

# River Crossing Implementation: Indigenous Involvement

**Edmonton** 

7.2 - Executive Committee, June 23, 2023 FCS01454 - Indigenous Memorandum of Understanding - Rossdale

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### The Motion

Passed at the August 16, 2022 City Council Meeting in response to FCS01252: Prairie Sky Gondola Land Agreements

That Administration provide a report to Committee:

- 1. Outlining a potential governance structure that empowers Indigenous Memorandum of Understanding partners and communities with historical and cultural connections to Rossdale to provide direct input on the implementation of the River Crossing Business plan, Touch the Water and future developments on the Rossdale flats location.
- Summarizing the City of Edmonton's current approach to private development and land use on locations of special cultural, spiritual or historical significance.



### **Presentation Overview**

- Development in Locations of Significance
- The River Crossing Plan
- Indigenous Consultation and Engagement: Steps Toward Responding to Council's Motion
- What we have heard (so far)
- Next Steps



# Development & Land Uses in Locations of Significance: Response to Part Two of the Motion

- Jurisdictional responsibility is divided between Alberta Culture and the City.
- Key guiding legislation is the Historical Resources Act (HRA); City regulatory processes including the River Valley Bylaw and rezoning.





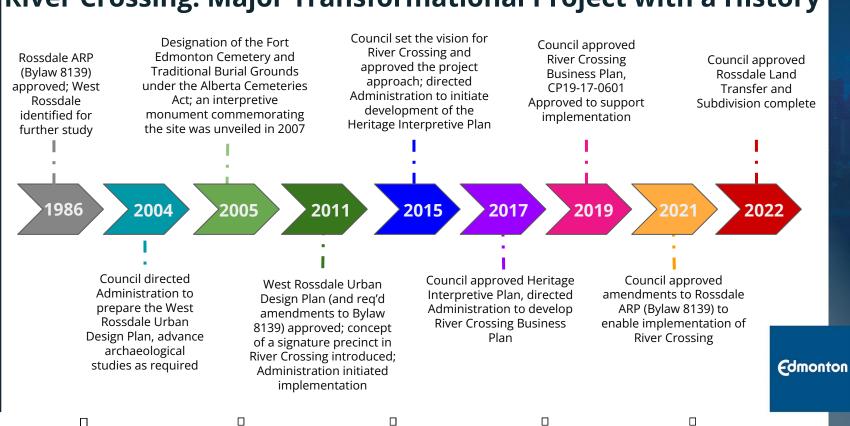
# Development & Land Uses in Locations of Significance: Response to Part Two of the Motion

- When land has known or anticipated historical significance, a Statement of Justification under the Historical Resources Act is required.
- Archaeological, historic period or paleontological resources encountered during construction must be reported to Alberta Culture.





## River Crossing: Major Transformational Project with a History

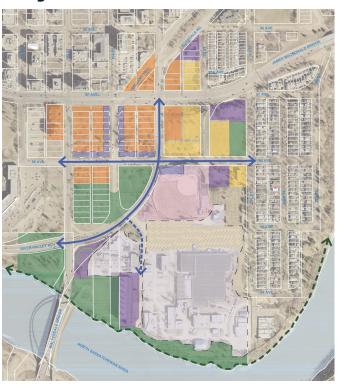


Greener as we Grow A Rebuildable City Community of Communities

Inclusive and Compassionate

Catalyze & Converge

## River Crossing: Interconnected & Mutually Supportive Projects



- Low-midrise Housing (4-6 Storeys)
- Mid-highrise Housing (8-15 Storeys)
- At-Grade Commercial
- Institutional/Cultural
- Re/Max Field
- Open Space
- **EPCOR Property**
- Public Access Easement
- → Complete Streets with Enhanced Landscaping
- Connection from Park to Rossdale Power Plant

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- Touch the Water Promenade
- Traditional Burial Grounds and Fort
  - C Edmonton Cemetery

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# Indigenous Consultation & Engagement: Steps Toward Responding to Council's Motion

- Rossdale & River Valley Context: the Duty to Consult and Rights Based Indigenous Consultation
- Respect for our MOU relationships and the commitments and obligations included therein
- The City regularly engages with 31 Nations and Indigenous communities with historic connections to the Ross Flats
- Broader Indigenous engagement and urban Indigenous engagement will also be an ongoing feature of our work in River Crossing



#### What We Have Heard to Date

- There must be respect for decision-making authority of Chiefs and Councils as heads of government.
- Cross-generational input is important to First Nations to provide a diversity of perspectives.
- Relationship and capacity building, and Nation-to-Nation dialogue, are necessary.
- The City must continue to demonstrate learnings regarding treaty rights, territory, and the multiple Nations with connections to this land.
- The City of Edmonton should engage with Nations in the way Nations wish to be engaged.



### **River Crossing: Anticipated Next Steps**

Council Touch Point: Indigenous Involvement in River Crossing implementation (motion response)

Q3-Q4 2023

Continuing engagement, including workshops and engagement as appropriate. Note that next steps will be informed by these discussions.





Re-initiation of project work including planning and design of the River Crossing Interpretive Park (funded) and the River Crossing Community Redevelopment project (funded)

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