

FAQ's

Dunbow Road Intersection Engagement

The FAQ's will be included on the project page of the County website throughout the engagement process. Questions asked by stakeholders and the public through the engagement events or questionnaire responses will be added to the list as the engagement proceeds.

1. Why is the County proposing to make changes to the intersections on Dunbow Road?

With development pressures causing an increase in traffic the County is looking for ways to improve safety and accessibility in the Heritage Pointe area, particularly around the Heritage Pointe Fire Hall.

2. Why didn't the County notify landowners prior to undertaking the study that was done?

It was always our intent to undertake an engagement process with area landowners once the study was complete and had been accepted by Council. Since the Dunbow Road Functional Study is a completely technical study, there was no way for public input to impact the results so engagement prior to completion of the study was not considered appropriate.

3. Who will pay for the intersection upgrades that are proposed?

A portion of the cost for these upgrades has already been paid by the developers of Heritage Pointe, Artesia and other developments in the area. Future developers will also contribute to these infrastructure costs.

4. When will construction start?

There is no set timeline at this point, traffic volumes and development pressures will drive the schedule for improvements, however we anticipate that initial upgrades are likely to be required within the next 5-10 years

5. Will the County construct all four intersections at the same time?

It is unlikely that all four intersections will be upgraded at once the two westernmost intersections (Heritage Drive and 2nd Street) are likely to require upgrades sooner due to existing traffic conflicts and a need to improve emergency vehicle access from the Heritage Pointe Firehall.

6. Which intersection(s) will most likely be developed first?

The two westernmost intersections (Heritage Drive and 2nd Street) are likely to require upgrades sooner than the others due to existing traffic conflicts and a need to improve emergency vehicle access from the Heritage Pointe Firehall.

7. Will the individual intersections be improved in stages or fully upgraded all at once?

There might be staged development of individual intersections, however there may also be cost savings to the County if an intersection is improved to its ultimate configuration all at once rather than in stages, this will be considered when developing a phasing plan for the intersections.

8. Who will decide what kind of intersections will be developed? What factors will be considered in the decision?

The County will determine what type of intersection to construct, based mainly on which design is the safest and will best accommodate traffic volumes however, the results of the Dunbow Road Functional Study will be considered along with public input and developer requirements

9. Why is an interchange proposed at Macleod Trail and Dunbow Road? Who made that decision? Why weren't the residents consulted?

Macleod Trail is a provincial highway in this location and so all decisions regarding intersections are under the jurisdiction of Alberta Transportation. An interchange at this location has been included in their long-range plans for some time. It is expected that Alberta Transportation will engage with residents when detailed design and engineering for the interchange is undertaken.

10. When is the interchange at Macleod Trail and Dunbow Road proposed to be built?

At this time, it is not known when the interchange will be constructed at Macleod Trail and Dunbow Road. The timing for the construction will be determined by Alberta Transportation based on traffic volumes and the timing and nature of future City of Calgary development to the East.

11. Why are round-a-bouts being considered for the intersections along Dunbow Road?

Roundabouts provide a safe and high-volume solution to intersection control and have the potential to alleviate stop and go situations that tend to happen with signalized intersections.

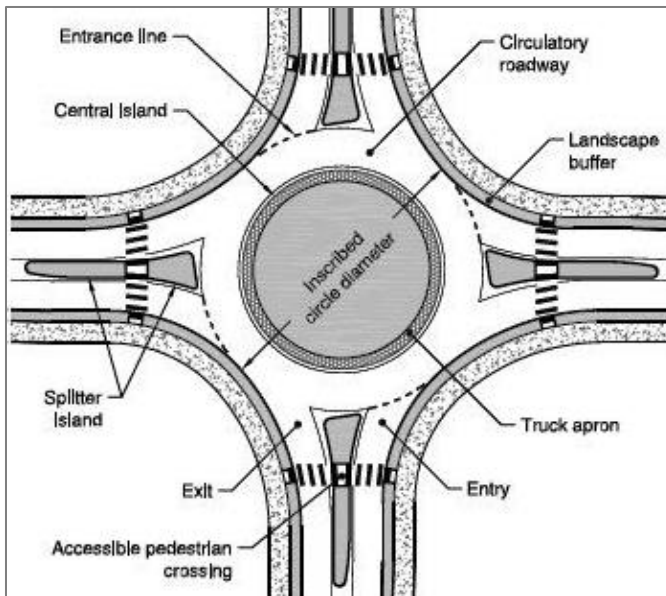
Collisions in roundabouts are typically less severe because the tight circle forces drivers to slow down and collisions tend to be side swipes. Collisions at intersections with traffic signals are more likely to be right angle, left turn and head-on collisions which tend to be much more severe. *

* from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety website - <https://www.iihs.org/topics/roundabouts>.

12. Will all four intersections be either signalized or roundabouts or is it possible there will be a mixture?

It is possible that both types of intersections will be utilized however, it is easier to manage traffic patterns and timing if all four intersections are the same.

13. How will pedestrians be accommodated at future intersections?



If signalized intersections are constructed, the design will include crosswalks like those that would be typical for an urban intersection with crosswalk lights.

If roundabouts are constructed, pedestrian crossings will be included set back from the circle passing through the splitter islands (the triangular islands that separate traffic going opposite directions) One example is shown in the diagram at left. Signage or flashing lights would be included to alert the driving public to watch for pedestrians.

14. The study shows changes to the roads north and south of Dunbow Road as dotted lines. What do these dotted lines mean?

These are potential alignments for future connections to the areas outside of the Dunbow Road right of way. The ultimate alignment and design will be determined by additional studies that will be initiated either by the County or by Developers.

15. The roads that connect to the intersections do not look right? What will be done to get a better idea of how those roads will work?

The ultimate alignment and design for connecting roads outside of the Dunbow Road right of way will be determined either by an additional study by the County or by Developers.

16. What do you expect to learn from the community through this engagement?

While one of the purposes of this engagement is to inform the community of potential design solutions to improve safety and improve traffic flow along this portion of Dunbow Road. We are also looking for Community input regarding the different designs as well as residents' perceptions regarding the safety and functionality of Dunbow Road. Feedback received will be given due consideration during the decision-making process when future improvements are being considered by Council.

17. The diagrams shown in the study illustrate a change to the entrance to the Heritage Pointe commercial area that would remove several parking spaces. Will the parking spaces be replaced?

There is the possibility of expanding the existing parking area towards Dunbow Road should it be determined that additional parking for the commercial area is required.

18. What happens next? What is the process going forward?

The County will utilize the information gathered through this engagement and the results from the intersection study as well as any additional information that may be obtained regarding future development requirements to determine the preferred option for each intersection. Then a phasing strategy and an estimated timeline will be developed in consideration of cost savings that may be realized by constructing specific parts of the project at the same time.

19. How long will construction take and how are we going get to our homes and the Heritage Pointe businesses area while construction is underway?

The contractors who will be constructing the intersection improvements will be required to maintain access during construction. Details on proposed access management will be provided by the contractors as part of the tendering process.

20. How long will Pine Creek Road continue to access directly onto Highway 2A (Macleod Trail)? Is that intersection going to be closed in the future?

This is an Alberta Transportation decision. However, we anticipate that the North access to Pine Creek Road from Highway 2A is likely to be closed at some point in the Future.

21. My driveway accesses directly onto Dunbow Road, will it have to be moved? When will that happen? Who will pay for it?

Driveways which access directly onto Dunbow Road will eventually need to be moved to a service road paralleling Dunbow Road. Timing will be dependent on the construction of the intersections. This work will be included in the construction contract at that time. There will be further consultation with affected landowners prior to design of the new accesses.