



ALBERTA
TRANSPORTATION

*Office of the Minister
Deputy Government House Leader
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

November 25, 2019

AR78132

Mayor Don Iveson
Mayor, City of Edmonton
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Iveson:

I am writing to reassure the City of Edmonton that the Government of Alberta is committed to fund \$1.47 billion towards the Edmonton LRT projects (such as Edmonton West LRT and Edmonton Metro LRT Extension) and directly respond to concerns about Bill 20's termination clause.

Our commitment will be set in legislation upon passage of Schedule 3 (*Public Transit and Green Infrastructure Project Act*) of Bill 20. In addition, Bill 20 would grant Cabinet the authority to solidify the cash flow in regulation, alleviating any uncertainties that Edmonton may have concerning provincial funding for each fiscal year.

As you have noted, Bill 20 also enacts a termination clause enabling the province, upon the approval of Cabinet, to terminate funding at any time for any reason. The Edmonton LRT projects are some of the largest infrastructure projects undertaken in Alberta. While our government supports LRT construction and is committed to funding Edmonton LRT projects, it is also incumbent on us, as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, to ensure that there are appropriate checks and balances in place for this funding.

That said, I would like to reiterate that it is not our intent to exercise the termination clause unless we believe we have to in order to defend taxpayers, such as if the scope of the project for which funding was initially granted were to change fundamentally. Before taking such a step, my department would consult and work with the City of Edmonton, endeavouring to resolve any challenges that the Edmonton LRT project may encounter and to ensure provincial funding is there to support the project as intended.

The Government of Alberta values its partnership with the City of Edmonton and understands the importance of the Edmonton LRT projects and LRT's ability to shape the future of public transportation within the City of Edmonton. I look forward to continuing to work with you to complete this significant project.

Sincerely,

Ric McIver
Minister

cc: Andre Tremblay, Deputy Minister, Alberta Transportation