

Foothills Medical Centre Parking Project FAQ

Main Parking Lot (Lot 1) Closure

Why is AHS looking to build a new parkade at the Foothills Medical Centre?

A new FMC 2,000 stall parking lot is being built to replace Lot 1, which was aging and needed to be decommissioned in the next couple of years.

What will be the size of the new parkade on Lot 1?

The new Lot 1 will have four stories and over 2,000 stalls. The new parkade will accommodate the original 1,200 stalls on Lot 1 and the 800 stalls being displaced from Lot 7 for the Calgary Cancer Centre.

How has the community been consulted?

The FMC Area Communities Working Group, consisting of nine members from the Parkdale Community Association, St. Andrew's Heights Community Association and University Heights Community Association, meets regularly to discuss and consult on development projects affecting the FMC Site. The working group has provided input on the parkade including the location, design, possible traffic issues and construction plans. They continue to be involved with ongoing initiatives at FMC including the parkade, updating the master plan, the Calgary Cancer Centre and other future developments. AHS is also represented at the South Shaganappi Area Strategic Planning Group, where all relevant aspects of parking projects at FMC have been discussed.

How long will Lot 1 be closed?

Patient and visitor parking will not be available at Lot 1 until at least 2018/2019, while we are building new infrastructure to better serve and treat Albertans.

Will construction work cause any vibrations to nearby neighbourhoods?

Demolition and foundation piling work will begin in late fall 2016 and will cause some noise and vibrations. However, the contractors will be using a drill technology, instead of hammer, to install the piles which will minimize noise and vibration.

Will any roads be closed during the construction?

The road at the east side of the existing Lot 1 parkade which leads from Hospital Drive to 29th St. NW will be closed to traffic during the construction period. There are no other road closures. There will continue to be a drop off and pick up area in front of the Foothills Medical Centre Main Building doors. All traffic, other than that accessing the Emergency Department, will be encouraged to enter and exit the site by 16th Ave., Hospital Drive Way, or West Campus Blvd.

What is being done to limit the impact of construction vehicles at the FMC site during construction?

Most construction traffic will be operating from 7am - 6pm Monday to Friday. Most trucks will stay off 29th St. NW and use Hospital Drive and the west interchange connection to 16th Ave.

What is being done to ensure there is no construction debris in nearby neighbourhoods?

CANA (the contractor) will check nearby neighbourhoods daily to make sure any construction debris is removed. If there are any issues there will be a phone number onsite to report concerns.

Will there be any temporary trailers on the construction site?

There will be four construction office trailers and several storage containers onsite. They will be behind the construction hoarding and should have minimal impact to the neighbourhoods.

Temporary Staff Parking near Alberta Children's Hospital

Why does AHS need temporary parking?

Adequate parking is key to the successful day to day operation of the FMC and the hundreds of programs we deliver to our patients and their families. FMC needs temporary parking for staff as a result of replacement of parking Lot 1 and to enable the start of construction of the new Cancer Centre. Patients and the public will continue to park onsite, but 1,200 staff parking stalls had to be accommodated nearby.

How long will the temporary parking site be used?

AHS needs 1,200 temporary parking spaces for a three-year (36 month) period beginning summer 2016. The agreements and approvals in place for this facility will be for 36 months only – no extensions will be granted.

How big is the temporary lot? Where is it located?

West Campus Development Trust (WCDDT) collaborated with AHS to provide an area of approximately 11 acres south of the Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH) for a temporary parking lot. The area was an empty lot across the street from the ACH and right beside the Ronald MacDonald House.

How will you minimize the impact on traffic for surrounding neighbours?

The temporary lot does not reflect an increase in parking supply for FMC, rather a temporary redistribution of parking. Access to the lot is from University Boulevard. Traffic traveling to the lot can do so via the 16th Ave. NW overpass. The new intersection at Shaganappi Trail and 32 Ave. NW is anticipated to provide effective access to the temporary lot as well.

What design and operational considerations is AHS making to minimize the general impact for surrounding neighbours?

The temporary parking lot will be open for staff on weekdays from 5am until 8pm. AHS security will patrol the site regularly. Landscaping plans have been developed to create planted berms around three sides of the site to reduce the visual impact of the parking lot. Parking lot lights will be turned off at approximately 8:30pm and turned back on at 5am. The LED light fixtures will illuminate the parking lot area only.

What is AHS doing to ensure security and convenience for parkers at the temporary site?

AHS is providing shuttle service, regular security checks, lighting and improved walk paths for staff using the temporary lot.

How has the community been consulted?

Since the initial concept was tabled in 2014, communities were informed about ongoing conversations between AHS and WCDT through South Shaganappi Area Planning Group, the WCDT Community Liaison Group and FMC Area Communities Working Group. As well, AHS and the WCDT have held an open house and several meetings with executive of local community associations.

Why not have the temporary parking at McMahon Stadium, or other locations nearby?

AHS explored a range of temporary parking locations in northwest Calgary but based on proximity, capacity and the length of time the lot was required for, the University District location is the option that can accommodate the needs of FMC while construction of Lot 1 is underway. Proximity to the FMC is vital for staff to ensure critical day to day operations at the site are not disrupted.