

## Extension of LRT Beyond Temporary NAIT LRT Station

### Recommendation:

That the April 24, 2012, Transportation Services report 2012TS4652, be received for information.

### Report Summary

**This report provides information on the potential to extend the North LRT beyond the temporary NAIT LRT Station.**

### Previous Council/Committee Action

At the April 2, 2012, Agenda Review Committee meeting, the Transportation Services report 2012TS4652, was postponed to the April 24, 2012, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

At the November/December 2011, City Council Budget meeting the following motion was passed:

That Administration provide a report to Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, in the spring of 2012, outlining the implementation process and funding strategies to include an extension of LRT beyond the new temporary NAIT LRT station for the staging and storage of trains as part of the North LRT (Downtown to NAIT) Capital Project 08-66-1672.

### Report

The addition of a tail track beyond the temporary NAIT LRT station into the City Centre Redevelopment lands would allow for train staging and storage to

support LRT operations and special event service on the North LRT extension from Downtown to NAIT.

In order to avoid throwaway costs the tail track should be constructed on the alignment of the future Northwest LRT extension, and protect for the ultimate location and configuration of the permanent NAIT LRT Station.

It is expected that the tail track would have to be at least 300 meters in length, to allow for LRT storage, a double crossover, a road crossing of 109 Street north of Princess Elizabeth Avenue, and to protect for the permanent NAIT LRT Station. This would result in the tail track being within the clearance zone for the remaining City Centre Airport runway.

Therefore, the process for implementation of a tail track would include:

- Approval of at least the southern portion of the Northwest LRT Concept Plan through the City Centre Redevelopment lands
- Closure of the remaining City Centre Airport runway
- Secure the LRT right of way through registration of a road plan, public utility lot, or other right-of-way/easement agreements
- Approval of the tail track project and budget for design and construction
- Depending on the timing of these approvals, Administration could either tender the tail track project as a new project, or negotiate extensions to the existing North LRT engineering, construction, and signaling contracts.

The conceptual cost estimate for a tail track is approximately \$24 million, based on the following assumptions

- No modifications to the temporary NAIT LRT station
- A new permanent LRT Traction Power Substation would be required
- No major storm drainage or utility requirements
- 109 Street north of Princess Elizabeth Avenue would be maintained

### Corporate Outcomes

“The Way We Move”. The North LRT extension helps to shift travel mode and support a more sustainable urban form. A tail track at NAIT would support LRT operations and accommodate service improvements, especially for special events along the North LRT extension.

### Budget/Financial Implications

- The approved North LRT (Downtown to NAIT) Capital Project 08-66-1672 has a budget of \$755 million. The overall cost estimate for the North LRT was recently updated based on actual land, design, and construction costs to date. The project is trending to be under budget. The expected cost savings could be combined with other internal risk allowance money to fund the \$24 million tail track
- Adding a tail track beyond the temporary NAIT LRT Station within the existing NAIT project will require a change in scope to both the Green TRIP and Building Canada Fund agreements. Changes in scope require ministerial approval.
- If City Council decides to advance this project it could be considered at the next Supplementary Capital Budget Adjustment.

### Others Reviewing this Report

- L. Rosen, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
- R. G. Klassen, General Manager, Sustainable Development