

7. Transportation

a/ Issue Statement:

Transportation is a top of mind issue with voters. It is the second largest personal expense, a big personal time consumer, and a significant tax expense with major impacts on both the environment and quality of urban living.

We believe that land use is critical for achieving Calgary's transportation objectives.

b/ Background

Technologies such as cars, bikes, trucks, busses, LRT, BRT, roads and bridges etc. are only the last step in solving transportation problems. This hardware is where the money and resources are spent, and where impacts on the environment and quality of urban life show up, but what actually determines the success of the transportation solution and the scale of those impacts, is the definition of the problem and the objectives.

We believe the problem is to provide people and goods with timely access to the places they need to be, at minimal cost and environmental impact. We believe the objective must include providing the less well off, the elderly, the young and a full spectrum of handicapped people with service. This is not only fair and responsible but reduces their dependence on others to the benefit of all. We believe that balancing the public / private transportation split is a significant way to reduce costs for individuals and to reduce the demand on public infrastructure.

In light of these objectives, we believe that the most potent tool in achieving timely and inexpensive access is through land use planning. Concepts such as balancing residential, retail, employment, educational and recreational land uses at the neighbourhood, community and city scale are a way to reduce transportation demand at the source. Concepts like transit oriented development, distributed employment centres, rational distribution of densities, neighbourhood schools and mixed-use developments will increase overall convenience and viability of public transportation. We also believe that hierarchical labyrinth like road layouts tend toward congestion and limited access when compared with variety of user choices available in network or grid like road layouts. Most of these concepts received strong support through the imagineCALGARY process.

c/ Question for the Candidate:

Do you agree that land use planning is an essential tool for achieving Calgary's transportation objectives?

Will you take a leadership role in implementing Plan It?