

The background image is a photograph of a multi-lane highway. In the foreground, there is a dense, green, leafy shrub or bush. Behind it, a grassy embankment rises. The highway itself is on the left side of the frame, with several cars visible in the distance. A series of tall, white, curved streetlights line the highway. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Sarcee Trail S.W./Bow Trail S.W. Functional Planning Study

Phase 3: What We Heard Report

July 2025



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Project overview

In 2012, City Council approved the West Springs Area Structure Plan (ASP), an initiative that directly impacts the infrastructure within the study area. The Plan explores ways to enhance safety within the ASP and to improve traffic flow at the intersection and corridors in the surrounding area, including the possible expansion of both the Sarcee Trail S.W. and Bow Trail S.W. corridors.

This study

Currently, The City is conducting a functional planning study to validate the recommendations made in the ASP. This study is an important step in ensuring that the supporting infrastructure aligns with the ASP development and the community's needs and priorities.

In previous years, The City has implemented improvements to help mitigate issues such as traffic congestion, access and safety in the area. This includes the 2022 construction of a U-Turn lane on the east leg of the Bow Trail S.W. and Sarcee Trail S.W. intersection. This functional planning study is the next step in planning for long-term solutions.

The study aims to address short and long-term infrastructure needs in West Calgary through potential road, pathway, and intersection improvements, focusing on network connectivity for all users of the area.

Study goals:

- Exploring the feasibility of intersection and roadway improvements along Sarcee Trail S.W. and Bow Trail S.W.
- Upgrading pathways to improve safety, accessibility, and connectivity for everyone in the area.
- Determining preferred interchange options that integrate with the adjacent neighborhoods and the S.W. roadway network.
- Reviewing the traffic volumes at the intersection of Bow Trail and Old Banff Coach Road S.W., to determine if land previously reserved for a potential interchange is still necessary.

Engagement approach

For this project, we are engaging with interested groups and the public at a 'Consult' level on The City's Engagement spectrum. This means we are gathering feedback from participants through events and online opportunities, to analyze issues and explore alternatives. By consulting with the public, we aim to understand and consider their concerns in the functional planning process.

Engagement phases

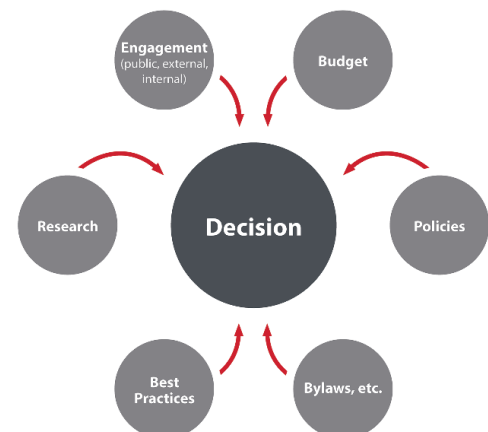
From Spring 2024 to Spring 2025 we will be engaging with interested groups and the public to gather feedback to inform the development of design concepts, and a preferred plan for the study area.

The engagement process for the study will be conducted in the following phases:



How participant feedback will be used

Public input is essential for creating a functional plan for the Sarcee Trail/Bow Trail S.W. intersection and corridors that aligns with community needs. Feedback from **Phase 3: Discover** to refine the recommended plan for finalization. However, it is important to note that technical data, policies, budgets, and best practices will also inform concept options and ultimately, the final plan.





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Phase 3 engagement and communications overview

This section of the report provides a summary of the strategies used to inform and engage the public on the project in **Phase 3: Reveal**.

Engagement opportunities

The goal of **Phase 3: Reveal** was to gather feedback from the public to refine the recommended plan for approval.

To gather feedback from interested groups and the public for Phase 3, we hosted the following events and opportunities:

- **Virtual information session and Q&A:**
 - Thursday June 5, 2025, 32 participants
- **In-person events:**
 - Saturday May 24, 2025, Strathcona Christie Aspen Community Association – approximately 56 participants
 - Tuesday May 27, 2025, Rosscarrock Community Hall – approximately 64 participants
- **Online feedback form:**
 - Open May 20 – June 10, 2025, 5,925 page visits, 174 contributors, 209 contributions

Getting the word out

Engagement opportunities were advertised and promoted in the following ways:

- May 20: Approximately 7,000 postcards delivered to businesses and residents in the study area.
- May 20: 25 targeted notices delivered to businesses along a portion of Bow Trail S.W. inviting them to participate in the engagement process and/or meet with the project team.
- May 20: Nearby Community Associations informed about project details and upcoming engagement opportunities via their respective Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator.
- May 20 & June 3: Email newsletter sent to inform about project details and engagement opportunities.
- May 20 – June 9: Paid targeted social media campaign on several platforms including Facebook, Instagram, X and NextDoor.
- May 20 - June 10: Six (6) road signs in the study area.
- May 26 – June 9: Two (2) sandwich boards near Edworthy Park Off Leash Area.

What we asked/what we heard

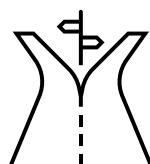
The following section summarizes what we asked and what we heard during the in-person open houses and virtual event, as well as through the online feedback form for **Phase 3: Reveal**. For more detail, see the **Detailed summary of feedback** section.

High-level themes



Interchange design:

Suggestions to refine the recommended design include a full cloverleaf interchange or additional ramps, prioritizing Bow Trail over Sarcee Trail S.W. for free-flow movement and removing lights on Bow Trail S.W. at the interchange.



45 Street S.W.:

Concerns about the recommended lane narrowing at this intersection and requests for left hand turning lanes on 45 Street north and south bound and advanced left-turn signals east and westbound from Bow Trail S.W.



Project support: Support for the recommended interchange design and a strong desire to proceed with construction.



Pedestrian and cycling

safety: Support for the recommended wheeling/pedestrian underpasses and requests for creating safe pedestrian underpasses, crossings and pathways in the project area.



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Detailed summary of feedback

The following is a detailed summary of feedback we received through the online feedback form and the in-person engagement events. To see the verbatim comments received through the Phase 3 engagement process, see the **Verbatim** section of this report.

Open House # 1- Strathcona Christie Aspen Community Association (56 participants)

What we asked:

Share your thoughts on the recommend plan for the Sarcee Trail S.W./ Bow Trail S.W. Interchange!

Tell us if you have any final thoughts about the recommended plan.

What we heard:

Project support

- Support for bike and pedestrian underpasses, especially the one between Westgate and Edworthy—seen as major safety improvements.
- General satisfaction with overall design, particularly access to Edworthy from Bow Trail S.W. and safety enhancements at 45 Street S.W.

Design suggestions

- To lower Sarcee Trail S.W. to reduce noise and improve operations; there was also concern about increased noise in adjacent communities due to the new interchange design.
- To connect the Bow Trail S.W. bike path directly to the new Edworthy Park access on the same side of the road as the storm pond, rather than routing it across to the opposite side.
- To add a fence along Sarcee Trail S.W. in the Edworthy Park Off Leash area.
- To consider interim improvements to the intersection and corridors, once the ATCO Gas Regulator Station is moved, given the long timeline for interchange construction.
- To limit pedestrian crossings at the new Edworthy access from Bow Trail S.W. to reduce the impact of a new signal on traffic flow.
- To consider improving visibility for southbound right turn from 45 Street S.W. due to a sound wall obstructing the view.
- To add road access to the new Edworthy Park access road from Worcester Drive S.W.
- For an eastbound to northbound advanced left turn on Bow Trail S.W. at 37 Street S.W.



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Open House # 2 – Rosscarrock Community Hall (64 participants)

What we asked:

Share your thoughts on the recommend plan for the Sarcee Trail S.W./ Bow Trail S.W. Interchange!

Tell us if you have any final thoughts about the recommended plan.

What we heard:

Project support

- Appreciation for:
 - the engagement process,
 - maintaining access to Bow Trail S.W. from Strathcona Hill S.W.,
 - incorporation of pedestrian tunnels into the plan,
 - including the new Edworthy Park access from Bow Trail S.W.

Noise

- Many requests to add noise walls along Bow Trail S.W. and Sarcee Trail S.W. to reduce noise for surrounding communities.

Pedestrian and cyclist safety

- Strong support for pedestrian and bike pathways included in the Bow Trail S.W. and Sarcee Trail S.W. interchange plan.
- Concerns that underpasses may feel unsafe, especially at night.

45 Street S.W.

- Major concerns about traffic congestion at 45 Street S.W. and Bow Trail S.W., especially with nearby schools and the proposed reduced lanes on 45 Street S.W.
- Requests for:
 - a pedestrian overpass to cross Bow Trail S.W. from 45 Street S.W. for school safety,
 - advanced left turn arrows at key intersections (e.g., NB 45 Street S.W. to WB Bow Trail S.W.),



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- keeping two lanes northbound and southbound on 45 Street S.W., with additional dedicated right-hand turn lanes,
- improve poor visibility when turning from 45 Street S.W. southbound onto Bow Trail S.W. westbound due to the current sound barriers.

Project priorities and timing

- Suggestion to start construction of the interchange before further westward development increases traffic.
- Recommendations to increase Bow Trail S.W. eastbound capacity before finalizing interchange plans.
- Suggestion to prioritize an overpass at Sarcee Trail S.W. and Richmond Road S.W. over this interchange (Sarcee Trail S.W. and Bow Trail S.W.).

Economic and policy concerns

- Questions about project cost, funding sources, and economic benefits.
- Suggestion to leave the intersection as is to reduce impact on City budget.

Online Feedback Form (174 respondents)

What we asked:

Share your thoughts on the recommend plan for the Sarcee Trail S.W./ Bow Trail S.W. Interchange!

Tell us if you have any final thoughts about the recommended plan.

What we heard:

45 Street S.W. concerns

- Many respondents expressed concerns and suggested changes for the proposed design for 45 Street S.W. intersection including:
 - Requests for an advance green left-turn signal for westbound traffic on Bow Trail S.W. turning south onto 45 Street S.W.
 - Request to add separate lanes for through traffic and left turns in both northbound and southbound directions on 45 Street S.W. at Bow Trail S.W., to reduce congestion.
 - Request to ensure safety for pedestrians at this intersection, specifically students crossing to get to school.



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Interchange design

- Many respondents raised concerns about the interchange design. Suggested design changes included:
 - adding more ramps or implementing a full cloverleaf design,
 - prioritizing free-flowing traffic on Bow Trail S.W. instead of Sarcee Trail S.W.,
 - widen Bow Trail S.W. instead of building the interchange.
- Some respondents also noted that the new design may not address safety concerns related to merging from the Strathcona Hill S.W. access road onto Bow Trail S.W.

Project support

- Many expressed support for the interchange design and desire for the project to be funded for construction soon.

Pedestrian access and safety

- Many expressed support for the proposed pedestrian/cycling underpasses.
- Some requested safety considerations for the pedestrian underpasses including lighting.
- Some requested improvements to the sidewalks/pathways along Bow Trail to make them feel safer to pedestrians.

Traffic lights on Bow Trail S.W.

- Many expressed concerns about the inclusion of traffic lights on Bow Trail S.W., and how that may reduce traffic flow and cause congestion.

Next steps

The feedback provided during Phase 3 engagement will be used to help refine the recommended plan. The final plan will be posted online and shared via our email newsletter. Subscribe to get updates [here](#).