

## RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR INQUIRY

### COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHERS

Councillor Christophers provided information from a resident that the intersection of Veterans Way and Okotoks Drive is experiencing traffic flow issues with school buses attempting to turn east down Okotoks Drive and other vehicles at the intersection, due to the new curb design.

### RESPONSE

The Town's Active Transportation Plan identified Veterans Way as a critical north-south active transportation 'spine' in Okotoks. The main purpose of this project is to establish Veterans Way as a pedestrian-oriented corridor with connections to future development in the north and the downtown, encourage alternative modes of transportation, enhance pedestrian safety, prioritize pedestrian infrastructure over vehicle infrastructure without materially sacrificing vehicle level of service, and improve the overall pedestrian experience with landscaping and amenities. Curb extensions are one of the ways that these objectives are being achieved.

All new curb extensions on Veterans Way have been designed in accordance with the Town of Okotoks' General Design & Construction Specifications, the City of Calgary Complete Streets Guide, and the City of Calgary Fire Department Access Standard. These specifications and guidelines collectively represent the current urban street design practices that are used in Okotoks. The radius used for curb extensions has been designed such that vehicles can navigate the corners without mounting any sidewalks. The specific vehicle simulated in the design was the City of Calgary's standard dual axle fire truck which is effective for all emergency vehicles currently used in Okotoks, tractor trailers and school buses.

The introduction of curb extensions were to align with the expected outcomes of the design:

- 1) Pedestrian safety;
- 2) Encouraging alternate modes of transportation;
- 3) Prioritize pedestrian infrastructure without materially sacrificing the vehicle level of service.

The changed intersection means a change in driver behaviour. Administration anticipates these changes to peak at the start of the school year and first winter driving conditions. The functionality will be reviewed throughout the first quarter of 2018 to determine if any future design enhancements are required.