

Neighbourhood Streets Program for Silver Springs

Since 2016 and in response to feedback from community members, the SSCA has worked with The City of Calgary to improve mobility infrastructure and safety in the community. The City of Calgary has addressed our concerns by implementing a number of measures, including:

- Rapid flashing lights at the crosswalk at the entrance of the community on Silver Springs Gate from Crowchild Trail
- Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (RRFB) lights on Silver Springs Blvd by the fire station
- Reflection sleeves at numerous crosswalks on Silver Springs Blvd
- Left turn exit from the Value Village strip mall
- Easier access to the off-leash fenced park through U-turn on Silver Springs Gate
- Traffic calming curbs on Silver Ridge Drive by Silver Ridge Crescent
- Traffic calming curbs on 54th Avenue by Silver Springs Blvd
- Traffic calming on Silver Mead Road in front of Silver Springs Elementary School

Additional improvements which were identified by the SSCA but have not yet been addressed can be found here: <https://silverspringscommunity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SilverSpringsTrafficIssues2020.pdf>

In June 2020, The City selected Silver Springs to take part in their Neighbourhood Street Program, the goal of which is to improve neighbourhood streets so that everyone can move safely and comfortably. This will be achieved through further community engagement and the implementation of pilot infrastructure projects. Whether such projects become permanent will depend on how effectively they address a particular issue, community feedback and available funding.

One of these pilot projects scheduled for Spring 2021 and lasting for approximately one year is the conversion of the outside lanes along Silver Springs Blvd into designated bicycle lanes. These lanes will be separated from vehicular traffic and can be used by cyclists, as well as individuals using skateboards, inline skates, and scooters. The SSCA Board of Directors supports this pilot project for the following reasons:

- Traffic volumes on Silver Springs Blvd do not warrant four lanes. During the week, traffic volume on the Blvd is under 7000 trips in a 24-hour period. However, it was designed for 25'000 trips per day, approximately the traffic volume on John Laurie Blvd at the intersection with Sarcee Trail.
- In a survey conducted in 2018, Silver Springs residents identified speeding on Silver Springs Blvd as one of their primary safety concerns. Resizing the width of the roadway has the potential to reduce the vehicle travel speed. Such improvement has been observed elsewhere [1].
- Based on historical data, most collisions in Silver Springs occur on Silver Springs Blvd, especially at the intersections with Silver Springs Road and Silver Ridge Road [2]. Last autumn, accidents occurred at both intersections, including a roll-over involving three vehicles at the Silver Ridge Road intersection at 9:00 am on a school day. It is our hope that speed reduction will decrease the incident rate on the Blvd.
- Reducing the street crossing distance will limit the pedestrian exposure to motorised traffic, hence improving pedestrian safety [3]. We have heard from many residents who are not comfortable crossing Silver Springs Blvd currently. We hope that lane reduction will improve the situation.

- The conversion of the unused lanes on Silver Springs Blvd to bike lanes will promote this sustainable mode of transportation within the community and improve connection with the larger bike pathway system in Calgary.

The SSCA Board is aware of concerns that traffic currently spills over onto Silver Ridge Drive to avoid the school zone on Silver Springs Blvd. To assess any potential increase, we have worked with the City to ensure that monitoring traffic volumes along Silver Ridge Drive will occur during the pilot project. Traffic spillover onto side roads will be considered when evaluating the project.

The City of Calgary will launch their engagement process this September. More information can be found on the project website at <https://www.calgary.ca/SilverSpringsStreets>. The SSCA is looking forward to this opportunity to make our community safer for everyone.

[1] City of Seattle - Nickerson Street Rechannalization Before and After Report

https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SDOT/About/DocumentLibrary/Reports/Nickersonbeforeandafterstudy_FINAL.pdf

[2] City of Calgary – Traffic Incidents Heat Map

<https://data.calgary.ca/Transportation-Transit/Heat-map-Based-on-all-Traffic-Incidents/yj8z-ptzu>

[3] Federal Highway Administration - Traffic Calming ePrimer – Module 6

https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/speedmgt/ePrimer_modules/module6.cfm#mod64