

West LRT – Multi-use Trail Options

Recommendation:

That the March 22, 2011, Transportation Department report 2011TD5823, be received for information.

Report Summary

This report details opportunities of developing multi-use trail segments along the West LRT corridor.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the December 8, 2010, Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration provide a report to Transportation and Public Works Committee reviewing the options for incorporating a multi-use trail running adjacent to the proposed West LRT route 87 Avenue, 156 Street and 104 Avenue locations.

Report

- Defining the alignment of the West LRT corridor within a built-up urban landscape resulted in trade-offs regarding placement of LRT track in the constrained right of way. The alignment has been developed with the premise to minimize impacts to properties and maximize the use of existing right of way. There are no existing multi-use trails along 87 Avenue, 156 Street and Stony Plain Road/104 Avenue. Multi-use trails west of Anthony Henday Drive are maintained and connections will be developed to a potential multi-use trail west of 178 Street. The remaining West LRT alignment does not incorporate a multi-use trail along the entire corridor, as it will result in significant property impacts.
- A review of the existing cycling network was undertaken to see if improvements were required to support the West LRT. Attachment 1 identifies existing and future cycling routes close to the West LRT corridor. There are existing cycling routes currently in proximity of the West LRT corridor, and the ultimate plan provides a solid network to support connections to the West LRT. Continued development of Edmonton's cycling corridors is prescribed within the City of Edmonton's Bicycle Transportation Plan, and when completed, the cycling network should provide sufficient routing alternatives for cyclists adjacent to the West LRT corridor.
- Existing pedestrian and cyclist crossings along the West LRT corridor were also reviewed as part of the project. Controlled crossings have been provided at all existing trail connections and the majority of these crossings have direct connections to the stations. Within the LRT corridor, there are two metre sidewalks to provide connections to the stations where these pathways don't cross at the station location.
- To accommodate the West LRT, traffic lanes have been reduced from four to two lanes along 156 Street and Stony Plain Road/104 Avenue up to 121 Street to the east. The proposed 4.2 metre lanes along LRT corridor provide space to accommodate shared use opportunities on the roadway. The reduced capacity on Stony Plain

Road and 156 Street will result in reduced use as single vehicle commuter corridors which offers an increase in cyclist comfort and safety. Signalized pedestrian crossings are generally permitted at both ends of the LRT station platforms to provide convenient connections.

- As engineering continues on the West LRT and the Bicycle Transportation Plan, further opportunities to provide cycling connections directly into LRT stations will be reviewed. The ongoing engineering will include a review of signs or train actuated warning devices.

Attachments

1. Existing and Future Cycling Routes