

October 13, 2018

City of Calgary
Office of the Councillors
PO Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M5

Via email.

Re: Pathway Closure and Detour Improvements, C2018-1117

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Bike Calgary wishes to communicate our support for the Notice of Motion regarding *Pathway Closure and Detour Improvements*.

Bike Calgary is a not-for-profit society with over 2700 members. We strive to improve conditions for bicyclists through education, advocacy, and community building.

Based on discussions between Bike Calgary members and numerous entries on our website's forum, the 2018 construction season can easily be rated as "a summer of discontent". While we appreciate that construction projects generally cause some disruption of regular traffic patterns for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, the impact of the disruption was particularly severe in recent months, and often the safety of pedestrians and cyclists was compromised.

The issues related to the North Bow River pathway (stormwater outfall repair) and near 17th Avenue SE (BRT construction) have been in the news extensively, but other detour situations, including pathway closures along the Elbow River (Outfall E38 repairs), at the Reconciliation Bridge due to rehab work, and a multi-month road closure at Highfield Boulevard SE (Green Line Construction), were equally poorly executed and communicated.

We urge the City to do better going forward. It is ironic that contractors and construction crews are held to the highest standards when on-site safety is concerned, but the effects of a project outside the construction fences appears to be "out-of-sight and out-of-mind". Asking non-motorized users to cross busy roads, expecting they ride, walk or cross at intersections that have no specific accommodation for the detour, is intimidating for many and often unsafe.

Bike Calgary therefore strongly supports Councillor Druh Farrell's notion of motion C2018-1117. We trust that the directions outlined in the notice of motion will change the way detours are managed, leads to less disruption and frustration, and increases safety related to construction projects.

Yours sincerely,



Agustín Louro
President, Bike Calgary