not connect to the present Airport Trail which already exists on the east side of Deerfoot Trail. We will soon begin construction of Airport Trail west of Deerfoot Trail. The cost to complete this connection after the runway is built would make its completion unlikely.

You have convinced me this runway expansion is an absolute necessity for the Airport to handle projected growth so I don't want to do anything that would delay its proposed completion date of 2013, but feel strongly about proceeding without including the Airport Tunnel.

I have been talking personally with Minister Diane Ablonczy, MP Art Hanger, MLA Shiraz Shariff, and Mayor Dave Bronconnier and they are all on side to find a solution. I have indicated to them the urgency of us taking timely action on this matter but I need your help. In this regard, would you please provide your timelines on this project so I can attempt to bring the Federal and Provincial Governments to the table with the Airport and the City for discussions as soon as possible.

Thank you and I look forward to an early response.

Sincerely,

JIM STEVENSON
ALDERMAN, WARD 3

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CC.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Minister Diane Ablonczy, MP, Calgary, Nose Hill
Minister of Transport Lawrence Cannon, MP, Pontiac-Quebec
Minister Jim Prentice, MP, Calgary, Centre North
Minister Monte Solberg, MP, Medicine Hat
Art Hanger, MP, Calgary North East
Premier Ed Stelmach
Minister Yvonne Fritz, MLA, Calgary Cross
Shiraz Shariff, MLA, Calgary McCall
Mayor Dave Bronconnier
City of Calgary Aldermen