

Deerfoot fatality renews calls for barrier

Man, 44, dies in head-on crash, Mon Dec 18, 2006

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A horrific head-on collision along Deerfoot Trail on Saturday — killing one man and leaving another clinging to life — might have been prevented had the province erected traffic barriers promised last year, said a city alderman.

At about 2 p.m., a Sunfire heading north on Deerfoot Trail near the 64th Avenue N.E. overpass swerved through the centre median and crashed headon into a southbound SUV, police said.

The 44-year-old man driving the car was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. The SUV's occupant, a 65-year-old man, suffered life-threatening head injuries, and broke both legs.

Ald. Helene Larocque said she was saddened and frustrated to hear of Saturday's collision, especially since the province is "dragging its heels" on installing safety measures designed to prevent these types of crashes.

"The province hasn't completed what they've promised to do," she said. "It's possible this might not have happened if those barriers were in place in the first place."

A year ago, the province said Deerfoot Trail between 16th Avenue and Country Hills Boulevard would be divided by a new post-and-cable system designed to stop vehicles from crossing the median.