

**McKernan & Parkallen Community Consultation on Flood Prevention  
held November 16, 2005 at McKernan School**

**Consultation Summary**

Attendance: 30

Main presenter: Russell Barth, Senior Engineer & Flood Prevention Project Leader  
for Ward 5, Drainage Services, City of Edmonton

**Presentation**

The consultation began with introductions and an overview of 2005 flood prevention programs and educational activities. Mr. Barth then reviewed drainage engineering findings for the community and presented recommended system improvements. These were:

- Build a new sanitary sewer line south from 65 Avenue along 111 Street to 61 Avenue to divert sewage from both communities and relieve system pressure.
- Construct a new stormwater tunnel from 114 Street along Belgravia Road to 71A Avenue ending at a new outfall into the North Saskatchewan River. This would help both communities by increasing drainage flow and relieving system pressure during heavy rainfalls.
- Relieve system pressure by building a sanitary sewer line along 111 Street from 72 Avenue north to 76 Avenue and then east along 76 Avenue to 109 Street. This will divert sewage flow from both communities to a large sewer trunk line at 109 Street. (*already completed*)
- Build a new sanitary sewer line from 110 Street to 111 Street in the lane north of 66 Avenue to balance flows in the system. (*already completed*)
- Seal sanitary manhole covers to prevent rainwater from entering the sanitary system. (*already completed*)
- Subsidize the installation of backwater valves in all homes in low lying areas. (*already in place*)

The estimated cost of implementing the uncompleted system improvements is \$14.46 million. The implementation plan calls for the new sewer lines to be done in one to two years while the new stormwater tunnel would be completed in two to three years. Implementation timing will depend on further stakeholder discussions, funding and the capacity to do the work.

**Next Steps**

Mr. Barth emphasized that moving ahead with the recommendations and the implementation plan is contingent on receiving City Council's approval of a funding package. This package will include recommended improvements for all 43 at risk neighbourhoods and is scheduled to be presented in April, 2006. In the meantime, design work is continuing. A portion of the funding for the package may come from a provincial infrastructure grant.

### **Input from Residents**

People at the meeting were in favour of the recommended improvements but there were many questions about the stormwater tunnel's path and construction methods. A few people were concerned that the alignment called for tunnelling underneath homes. One person questioned the stability of the earth under the surface. Another indicated she would not agree to allow such tunnelling under her home.

Mr. Barth explained the alignment reflects the most direct, cost effective route but the alignment can be changed if residents object to tunnelling under their homes. He noted a City owned mole would be used to tunnel at least 30 metres below the surface to avoid affecting surface buildings and to drill into solid material. Test holes have been drilled to identify and confirm soil conditions.

Some concerns were expressed about possible sink holes, surface instability along Kellor Road, and disruption of trails and residential roads during construction. Mr. Barth noted much more detailed design work needs to be done in order to answer many of the questions being posed. He said if the tunnel proceeds, more consultation and information sessions specific to the proposed tunnel would be held to answer specific questions, deal with concerns and keep residents informed.

One person complained she did not receive notice of the meeting but her neighbour did. Also, Belgravia residents did not receive any notice at all. It was explained that the McKernan & Parkallen session was specifically about recommended improvements to reduce the flood risk in those communities. Meetings with Belgravia residents and other stakeholders affected by the storm tunnel's construction will be held later if the project receives funding approval.

### **Updates**

Updates to residents on flood prevention improvement plans will be provided via information bulletins and Drainage Services' website at [www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention](http://www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention). Additional comments or questions may be forwarded to Mr. Barth at 496-5552 or [russel.barth@edmonton.ca](mailto:russel.barth@edmonton.ca)