

2009 January 12

Honourable Rob Merrifield
Minister of State (Transport)
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with Alderman Jim Stevenson on 18 December 2008 to discuss potential Federal support in funding the Airport Trail tunnel under the proposed new runway at the Calgary International Airport. I wish to provide further background information and the current status of this important project.

We understand that the Calgary Airport Authority intends that the new runway will be in operation by 2014. There is no indication that the current economic slowdown will delay this required expansion. Recognizing that significant cost savings can be realized by completing the tunnel construction prior to building the runway, a commitment for funding is sought within the next 12 months. Securing funding in 2009 would allow construction for the tunnel and expressway to commence in early 2011 and be completed prior to the runway becoming operational.

The total project cost including the tunnel, road connections, and interchange structures is estimated at \$380 million. However the most immediate need for funding is for construction of the tunnel structure and Airport Trail. Initial cost estimates by The City indicate the cost for this portion would be approximately \$200 million if done before the runway is constructed.

On 3 November 2008, Calgary City Council approved setting aside \$50 million for the expressway and tunnel structures contingent on securing matching funds from the Federal and Provincial Governments and the Calgary Airport Authority. The support of the Government of Canada is respectfully requested for a proportionate share to move forward with tunnel construction in the most cost-effective manner.

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I trust this information on the status and timelines for this project is useful. Please feel free to contact John Hubbell, General Manager of Transportation for The City of Calgary should you have any questions or inquiries. Mr. Hubbell can be reached at 403.268.5637.

sincerely



Dave Bronconnier
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Encl.

- c. Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister
- The Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta
- The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
- The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Environment
- The Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation
- The Honourable Yvonne Fritz, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Devinder Shory, MP Calgary Northeast
- Darshan Kang, MLA Calgary-McCall
- Jim Stevenson, Alderman, Calgary City Council
- Garth Atkinson, President & CEO Calgary Airport Authority