

▼ BYPASS OPTION

Glenmore Road in need of traffic relief

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Glenmore Road could be in a different place as early as next year.

Plans for a new Glenmore Bypass that would see drivers curve around the existing corridor through property the city is acquiring between the current Glenmore and Valley Roads will be in next year's budget requests.

The project would cost an estimated \$12 million, including the land acquisition, and possibly include a separate \$200,000 bike path to saddle the road.

"We've reached that point where there is too much traffic on (the existing) Glenmore Road," said Ron Westlake, transportation manager.

Westlake said his department wants to begin construction but the project will re-

quire council approval during budget deliberations next winter.

Money has been set aside for the new four-lane road through the city's development cost charge program, which requires developers to contribute money toward the city infrastructure needs their buildings create.

The road would leave the existing Glenmore at Dallas Road and reconnect with

Glenmore just past Scenic Road near Galiano Road and be classified as the main arterial for the area.

It is not clear what the bypass would be called versus the current Glenmore Road.

"You've got to remember that those existing houses on Glenmore all have Glenmore Road postal addresses," said Westlake.

Changing postal addresses can cost individual

home owners a fair amount of money and often leads to some confusion—though the city has developed a checklist of places residents will need to change their address for those times it does occur.

The Glenmore Bypass has been on the city's books for years, though the council only awarded the detailed design to Associated Engineer-

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ing in May 2007. And the separate cycling and pedestrian path is a new twist.

Westlake says city councillors who sit on the city's transportation committee were very receptive to the idea of the pathway, which would sit several metres from the road, similar to the Rails with Trails project. "We're proposing not to put the bike lanes on the road itself in order to run this pathway," said Westlake.

The path would be a minimum of four-metres wide and the road itself 35 metres. The current Glenmore road is only a 20-metre corridor. There are no plans to take the thoroughfare to six lanes at this point, but the city plans to own enough property to make it an option down the line, Westlake said.

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