

PARKDALE TRAFFIC & PARKING SUB-COMMITTEE

Many of you may have noticed the large construction project that has closed 29th St and are wondering what is going on. Well, your parking & traffic sub-committee is in the know on such matters.

The City has a multi-community plan for establishing a commuter bicycle route in the northwest quadrant. The plan as it affects Parkdale, is to enhance the bike route from north of 16th Ave connecting with the river pathway system. This will entail establishing new off road paved paths through the hospital grounds and connecting with 29th St at the bottom of the escarpment on the west side approximately at 7th Ave. To accommodate road-going bicycles at this point, some changes to 29th St along the playground at the old Parkdale school is required. In addition to the bicycle route construction, the City is upgrading some of the utility lines that cross 29th St.

You will notice that curb extensions are being installed at 5th Ave and 7th Ave on the west side. The plan is to ensure traffic through our community is single lane each way and to allow for a bicycle-only commuter lane. The 2 vehicle lanes will become narrower to accommodate the bicycle commuter lane.

Unfortunately with the growth of the various institutional sites in our area, traffic through the community has far exceeded the capacity of the road system. 29th St was never designed as a major transportation route and non-local commuter traffic needed to be encouraged to use the more appropriate routes on 16th Ave and Crowchild Trail. Although many vehicles used 29th St as a 4 lane road through Parkdale, it was never design to be 4 lane below the escarpment.

Due to the many close calls between pedestrians and cyclists with vehicles, we are hoping our community becomes a much safer place for non-motorized forms of movement.

Other projects the sub-committee is working on include traffic calming alternatives on 5th & 7th Aves, especially at the playground zones, 37th St, Parkdale Blvd along the river and 3rd Ave especially at crosswalks. We are also addressing various parking issues and abuses. Anyone wishing to participate on any of these projects is welcome to join the sub-committee.

The Parkdale Traffic & Parking Sub-Committee reports to the Parkdale Planning & Development Committee, and is charged with addressing a variety of traffic and parking issues within the boundaries of the community. Sub-committee members are Patti Taylor (chair) (patti.taylor@telus.net), Deb Curley (dmcurely@telus.net), Joan Fitzpatrick (joanfitzpatrick@shaw.ca) and Barb Jones (barb.jones@shaw.ca). Concerns, comments, questions can be directed to the sub-committee via email or by calling the Parkdale Community Association at (403) 283-5767.