

## FIBRE OPTIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

### Agreement Extension Approval

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the IRU (Indefeasible Right of Use) Extension Term for the Fibre Exchange Master Agreement between the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the June 29, 2022, Financial and Corporate Services report FCS01053, be approved.
2. That Attachment 2 of the June 29, 2022, Financial and Corporate Services report FCS01053, remain private pursuant to sections 21 (intergovernmental relations), 24 (advice from officials) and 25 (disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

#### Report Purpose

##### **Committee decision required.**

Executive Committee approval is requested to extend the ten year term of the existing Fibre Exchange Master Agreement between the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta.

#### Executive Summary

- Administration is seeking Executive Committee approval for the extension of the Fibre Exchange Master Agreement (the "Agreement") between the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta.
  - The current term of the Agreement is ten years, ending in January 2032.
  - In the Agreement, the City of Edmonton agreed to seek Executive Committee approval by August 31, 2022 to extend the Agreement for a further 10 years to bring the total duration of the Master Agreement to 20 years.
- Administration is required to seek Executive Committee approval to extend the term for a further 10 years because a 20 year term is beyond the delegated authority of Administration to approve.

# Fibre Optic Cable Exchange

## REPORT

The City of Edmonton's fibre optic network connects City facilities, including those of partners like the Edmonton Public Library. It facilitates long-distance, high-performance data networking and telecommunications. In addition to connecting City facilities, the City of Edmonton fibre network powers Open City Wi-Fi, providing free internet to residents at more than 250 locations across Edmonton.

In 2017, the Government of Alberta approached City Administration with a proposal to transfer ownership of \$1.4 million of provincial fibre optic assets within Edmonton in return for the construction of, and 20-year access to, new fibre optic lines.

The parties completed negotiations and entered into the Agreement in 2021. Under the Master Agreement, the Government of Alberta will permanently transfer ownership of 20 kilometres of provincial fibre optic assets worth \$1.4 million in return for access to new fibre optic lines leveraging LRT conduit infrastructure. The cost associated with the newly constructed City-owned fibre optic cable is \$500,000 in Capital expenditure.

The existing 10 year Master Agreement enables the City to meet current and future digital demand in the west and northwest quadrants of Edmonton, including the Lewis Farms Recreation Centre and Edmonton Police Service's North-West Campus. The Agreement advances the shared goals of ensuring Edmonton's technology and data infrastructure is leveraged to enable quality decision-making, foster economic activity, improve information sharing and deliver services in cost-effective and innovative ways.

As part of the Agreement, Administration committed to requesting Executive Committee approval by August 31, 2022 to extend the Agreement to a total of 20 years. As such, this report seeks Committee approval of the extension of an already existing mutually beneficial agreement between the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta. If Committee approval is not attained the Agreement will remain in place for the already agreed upon ten years.

## Budget/Financial Implications

The operational budget impact of maintaining the lines is minimal, and will include the provision of general maintenance, response to incidents of accidental damage and insurance to the new lines.

## Legal Implications

The City Administration Bylaw 16620 requires that agreements with a term over ten years must be approved by Council or the appropriate Committee of Council.

## COMMUNITY INSIGHT

Through engagement for ConnectEdmonton and The City Plan, Administration heard that connection — in a variety of methods, including in-person and digital — is critical to realize our community vision. It is important that as digital tools increase for all sectors (e.g. governments,

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educational institutions, private business), that all residents can continue to access the internet to receive the services important to them.

### **GBA+**

The City provides network connectivity for all City properties via the free Open City WI-FI platform. The key to delivering a robust network is redundant, fast and well-maintained infrastructure that can remain intact and accessible to be deployed on time and remain in service with as little downtime as possible while experiencing disruptions. Consistent monitoring, improvements and streamlining of the City network infrastructure is essential to providing accessible internet services to marginalised and at-risk communities. Increased access to the internet is part of the Healthy City intention to “support access to employment and a broad range of economic opportunities for all of Edmonton's diverse communities.”

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Fibre Exchange Master Agreement - Extension Term Sheet
2. Fibre Exchange Map - PRIVATE