

A MESSAGE FROM WARD 3 ALDERMAN JIM STEVENSON – www.ward3calgary.ca

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NORTHERN HILLS TRANSIT SERVICE STUDY

The results of the Northern Hills Transit Service Study were presented at a Public Open House on 2009 December 8. I attended the open house and spoke with a lot of folks and I was very pleased with the positive comments I heard. Back last May, Calgary Transit held a public open house to solicit comments and suggestions from customers about transit service in the North-Central part of the City. They also formed a Community Consultation Committee (CCC) which has met regularly over the past 6 months focusing on existing routes and potential new service to the area. Their objectives overall were to develop short and long term plans for improved service to transit customers by:

- Establishing shorter, more frequent local routes that link communities with transit hubs;
- Planning for frequent service along primary transit corridors;
- Considering growth areas; and
- Maintaining Express Service until construction of the North Central LRT line.

Based on public feedback and input from the CCC, new service on Route 301 began in December. When new service hours are available (2011), evening and weekend service will be provided on Route 8, Route 87 will go into service, and pending completion of road construction, new service will be provided to the north part of Panorama Hills and in Evanston. There will also be improvements to infrastructure including a heated bus shelter at North Pointe, along with better signage, bike racks and lockers. You can view a copy of the Open House presentation, including the Route maps, at http://www.calgarytransit.com/html/northern_hills_2009.html.

I want to thank all the members of the CCC for taking time out of their busy schedules to help your communities. Thanks to all who participated in the Open Houses or otherwise provided comments to the Team. And lastly, thanks to the transit team for all your hard work; for listening and being responsive to the needs of your customers. Congratulations to all on a job well-done.

128th Avenue NE / 11 Street NE

We have encountered delays in moving forward with construction of the 128th Avenue NE connector over Barlow Trail and the 11th Street NE connector north to Stoney Trail. Council has referred this matter back to Administration for further work on determination of an appropriate levy to area developers. Administration's report will be coming back to the 2010 January 20 meeting of the SPC on Land Use, Planning & Transportation.

COUNCIL'S 2010 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Council approved the budget for 2010 on November 24th, 2009. During budget deliberations, we eliminated the \$3 parking fee at all the BRT Park & Ride lots (North Pointe). I was not able to get Council to reduce the fee at LRT Park & Ride lots from \$3 to \$1. We approved the addition of \$2 million over two years for snow removal and next year will be hiring private contractors to supplement the City's crews for snow removal on secondary routes and local priority areas. Over the two years, we should be able to get a good idea of how effective an additional \$1 million per year can be in relieving some of the problems many residents experience year after year. I think this is a good idea and supported that expenditure.

NORTH CALGARY REGIONAL CONTEXT STUDY

The North Calgary Regional Context Study is currently underway. The City will start on the Area Structure Plans in 2010.

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season. As always, I welcome your calls and emails so if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

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