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November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Hon. Wayne Drysdale, MLA – Grand Prairie-Wapiti (Minister of Transportation/Infrastructure)  
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Dear Mr. Drysdale:

**RE: WEST CALGARY RING ROAD (WCRR) - REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION – INTERIM UPDATE**

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On behalf of the Chair of the Discovery Ridge Community Association (DRCA) Ring Road Committee, I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for your August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 letter in response to our July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 letter. We wanted to inform you that members of our committee have been involved in a number of constructive discussions with Alberta Transportation (AT) staff, which recently led to an invitation to a meeting with AT representatives on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at which alternative options were discussed that would help mitigate the impacts on our community.

On Monday evening following this meeting, the entire DRCA Ring Road Committee and our Board were updated about the progress being made in our consultations with AT regarding the main concerns that our community residents have, as outlined in our previous letter to you.

As you are aware, the DRCA is most concerned about the following as previously identified, with one new critical item:

1. Context Sensitive Design starting with adapting the outside/in approach to build the new lanes as close to our community's property line as possible versus our preference to have the interior lanes positioned further away constructed first;
2. Sound Attenuation & Visual and Landscape Impacts – for this proposed high volume truck route is sorely needed to temper the noise coming from the highway as well as mitigate the view of the highway, where appropriate, from the back yards of those homes bordering our north perimeter;
3. Lighting Impacts – To avoid light pollution of the residential properties that border the TUC, we encourage the use of full cut-off light fixtures at the lowest possible IES;
4. Environmental Effects – protect, rehabilitate or recreate lost environmentally sensitive areas;
5. Encourage friendly pathway connectivity across and along the TUC; and
6. Ensuring real on-going consultation can be facilitated and budget set aside to address issues that may arise for the duration of the project by either adapting the P3 agreement to allow the P3 partner to do responsive consultation with the P3 cycle, as the current structure does not facilitate this, and/or ensure there is a separate protocol outside the P3 to facilitate this.
7. As a new item, we are extremely concerned that the Province is entertaining a second ring road system and plans to double run it along one of the narrowest segments of the ring road, which is along our community's north boundary, instead of along a different alignment. A single ring road is understandable, but a dual or double run ring road system is well beyond optimizing the TUC right of

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way at this location and appears forced. The TUC was created to accommodate a ring road along with servicing infrastructure, not ring **roads**, and would be considered incongruent with the original intent by the majority of our residents.

At this point, as a community, we are encouraged by the willingness of AT staff in discussing various options that may help address our concerns. We truly appreciate the efforts that AT representatives have made to meet and discuss the pros and cons of the alternatives as well as new ideas that are generated in such joint sessions. We remain cautiously optimistic that AT and your Ministry will be able to follow through on a number of key design alternatives. Notwithstanding a possible agreement on the alternatives, we are still very concerned if, and how, some of the positive changes being discussed will be accepted and implemented.

The section of the roadway that we are discussing may seem to be a relatively small portion of the overall Calgary Ring Road System, but it is one of the narrowest in the whole proposed 101 km of the highway. We strongly urge and respectfully request that you support the key changes in the design currently before us that will allow AT staff to commit the P3 partners to construct a throughway that is very functional, more socially and environmentally responsible and compassionate to the residential neighbourhood of Discovery Ridge. Further to this, we request your commitment and continued support as we continue to work with AT staff to address the remaining issues we are working together to mitigate.

We look forward to your on-going support in requiring that Alberta Transportation (and eventual P3 firm) to continue to work in collaboration with the community to make this a project we can all be proud of.

Respectfully yours,  
On behalf of the DRCA Board

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hansen-Sydenham", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jacquie Hansen-Sydenham, President, DRCA  
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cc: Ben Lee, Chair, Ring Road Committee, DRCA ([blee@ibigroup.com](mailto:blee@ibigroup.com) / 403.471.5424)  
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