

**Bearspaw/Keheewin Community Meeting
held September 8, 2011 at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church**

Meeting Summary

Attendance: 30

City of Edmonton presenters:

Albert Kwan, General Supervisor, Strategic Planning, Drainage Services

Steven Aguiar, General Supervisor, Transportation Operations, Transportation Services

Don Iveson, Councillor, City of Edmonton, Ward 10

Presentation

The consultation began with a short introduction by Councillor Iveson that gave the attendees some background information of the work City Council has undertaken to address resident's concerns regarding the city's ongoing infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.

Mr. Kwan then gave a short recap of the drainage planning and work that has been done in the Bearspaw area to date, including the storm sewer upgrades that were completed in 2010. He then laid out the next phase of the area's sanitary sewer upgrade which would include a planning and design phase for 2012 with the goal of construction beginning in 2013.

Mr. Aguiar then discussed the road repair and rehabilitation impact of Drainage's sanitary sewer upgrades. Roads in the area that are not affected by the sewer upgrades have already been repaved. Roads expected to be disturbed by the sewer projects are slated to be repaved once Drainage has completed its work. This is necessary to ensure newly paved roads are not ripped up in the course of the sewer work. The estimated repaving date for these roads is 2015. In the meantime, road repairs and maintenance will be done to ensure the road and sidewalks are safe for motorists and pedestrians.

Input from Residents

The group's main concern centred on road rehabilitation that had already taken place in their Communities. Attendees felt that both the storm sewer and sanitary sewer projects should have been completed before any road rehabilitation and repaving took place. Residents argued that the roads that have been repaved so far were in better condition than the roads that have been designated for rehabilitation in 2015.

This led to expressed concerns over the property values of homes or roads still waiting for repairs compared to their neighbours who have new pavement in front of their homes. There were also concerns raised about the deteriorating conditions of the roads slated for repaving in 2015. Several attendees felt that the road's condition dictated road resurfacing or major repairs be done sooner than 2015.

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Mr. Aguiar reiterated that it would be financially irresponsible for the city to undertake major road repairs in areas that are scheduled for major sewer upgrades in the near future. However he did encourage residents to contact the City to report areas of specific concern (i.e. potholes, trip hazards) and city crews would evaluate and repair on an as needed basis. He also told the group that patching work on the main ring road in the area will continue between now and 2015 to address areas of concern.

Councillor Iveson explained that drainage and road rehabilitation are two separate projects with separate timelines and with funding coming from two separate budgets. He explained that the city was trying to play catch-up after several decades when upgrades of the city's infrastructure had been ignored. He told attendees that a better infrastructure maintenance plan may have caused less disruption for the community but as it is the City is forced into awkwardly timed renewal projects. Councillor Iveson noted he has met with and will continue to meet with area residents to address their concerns and needs.

In response to a question, Mr. Kwan explained that the timetable for the sanitary sewer upgrade is difficult to accelerate because there are many unknowns when working with sub surfaces. The planning phase needs to be extensive to ensure a safe and efficient project.

One attendee raised a concern over the disruption of traffic in the area that will be caused by this work. Mr. Kwan assured the group that the planning phase of the project would address those concerns and historically they have tried to use the least disruptive construction methods where ever possible.

An attendee asked about the possibility of including traffic calming measures into the road rehabilitation plans and if the work would include sidewalk rehabilitation. Councillor Iveson told the group that the city is experimenting with various traffic calming measures throughout the city, including narrowing the streets with bike lanes to reduce speeding as has already been done along 19th Avenue in Bearspaw. He stated that other methods being considered include adding boulevards to wider streets which would reduce driver speeds and give the city an additional area to store snow in the winter.

Mr. Aguiar stated that the sidewalks in the area were not scheduled for rehabilitation at this time though specific areas of concern could always be reported to the city via the 311 information line.

One resident questioned the impact the new storm sewer upgrades were having on Bearspaw Lake as an increase in pond scum and a foul odour around the lake was noticed this summer. Mr. Kwan stated that the lake was designed to temporarily hold stormwater that would then drain into Blackmud Creek. Because this has been a wetter than normal summer the increased moisture may be contributing to the smell and the pond scum. Residents were asked to report any problems with the lake to the City's 311 information line.

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Updates

A copy of the September 8, 2011 presentation and other information about the City of Edmonton's drainage program can be found on Drainage Services' website at www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention. Additional comments or questions regarding plans for drainage and street/sidewalk work in the Bearspaw and Keheewin neighbourhoods may be forwarded to:

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