

# Calgary Southwest Ring Road Functional Planning Study Elbow River Valley Crossing – Geotechnical Investigation

## What is the geotechnical investigation for?

As part of the functional planning study process for the Calgary Southwest Ring Road, geotechnical information is required to determine the feasibility of each route. Information on existing ground conditions is available for four of the potential routes as there are already roadways on these routes, but has not yet been collected for the potential route through the Elbow River Valley.

Information collected will be used to assist in:

- Determining whether a route along the 37<sup>th</sup> Street corridor is viable or possible
- Evaluating options associated with crossing the Elbow River Valley

## Why is the investigation being done now?

Given the sensitive nature of the area, winter conditions are necessary to allow for access to the drilling sites over open ice, as well as minimize environmental effects and damage to vegetation in the area.

## What is involved?

The proposed geotechnical investigation consists of three stages.

- **Preliminary Work** (1-2 days) – Field observations to take ice thickness measurements, to determine if the ice can support the drilling equipment and to confirm drilling locations. Damage to vegetation will be minimized by accessing the drilling areas using existing pathways and open ice where possible.
- **Geophysical Investigation** (1-2 days) – ATV quads will be used for the geophysical investigation. This process includes driving steel rods into the ground and collecting seismic information to determine how deep the bedrock is in the area. There will be no impact on vegetation in the valley.
- **Drilling Program** (1 week) – Four test holes will be drilled in the Elbow River Valley, away from the river itself. These test holes will be on land and, where possible, trails and existing ice-covered areas will be used to get to them. Another two test holes will be drilled at the tops of the escarpments on each side of the river valley; one in North Glenmore Park and one in South Glenmore Park. Travel to these two locations will be on existing access roads or bicycle pathways. A small tracked or rubber-tired drilling rig will be used to further minimize access disturbance.

## When will the investigation happen?

The geotechnical investigation is scheduled to take place between March 14 and March 31, between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm on weekdays, and between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm on weekends if required. All activity is based on weather conditions.

## Who do I call for more information?

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