

Bow Valley Passenger Rail

strengthening transportation links within the Calgary region



Calgary Regional Partnership

Overview

- Current trends in transportation
- Short term solutions
- Long term options
- Sustainable transportation examples
- The concept of passenger rail
- Next steps?



Transportation trends



Transportation Trends

- Over 19,000 average daily vehicle volume on TCH
- Vehicle collisions between Park Gates and HWY 93 up 58% from 29 in 2013 to 46 in 2015

Traffic chaos returns to Lake Louise with annual fall hiking popularity

Current Trends - Banff



Mountain Avenue
to Sulphur
Mountain
Gondola, 1978

Current Trends - Banff



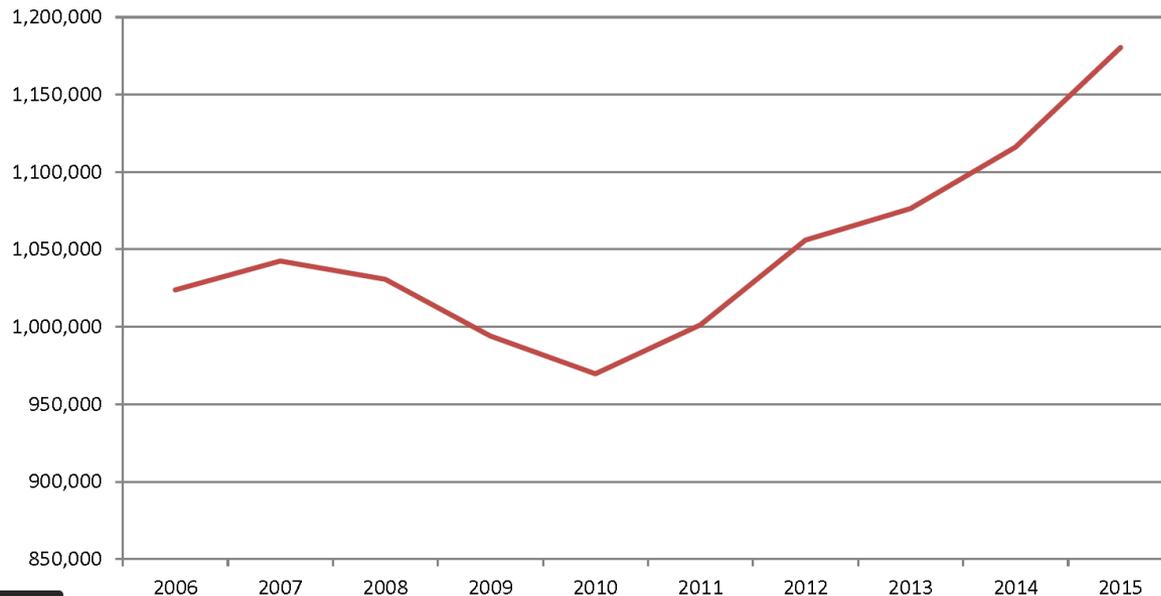
Mountain Avenue
from Sulphur
Mountain
Gondola, 2014

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7fLQkIO1W4>

Current Trends - Banff

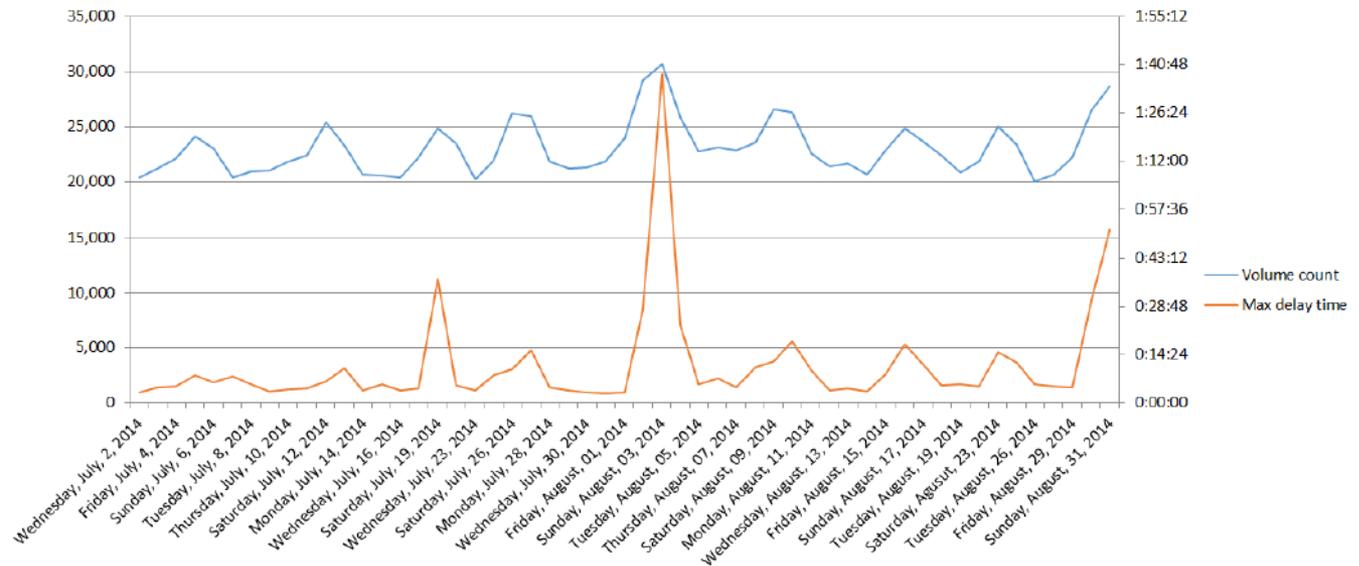
- Congestion/Traffic Delays up to 1-1/2 hours
- Negative impact on visitor experience and the economy
- Emergency response times

Mountain Avenue Total Two-Way Traffic 2006-2015



Short Term Solutions

- Signal timings changes
- Transit increases & communication
- Congestion threshold increased to 24,000 vpd



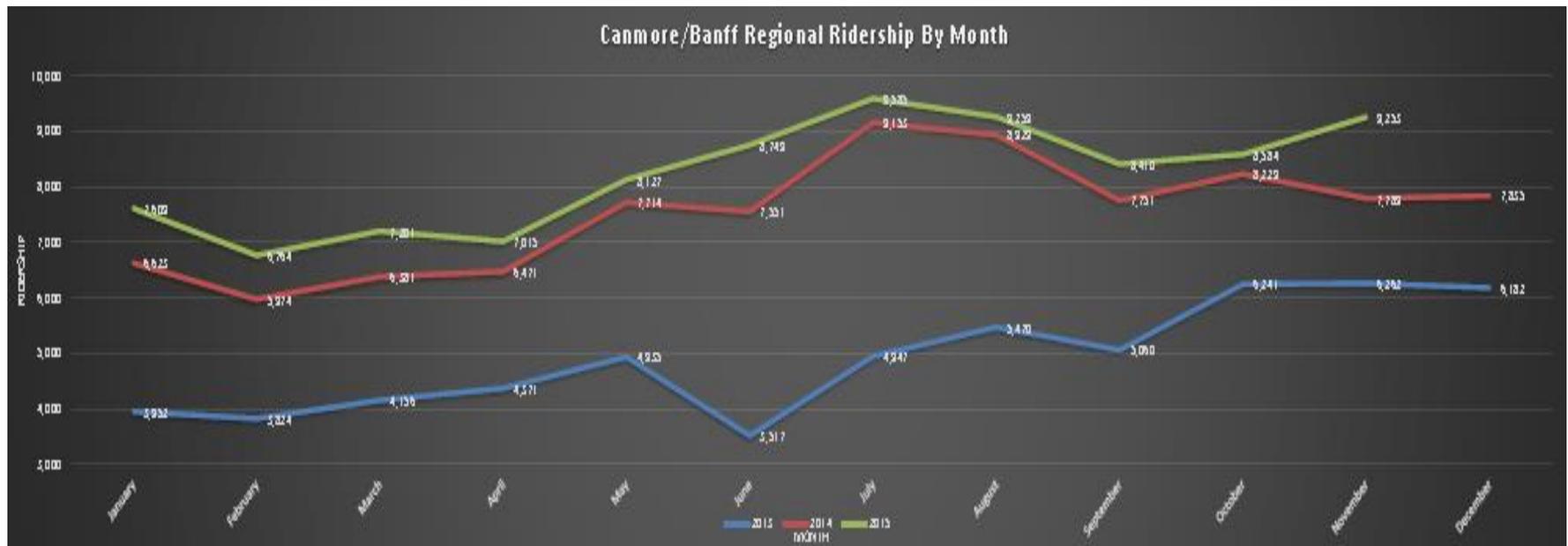
Long Term Options

1. Build more road infrastructure
 - Environmental protection
 - Costs
 - Effectiveness
2. Focus on intercepting vehicles and moving people
 - Intercept vehicles
 - Move people with public transit
 - Sustainable and scalable

Sustainable Transportation Examples

- Regional Transit / Banff-Canmore

Ridership increased from 4,000 to 9,000 riders per month since service started in 2013



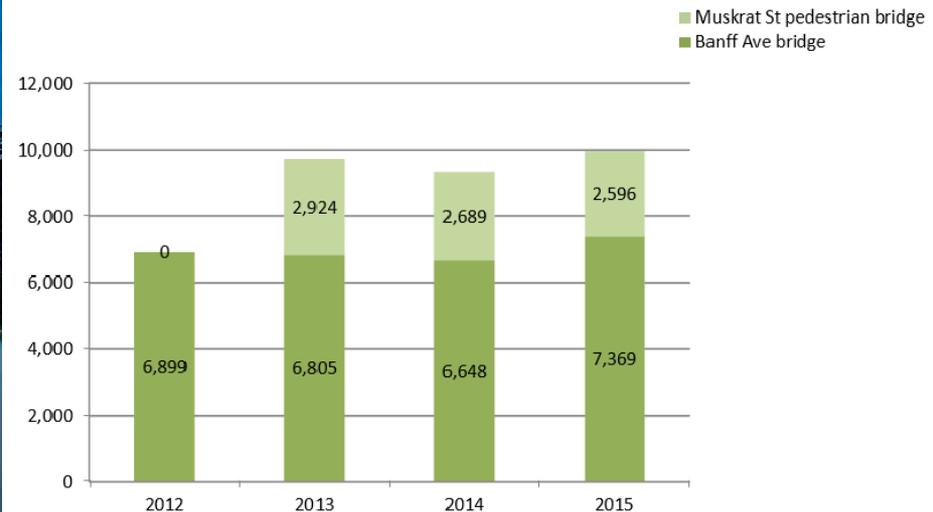
Sustainable Transportation Examples

Banff Bow River Pedestrian Bridge

Net increase in pedestrian and cycle river crossings of 42%



Average daily Pedestrian crossing for July and August (combined)



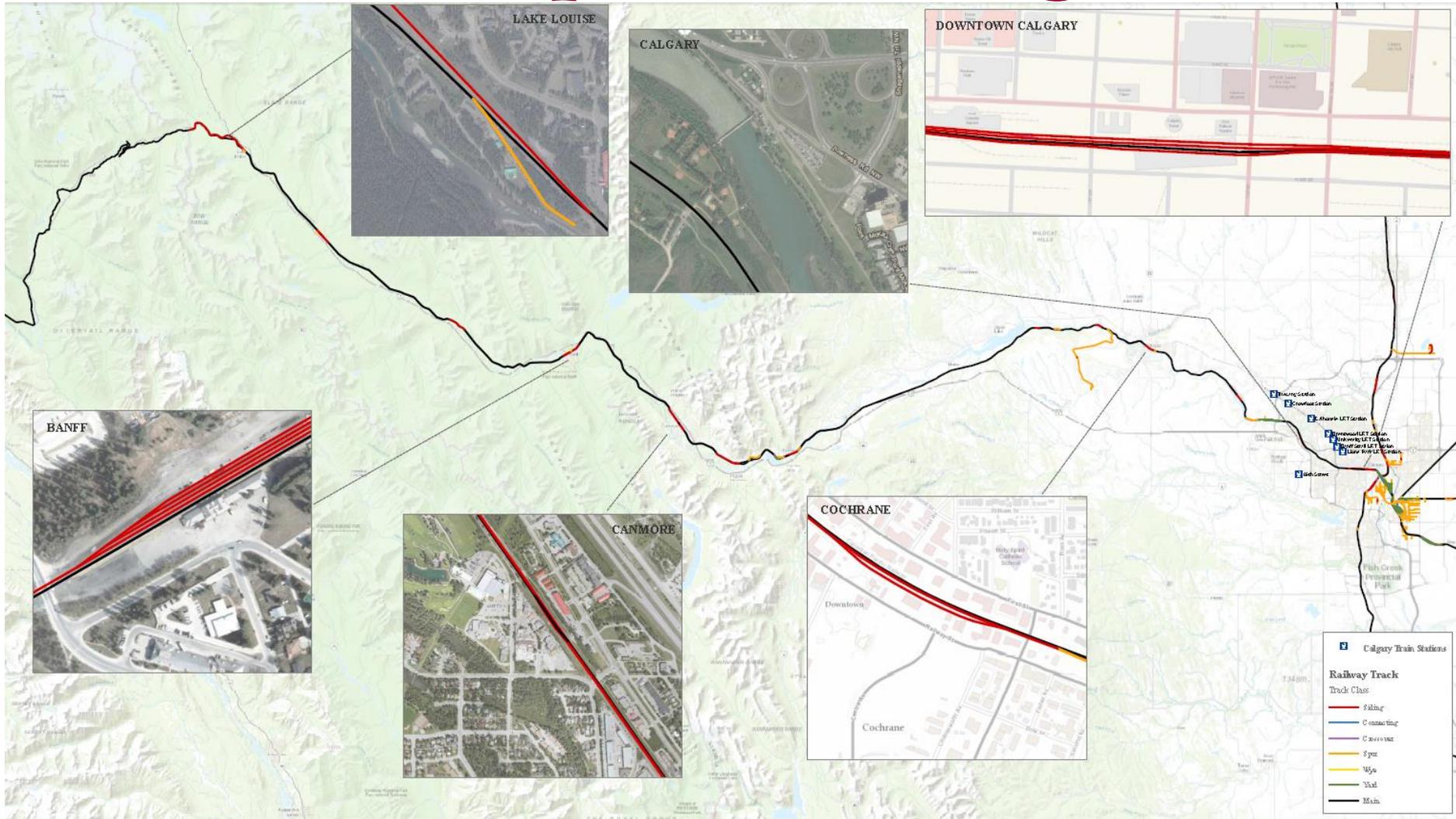
Sustainable Transportation Examples

Banff-Canmore Legacy Trail/Rocky Mountain Legacy Trail

Encouraging visitors and Bow Valley residents to explore the landscape in an environmentally friendly way. Now attracting 100,000 riders/year



The Concept of Passenger Rail







Mayor John Borrowman, circa 1936

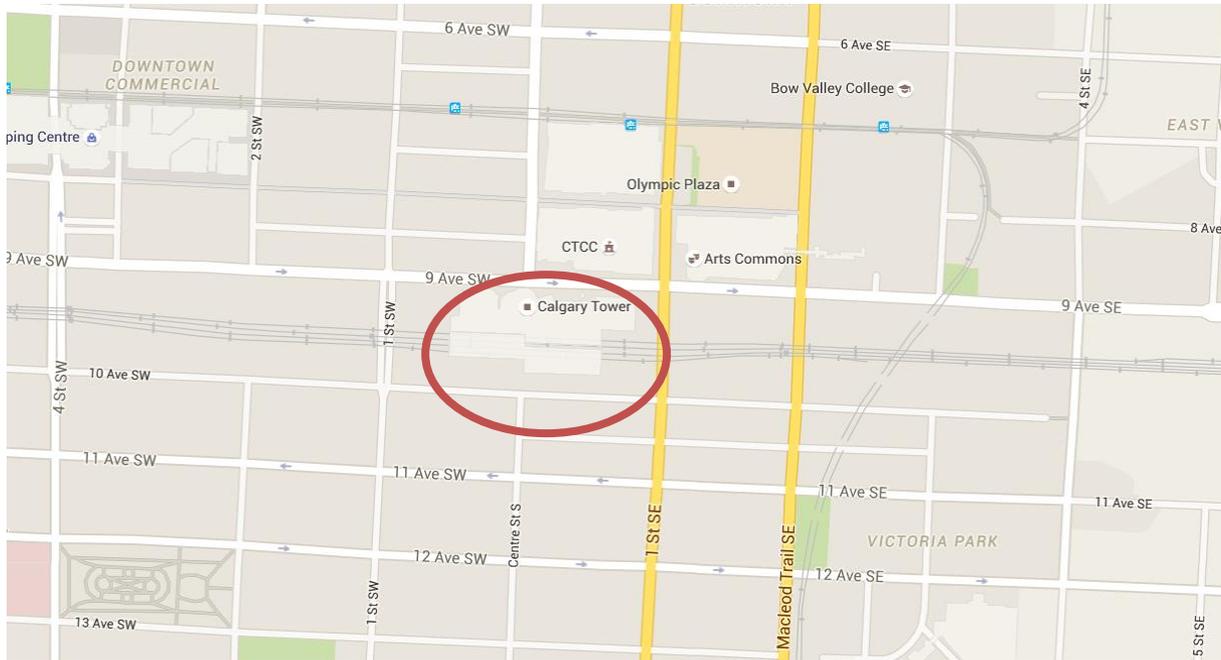


Map of VIA Rail's routes in Canada



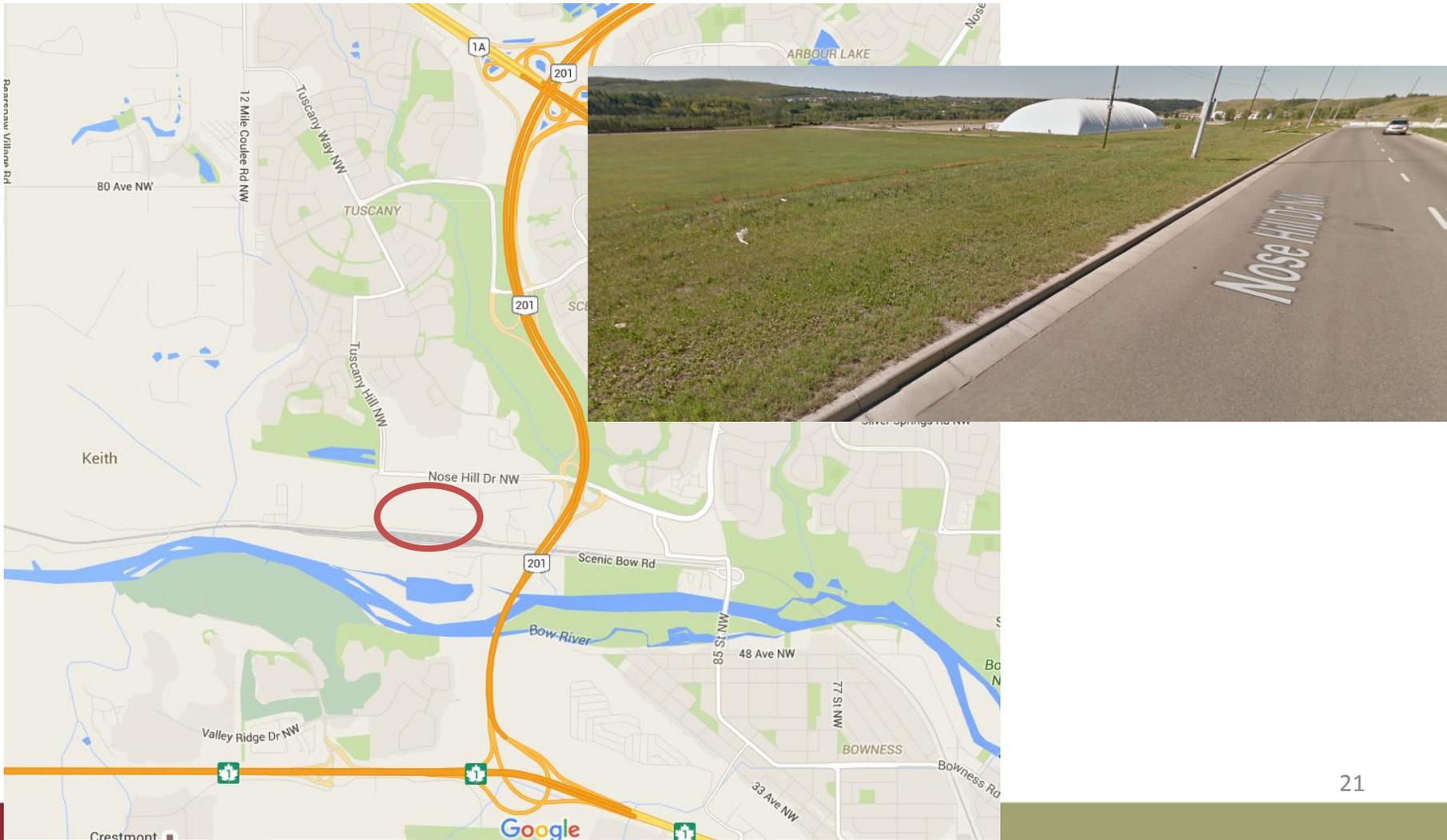
The Concept of Passenger Rail

Calgary downtown



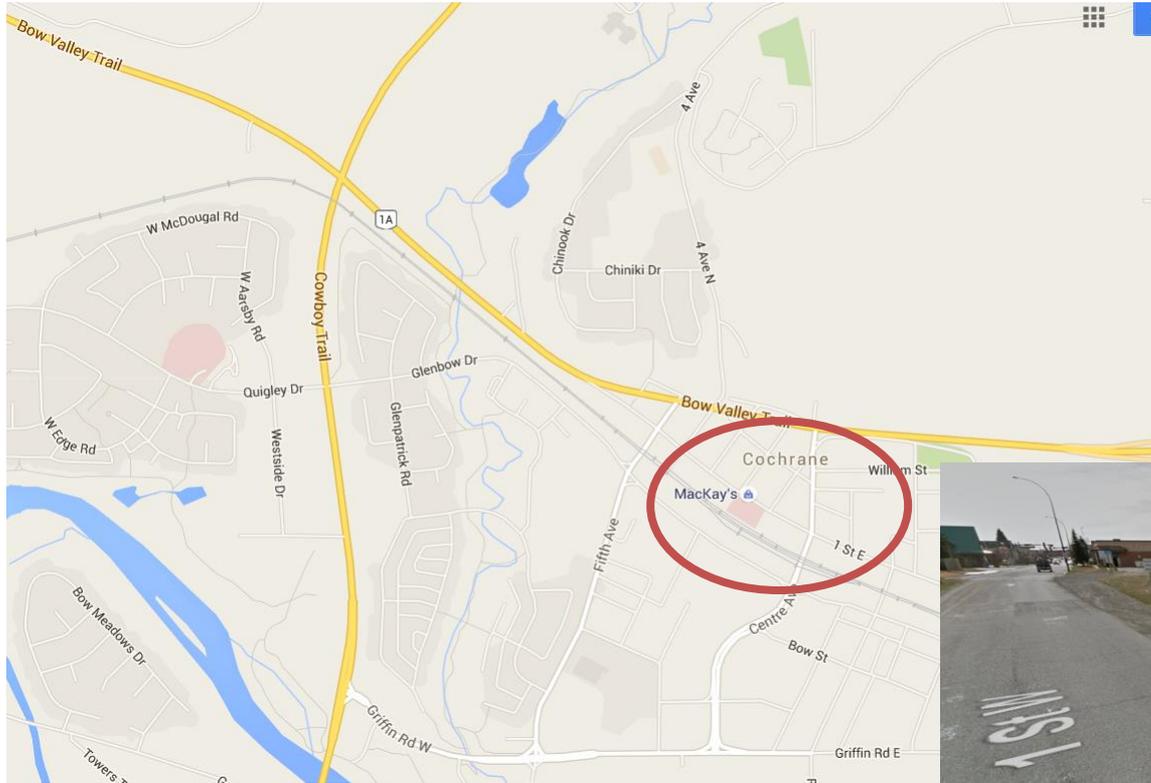
The Concept of Passenger Rail

Calgary intercept



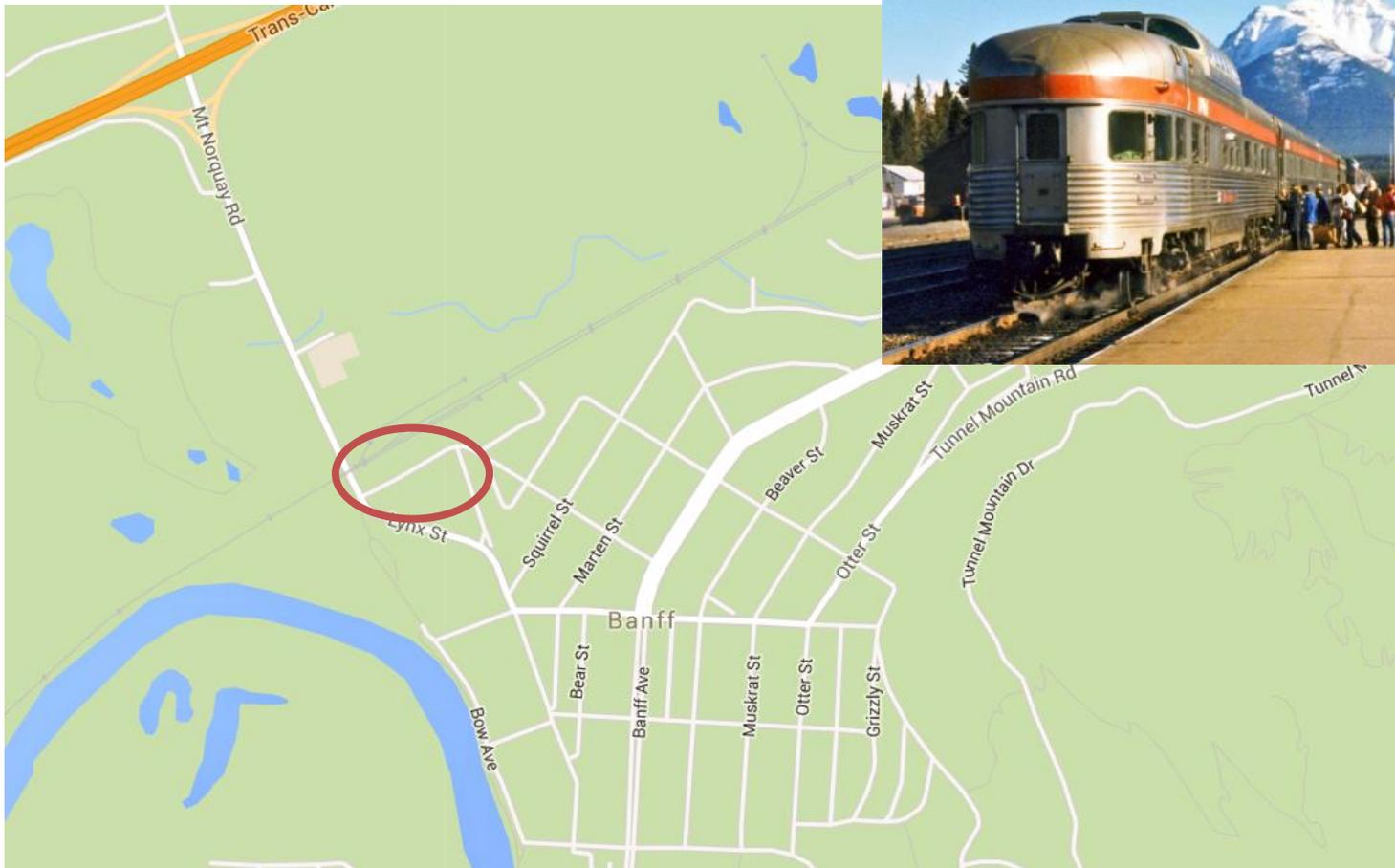
The Concept of Passenger Rail

Cochrane



The Concept of Passenger Rail

Banff



The Concept of Passenger Rail

Lake Louise



Charlevoix - Quebec

- Quebec City to La Malbaie (140 Km)
- 500 passengers
- 8 cars, 2 locomotives
- \$5M rail car refurbishment



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sC8je1iDcQ0>

Benefits of Passenger Rail

- Visitor/ridership attraction Reduction in vehicles on highway
- Reduction of vehicles/congestion in Calgary region + Banff townsite
- Intermodal connectivity/commuter benefits
- Rail infrastructure already in place
- High-speed is not a prerequisite

Benefits of Passenger Rail

- Intensifying use of existing transportation corridors
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Reducing expansion of highways/roadways and consumption of land
- Promotes alternative living/employment choices for regional residents
- Reliability, comfort and convenience

Likely Challenges

- Co-ordination with CP
- Additional sidings to retain goods capacity
- Locating stations in Calgary, Cochrane and Canmore
- May require Provincial support to offset operating and capital costs

The Feasibility Study

- A staged plan for the introduction and growth of the proposed passenger rail service
- Plans for infrastructure investment
- Plans for station locations and facilities
- An initial capital cost estimate
- Initial estimates for operations and maintenance costs at each level of service
- Plans for funding capital and operating expenses
- Requirements for passenger cars and locomotives

Next Steps?

- Partnership with the Regional Rail group
- Alberta Community Partnership application - Feb 5
- Council resolutions - Feb 29
- RFP & Feasibility study (pending funding)
- Identify issues / Summer trial within 3-5 years

Comments / Questions

