



Chamber and Alderman Joe Ceci work on S.E. transportation solutions

January 27, 2009 eConnecting

The Chamber's Transportation and Logistics Committee met with Alderman Joe Ceci, who represents the S.E. industrial area, to improve goods movement in the city. Rail crossings and a lack of investment in road capacity in the area were hot topics during the December 2008 meeting.

"We discussed the importance of the industry to Calgary's future growth," said Ben Brunnen, Manager of Policy of Research with the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. "The city needs to place a higher priority on building strategic infrastructure to enable the transportation and logistics sector to build upon its current success."

Calgary is home to two major intermodal facilities, Canadian Pacific Railway and CN Rail, and to award-winning first-class cargo facilities and services at the airport. Over 4,000 companies are in the transportation and logistics sector, employing 46,000.

The city is a major redistribution point for goods to western Canada and the U.S.

Commercial vehicles make up about 12 per cent of traffic in Calgary with 270,000 truck trips occurring per day.

Goods movement is featured prominently in the city's 2009 - 2018 Transportation Infrastructure Investment Plan, responded Ceci.

Work is underway to widen 52 St. East from Glenmore to 130 Ave. South by 2011 and to upgrade the Glenmore Corridor from the Bow River to Ogden by 2016. The city plans to address the CN rail crossing at Barlow Trail and 50 Ave. South by building an underpass with completion by 2012. The CN rail crossing at 52 St. East and 50 Ave. South has been identified as a future project in need of funding.

"The Chamber is a member of Plan It Calgary Key Stakeholder Advisory Committee," said Brunnen. "Through expertise from our Transportation & Logistics Committee we are making sure goods movement is a vital part of the city's future planning and development."

Plan It Calgary is the city's new land use and mobility plan that will guide future transportation planning.

"We look forward to continuing discussion with elected officials and City of Calgary transportation decision-makers to make improvements," said Brunnen.