

Calgary McCall

From: Grant D. Galpin [grant@ggassociates.ca]
Sent: January 22, 2010 1:42 PM
To: atacinfo@yestunnel.com
Subject: Airport Tunnel: City-wide Associations call for Federal Funding
Attachments: Minister Baird Letter.pdf; Tunnel MOA with City (4).doc

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 22, 2010 – 1:30 pm.

Airport Tunnel Advocates Call for Federal Funding

Calgary, Alberta — The Airport Trail Access Committee (ATAC), with the full support of the Calgary & Alberta Hotel Associations, Tourism Calgary, Federation of Calgary Communities, Airways Business Association, Canadian Home Builders' Association, and many other stakeholders is sending a message to Ottawa. "We believe the Airport Tunnel is crucial to our economic survival and transportation network as the Calgary Airport expands and adds a second runway," stated one representative.

Grant Galpin, spokesperson for ATAC put it more succinctly, "Without the Airport Tunnel, we are sending the message that it's OK to stiff visitors to Calgary, local & international businesses, and Calgary area residents who work at the Airport and not provide them with adequate access to the one of the busiest airports in the country." The above Associations have sent a united letter to Transportation Minister, John Baird, calling for the Federal Government to participate in the funding agreement recently signed by the City of Calgary and the Calgary Airport Authority.

Galpin went on to indicate that the recent refusal by Federal Minister of Environment Jim Prentice, where he stated that the Federal Government doesn't have the money to participate in the project, will not be enough to dissuade the above Associations. "A brief staged meeting with our local Alderman saying, "there is no money" will not stop us from pursuing this project to its rightful construction. When one realizes the impact of what an LRT route to the Airport, and a clear separate access for business traffic would do for all users of the Airport, one does not stop lobbying until the Federal representatives realize the value of partnership to get this project done."

Curtis Fernets, GM of the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, likewise states, "The Hotel Associations will explore all avenues, including legal options as they face the potential closure of Barlow Trail next Spring. It is a matter of financial survival for us, and we cannot function without multiple access points to pick up our customers."

ATAC believes that the strength of the Airport Trail Tunnel lies in its capacity to reduce traffic gridlock & auto emissions, improve airport bound industrial & hospitality traffic efficiency, and provide a future BRT/LRT link to the Airport off the current east C-Train line.

For more information contact:

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