

Central Station Project Update

Recommendation:

That the January 23, 2013, Transportation Services report 2013TS4601, be received for information.

Report Summary

This report provides an update on the status of the Central Station Leakage Repair/Jasper Avenue Streetscape project, currently under construction.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the January 7, 2013, Agenda Review Committee meeting, the January 23, 2013, Transportation Services report 2013TS4601, was re-directed to the January 23, 2013, City Council meeting.

Report

Background

Given the project complexity, other expected construction work in the Downtown, and associated risks on-site, the Central Station project has proceeded with a two-year construction schedule (maintaining one lane of traffic in each direction on Jasper Avenue as a minimum). The completion date for the surface work is October 2013.

Tendering and procurement of a Contractor was done through a pre-qualification and evaluated bid process, with PCL Construction being the successful contractor.

On-site construction activities started with Utility work on April 25, 2012. PCL Construction commenced work on-site on May 22, 2012.

City and PCL continue to have ongoing one-on-one communications with the affected businesses to keep them informed of construction progress and opportunities to mitigate impacts to them.

Current Status

The project is approximately eight weeks behind schedule and the main causes include:

- Primary: Inaccuracies with as-built records for the original construction of the Central LRT Station (built in 1977) and associated maintenance/rehabilitation over the last 35 years, resulting in changes to excavation/construction techniques and redesign requirements.
- Secondary: Weather events during the first year of construction (major rainstorms in July, near-zero temperatures in October, and early snowfall events in November combined with freezing rain).

The project team has increased efforts during the first construction season by adding additional staff and extending work days and hours, since August 2012.

Going Forward

To meet the original completion schedule, the following approach is being implemented to get the project back on schedule by the beginning of Spring 2013.

- Additional work crews and further extended work hours over the winter months, starting in January 2013.
- Heating and hoarding of sidewalk work on the north side of Jasper Avenue. Sidewalk work is scheduled to be completed by end of March, 2013.
- Providing additional business signage to guide pedestrians and business patrons to their destinations.
- Flipping Jasper Avenue traffic to the north side of Jasper Avenue, shortly after completion of sidewalk/remaining road work, and commencing roadway excavation on the south side of Jasper Avenue (early April, 2013).

This approach means that temporarily providing an additional two traffic lanes on Jasper Avenue for the five winter months cannot be accommodated.

This go forward approach puts the project back on schedule for completion by the end of October, 2013, and reduces both the time required to complete sidewalks and the impact on businesses.

Policy

- *The Way We Move* and the City's commitment to revitalize the downtown area.

Corporate Outcomes

- Public transportation as a cornerstone as well as well maintained and managed infrastructure.
- Revitalize the Downtown into a residential, economic, social and cultural area of distinction.