

BURROWS ANNOUNCES MAJOR TRANSPORTATION PLATFORM

Transportation

We will prioritize and manage construction projects in order to minimize the impact on today's roads while improving tomorrow's transportation network. With this in mind, we need to focus on three key transportation projects for this new Council.

Airport Tunnel

I believe that construction of the Airport Tunnel is an absolute necessity. Let me explain. Currently, the airport runways are positioned between Deerfoot and Barlow. This allows north-south access to the airport via Deerfoot and Barlow. The Calgary Airport Authority is a quasi governmental body which is able to implement decisions independently from the City of Calgary. They have decided that the Calgary International Airport requires a new runway and they plan to build the new runway east of Barlow Trail. The result is that Barlow Trail will be permanently closed effective April 2011 without any plan to maintain the present amount of access to the airport or to increase it. This is wrong to me. In fact, we need more east-west corridors in the northeast quadrant to move goods and people, not less.

LRT to the airport

To be a world class city, we need a LRT to the airport and we will extend the line to the airport by 2015. Why would we choose the LRT to the airport? Consider this: the Airport is the third largest employment sector in the city and third largest international airport in Canada - welcoming more than 14 million visitors per year. It is crucial that YYC remains a readily accessible gateway to further travel, tourism and economic development for Calgarians and Alberta as a whole. Ottawa has supported major public transportation in Toronto, Montreal, and recently in Vancouver. It's time for Ottawa to invest in the city that actually drives Canada's economy.

Build the Southwest Ring Road

We need a solution for the Southwest ring road. The people who live in the deep southwest have had enough. As the former member of Council who warned the Province and City Council about approving a casino before the ring road deal was reached, I am as frustrated as the people who live in the area. We need a better north – south corridor in this quadrant. We will begin the process of a collaborative approach with the province to find a solution and deliver a vital transportation corridor for the people who live in this area. And we will do this, right now.