



# Downtown LRT

## Public Involvement Report 2010

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May 2010

## Summary

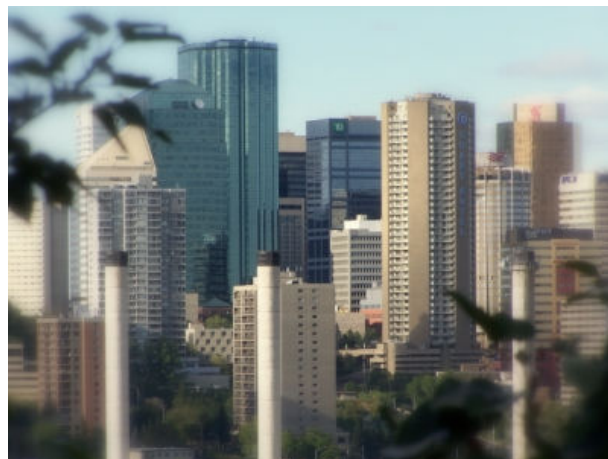
In 2010, the City of Edmonton initiated a study to develop an LRT corridor recommendation for the Downtown. This corridor would connect planned West LRT extension to the Southeast LRT extension, and define the LRT corridors within the downtown core that would be used as part of a long-term central area LRT circulator to ultimately link the downtown to high activity areas near the University and Old Strathcona. The Downtown LRT corridor study and the corresponding public involvement activities were integrated and linked to work underway to update the Capital City Downtown Plan. This recognizes that LRT and land-use planning need to be closely linked together in order to meet long-range policy direction set out in *The Way Ahead*, *The Way We Move*, and *The Way We Grow*.

The public involvement process built on input previously received as part of the Capital City Downtown Planning study. Extensive public input received through that study was used as part of the evaluation process for LRT corridor options. Once a proposed LRT corridor was identified, the focus for LRT-related public involvement was to review that corridor with major stakeholder groups through presentations, interviews, and as part of the Capital City Downtown Plan open house held April 8, 2010.

## Key Themes

Participants indicated a broad base of support for enhancing LRT service in the Downtown area, and were enthusiastic about efforts made to integrate the LRT planning with overall land-use planning. There is a great desire to move forward with the LRT into future planning and construction.

It was noted that the proposed corridor provides good connectivity to the existing LRT system and downtown destinations; and that the LRT will improve accessibility overall to the downtown core. It was also noted that short-term impacts may include more road congestion in the downtown core, but over the long-term it is anticipated this issue will be addressed as more people choose to use LRT over travel in private vehicles. While many noted that the LRT would also provide great access to the proposed downtown arena district, it was noted by one stakeholder group that a corridor on 103 Avenue would provide closer connectivity to the proposed arena district than the proposed 102 Avenue alignment.



## Next Steps

As planning for the LRT corridor continues, efforts will need to be made to consider the following issues:

- Pedestrian connectivity and circulation – as more details about station locations and LRT right-of-way features are defined, it is important to ensure plans optimize opportunities for pedestrian circulation that does not impede natural circulation patterns or access to businesses/destinations.
- As station planning continues, efforts to integrate the stations into existing businesses and buildings should be considered prudently, along with initiatives to ensure these are safe and secure places.
- A public education program will be needed before the urban-style LRT is implemented to ensure motorists and pedestrians have the knowledge they need to stay safe.
- There is concern about construction impacts and if any mitigations can be put in place to address access impacts to malls, office towers, and other amenities.
- It was noted that the route would run through the 104 Street market, and discussions would be needed to review this impact and determine mitigation measures with the market.

## Detailed list of public involvement activities

Date	Activity
March 4, 2010	• Interview with Downtown Business Association
March 16, 2010	• Presentation to Capital City Downtown Plan Advisory Committee
March 16, 2010	• Presentation to Edmonton Design Committee
March 17, 2010	• Interview with Grant MacEwan University
March 23, 2010	• Interview with YMCA
March 23, 2010	• Interview with Katz Group
March 24, 2010	• Interview with Downtown Edmonton Community League
March 25, 2010	• Interview with Building Owners and Managers Association
March 29, 2010	• Presentation to Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board
March 29, 2010	• Interview with Alberta Health Services
March 30, 2010	• Interview with City Centre Mall
March 30, 2010	• Interview with Winspear Centre
April 1, 2010	• Interview with Edmonton Public Library
April 8, 2010	• Open House – Capital City Downtown Plan (City Hall)
April 9, 2010	• Interview with NorQuest College
April 24, 2010	• Presentation at ETS Community Fair/LRT Station opening
May 4, 2010	• Included in presentation at West LRT Workshop
May 6, 2010	• Included in presentation at West LRT Workshop
May 11, 2010	• Presentation to APEGGA (Future LRT)
May 12, 2010	• Included in presentation at West LRT Workshop
May 13, 2010	• Included in presentation at West LRT Workshop
May 13, 2010	• Presentation to the Chamber of Commerce
May 18, 2010	• Included in presentation at Southeast LRT Workshop
May 19, 2010	• Included in presentation at Southeast LRT Workshop
May 26, 2010	• Included in presentation at Southeast LRT Workshop
May 27, 2010	• Included in presentation at Southeast LRT Workshop