

# Valley Line Stage 1 Environmental Assessment

## Non-statutory Public Hearing

### Recommendation:

That Transportation Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and Site Location Study for the Southeast to West LRT (Valley Line) Stage 1 as shown in Attachments 1 and 2 of the August 21, 2013, Transportation report CR\_75, be approved.
2. That the Major Facilities listed in Attachment 3 of the August 21, 2013 Transportation Services report CR\_75 be approved as "Major Facilities" within the River Valley, and that the location of the Major Facilities within the River Valley be deemed essential and approved pursuant to section 3.5.1 of Bylaw 7188 - North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan.
3. That the direct river crossing be deemed essential and approved pursuant to section 3.4.1 of Bylaw 7188 - North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan.

### Report Summary

**This report requests City Council's approval of the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and the Site Location Study for the (Valley Line)**

Stage 1 and that the river crossing, the Major Facilities, and the location of the river crossing and the Major Facilities, be deemed essential and approved.

### Previous Council/Committee Action

At the August 21, 2013, Transportation Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That the non-statutory public hearing on the Valley Line Stage 1 Environmental Assessment, and the August 21, 2013, Transportation Services report CR\_75, be postponed to the September 11, 2013, Transportation Committee meeting, at 9:30 a.m.

At the June 26, 2013, Transportation Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That a non-statutory public hearing be held at the August 21, 2013, Transportation Committee meeting at 9:30 a.m. on the Valley Line Stage 1 Environmental Assessment.

### Report

At the February 20, 2013, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That the Extradosed Bridge option, as shown in Attachments 4 and 5 of the February 5, 2013, Transportation Services report 2013TS3407, be approved as the LRT bridge type crossing over the North Saskatchewan River.

At the January 19, 2011, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That the amended Southeast LRT Concept Plan for Downtown to Mill Woods, as outlined in Attachments 1 and 2 of the December 8, 2010, Transportation Department report 2010TD6407, be approved.

At the December 15, 2009, City Council meeting, amendments to Transportation Systems Bylaw 15101, were approved. This Bylaw, among other things, defined the Southeast LRT route from Downtown to Mill Woods.

Bylaw 7188 - North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, sets out Transportation policies in Section 3.4 and Major Facility policies in Section 3.5.

The preliminary engineering (also referred to as the "P3 reference design") for the Valley Line Stage 1, within the boundaries of Bylaw 7188, includes the Major Facilities discussed in Attachment 1 and summarized in Attachment 3.

An Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and a Site Location Study were performed for the Valley Line Stage 1 within the limits of Bylaw 7188 and these documents. (Attachments 1 and 2)

The P3 delivery model for the Valley Line Stage 1 has influenced the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and will continue to influence environmental planning and protection. The procurement process is the City's next opportunity to ensure that sound stewardship of the river valley

environmental resources carries on under the purview of the P3 proponent.

The Environmental Impact Screening Assessment has identified numerous means of doing this and provides specific commitments and suggestions that will be carried forward into the P3 procurement phase. As the P3 procurement documents are developed, and the City begins to evaluate proposals that may deviate from the reference design, several municipal plans and policies, such as Edmonton's Environmental Strategy, suggest that the proposals should be evaluated, in part, on their adverse or positive impact on specific river valley resources that are under the sole jurisdiction of the City. The measures and recommendations set out in the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment provide guidance to assist in doing this and will permit many of the potential impacts to be mitigated. (Attachment 1)

Considering the scale of the proposed project in the river valley, few residual impacts are anticipated to remain following implementation of the mitigation measures identified in Attachment 1, although some important impacts will occur. Residual impacts identified in the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and Site Location Study reports are summarized in Attachment 4.

### Government Regulations

In addition to Bylaw 7188, several additional City bylaws and policies apply including; Parkland Bylaw, Natural Area Systems Policy, and Corporate Tree Management Policy.

The project will require various federal and provincial environmental permits or approvals, including approval pursuant to; *Navigable Waters Protection Act*, a Fisheries Act Authorization, License of Occupation under *Alberta's Public Lands Act*, and approval pursuant to *Alberta's Water Act*. Clearance pursuant to *Alberta's Historical Resources Act* was obtained in May 2013.

### Timeline and Next Steps

Timely approval of the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and Site Location Study will allow Administration to dictate the limits of work within the boundaries of the Bylaw during the Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposal stages of the P3 procurement.

### **Policy**

Bylaw 7188 – North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan

### **Corporate Outcomes**

Citizens use public transit and active modes of transportation. *The Way We Move, The Way We Live, The Way We Green.*

### **Public Consultation**

The public involvement process utilized for the Valley Line project is included in Attachment 1 as Appendix C and a summary of steps taken to date for the Valley Line Stage 1 within the limits of the Bylaw is included in Attachment 5.

The Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and Site Location Study have been posted on the City's Valley Line project website since August 12,

2013. Advertising for the August 21, 2013 Non-statutory Public Hearing, and notification of the posted Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and Site Location Study, occurred in the Edmonton Journal on August 9 and 16, 2013 and the Edmonton Sun on August 11 and 18, 2013.

### Legal Implications

Section 3.4 of Bylaw 7188 sets out the requirements for transportation corridors and facilities, and Section 3.5 sets out the requirements for major facilities, that fall within the boundaries of the Bylaw.

Compliance with section 3.4 of Bylaw 7188 requires Council to undertake a two part process:

1. The direct river crossing must be deemed essential.
2. If essential, the direct river crossing must be approved.

Compliance with Section 3.5 of Bylaw 7188 also requires Council to undertake a two part process:

1. The major facilities must be deemed essential.
2. If essential, the major facilities must be approved.

Negative impacts of transportation facilities and environmental impacts thereof must be eliminated, minimized or mitigated through design and landscaping measures, pursuant to Section 3.4.2 of Bylaw 7188.

### Justification of Recommendation

1. Approval of the Environmental Impact Screening Assessment and Site Location Study is required to meet the requirements set out under the Bylaw.
2. Section 3.5.1 of the Bylaw states: "It is a policy of this Plan that major public facilities shall not be constructed or expanded unless their location within the River Valley is deemed essential and approved by City Council."
3. Section 3.4.1 of the Bylaw states: "It is a policy of this Plan that new transportation corridors will not be approved except for direct River and direct Ravine crossings which are deemed essential and approved by City Council as in Policy 3.5.3."

### Attachments

1. Valley Line Stage 1 Environmental Impact Screening Assessment
2. Valley Line Stage 1 Site Location Study
3. List of Major Facilities
4. Summary of Residual Impacts Identified in the EISA and SLS
5. Summary of Public Consultation and Involvement



***\*\*Please note that Attachments 1 and 2 were previously distributed on a CD prior to the August 21, 2013, Transportation Committee meeting agenda – item 6.1, which you have been asked to retain.***

### Others Reviewing this Report

- L. Cochrane, General Manager, Community Services
- R. G. Klassen, General Manager, Sustainable Development
- D. H. Edey, General Manager, Corporate Services