

# LRT Central Area Circular Timeline and Funding

## Recommendation:

That the January 25, 2011, Transportation Department report 2010TD6681 be received for information.

## Report Summary

**This report provides a summary of the anticipated timeline to complete the corridor selection and funding needs for the Central Area LRT Circulator.**

## Previous Council/Committee Action

- At the November/December 2010, City Council Budget meeting, the January 25, 2011, Transportation Department report 2010TD6681 was postponed to the January 25, 2011, Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting.
- At the July 7, 2010, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration provide a report to City Council on the timeline and funding required for the alignment and concept planning for the LRT Central Area Circulator, as part of the 2011 budget deliberations.

## Report

- Completing the concept planning for the Central Area LRT Circulator would be a two step process similar to previous LRT studies. The first phase would determine the recommended corridor and the second phase involves defining the

preferred LRT alignment within the corridor.

- The Citywide LRT Network Plan identified a need for a transit circulator that provides a connection between the Southeast LRT line, the Downtown and University area, but the type of transit technology was not specifically defined. Prior to initiating the first phase of concept planning an assessment of whether LRT, streetcar or dedicated bus lanes are appropriate for the Central Area Circulator.
- The route evaluation method would utilize the City Council approved evaluation process using two levels of screening criteria similar to the west, southeast and northwest LRT studies.
- Completing phase one and selecting the recommended corridor including public consultation would take approximately six to nine months and would require a budget of \$500,000. Completing phase two and defining the alignment within the corridor including public consultation would take approximately eight to twelve months and would require a budget of \$800,000.
- Currently, the Transportation Department is completing a number of LRT planning studies and if the studies are approved preliminary engineering would begin subject to funding. The preliminary engineering would require considerable support from the Transportation Department to the Capital Construction Department. The Transportation Department also committed to completing phase two of the NW-LRT concept planning; however, the progress of this work may be postponed somewhat to

allow for the City Center Airport Master Plan process to advance.

- Given these demands, planning for the Central Area LRT Circulator needs to occur in 2012 and a budget service package would be brought forward for City Council's consideration as part of the 2012 Operating Budget deliberations.

### **Policy**

LRT planning and construction is consistent with policies identified in the Transportation Master Plan.

### **Focus Area**

LRT planning and construction aligns with the City's ten year strategic goals of shifting its transportation mode and transforming Edmonton's urban form.

### **Others Reviewing this Report**

- L. Rosen, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer