

### PUBLIC AGENCY COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

#### THE CITY OF CALGARY



The City of Calgary has been awarded the 2021 Public Agency Council Achievement Award for **Mobility Trends During COVID-19**. This award recognizes public agencies that achieve excellence in management and implementation of innovative ideas and underscores the importance of the support systems that provide for the delivery of outstanding outcomes in transportation engineering, planning, operations, or related activities.

Early in the pandemic, City of Calgary leaders recognized that the transportation system needed to be monitored to identify and respond to unprecedented changes in behaviors and needs. Regular updates of multiple transportation indicators were critical to allow operational decisions to balance safety, mobility, and fiscal responsibility. Further, politicians, citizens, and businesses needed data that they could understand and relate to and reassurance that The City was supporting them through the crises.

In response, a team of subject matter experts emerged, agreeing to share transportation indicator data from their monitoring systems and databases. The team provided weekly dataset updates which were combined into reports where visualizations depicted the latest mobility trends. This teamwork resulted in low-cost/high-value decision and communication tools for Calgary.

These regular updates provided decision makers with evidence-based risk-analysis tools, empowering them to rapidly implement and adjust pandemic response strategies. These reports were used to plan Adaptive Roads, adjust transit service, provide additional recreational options, adapt curb space and parking lots for public realm opportunities, optimize road construction activities, and more.

The importance of this ad-hoc project was ratified when City Councilors requested that monthly reports be included as a regular agenda item for a Standing Policy Committee Meeting and incorporated into the official public records. Further, these summaries provided shared learning opportunities for professionals from other jurisdictions through webinars (such as the ITE Traffic Engineering Council's webinar "COVID Effects on Transportation" February 10, 2021) and other informal distributions. Overall, the Mobility Trends during COVID-19 reports have been valued by technical and non-technical individuals and provided a vital decision-making and communication tool to the City of Calgary.

"Since before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our data collection program has been tracking how Calgarians have been moving around the city. Sharing this data with our colleagues on how and where travel behaviour has changed has helped us make better, more data informed decisions on how we best provide mobility services for Calgarians," said Transportation Planning Director Ryan Vanderputten, P.Eng.