



# South LRT — Health Sciences to Century Park

## Background

The South LRT Extension began with the opening of Health Sciences Station on the University of Alberta campus at the south end of Edmonton's LRT network in January 2006. Construction of new tracks and LRT stations deeper into south Edmonton was divided into two phases:

- Phase one extended track from Health Sciences to new stations at McKernan/Belgravia and South Campus. This section of track and both new stations opened April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- Phase two extended track from South Campus to new stations at Southgate and Century Park. This section of track and both new stations opened April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Since the opening of the South LRT Extension from Health Sciences to Century Park, ridership on Edmonton's LRT network has grown from approximately 49,600 weekday passengers to approximately 100,000 weekday passengers — an increase of roughly 100 per cent.

## Project Overview

The South LRT Extension is major public infrastructure that has a significant impact on Edmonton's urban landscape:

- The South LRT tracks travel at road level from Health Sciences Station along the west side of 114<sup>th</sup> Street across University Avenue to McKernan/Belgravia Station.
- Tracks continue, bending slightly west before sloping through a tunnel underneath Belgravia Road to emerge beside the Neil Crawford Centre along a transit-only route to South Campus Station.
- Tracks then bend east to slope through another tunnel underneath 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue to emerge in the 111<sup>th</sup> Street median.
- Tracks follow 111<sup>th</sup> Street at road level to cross 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue to reach Southgate Station.
- Tracks cross a bridge over Whitemud Drive, continue at road level across 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 29A Avenue/ Saddleback Road.
- Tracks terminate at Century Park Station, just north of 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

## Timeline

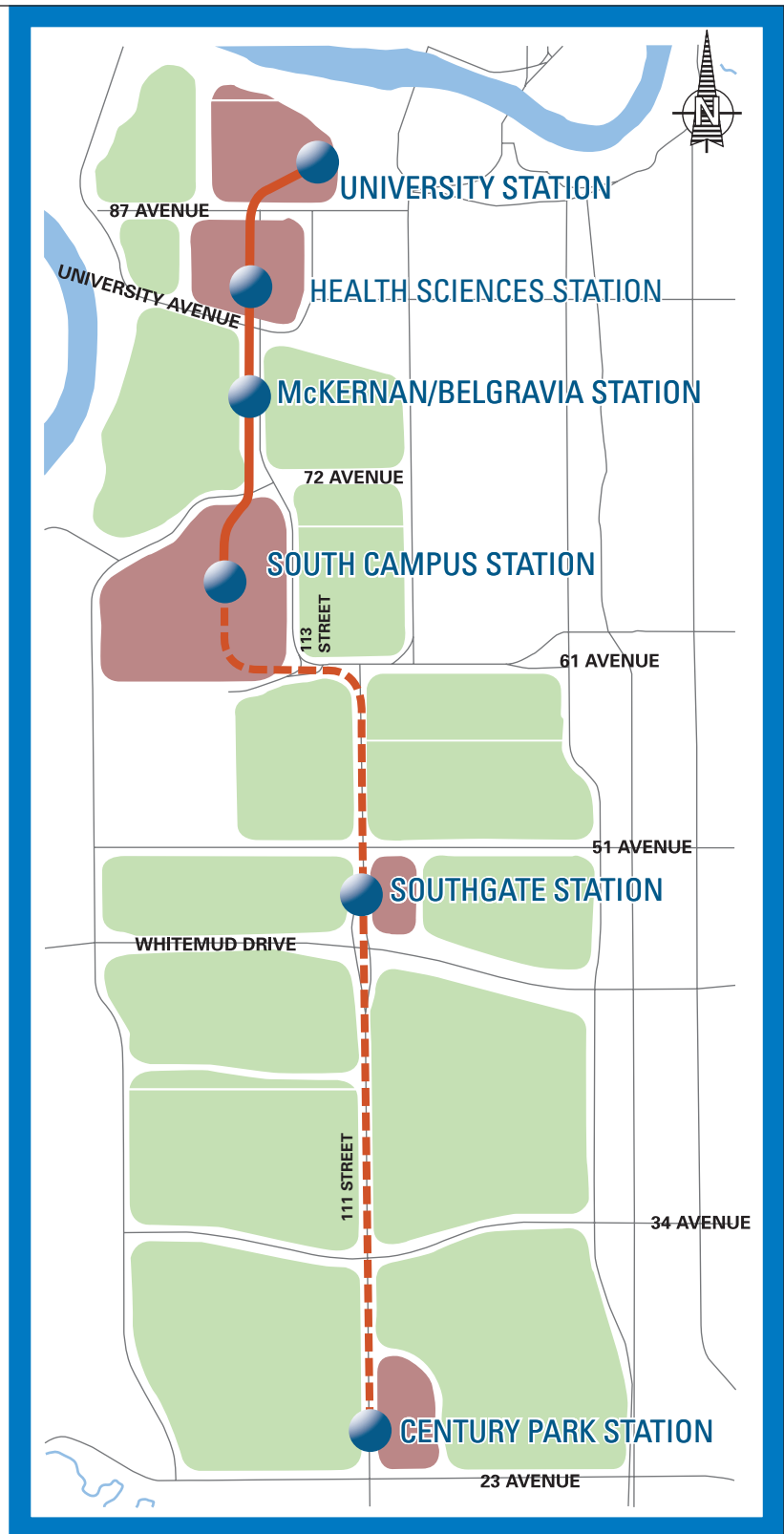
Construction of the South LRT Extension took approximately four years and three months. Here are some of the major construction milestones:

- January 2006 — Health Sciences Station opens to public service.
- Winter 2006 — Demolitions along 114<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Spring 2006 — Drainage and right-of-way work begins to Belgravia Road.
- Summer 2006 — Drainage and right-of-way work begins at South Campus.
- Fall 2006 — Construction begins at South Campus Station and Transit Centre.
- Winter 2007 — Belgravia Road reconstructed.
- Spring 2007 — Roadwork begins on 111<sup>th</sup> Street/Whitemud Bridge.
- Summer 2007 — Construction begins at Southgate and Century Park stations, and at Belgravia Bridge.
- Winter 2008 — Construction complete at McKernan/Belgravia Station and South Campus Station and Transit Centre.
- Spring 2008 — Belgravia Road underpass complete.
- Summer 2008 — Track installation begins.
- Winter 2009 — Signal/catenary installation begins.
- April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 — McKernan/Belgravia and South Campus stations open to public service.
- Spring 2009 — Power and signal installations.
- Summer 2009 — Belgravia Bridge and Road modifications complete.
- Fall 2009 — Track installation complete.
- Winter 2010 — Final commissioning.
- April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 — Southgate and Century Park stations open to public service.

## Distance Detail

Total length of the South LRT Extension is 7.631 km:

- Health Sciences to McKernan/Belgravia: 0.9 km
- McKernan/Belgravia to South Campus: 1.375 km
- South Campus to Southgate: 2.032 km
- Southgate to Century Park: 3.324 km



# Features

The South LRT Extension includes several unique features, including:

## Four LRT stations:

### ■ McKernan/Belgravia

- Located at west side of 114<sup>th</sup> St./ 76<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Pedestrian underpass beneath 114<sup>th</sup> Street connects station to 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue and surrounding communities.
- Artwork: "21<sup>st</sup> Century Map of the Future" by Patrick Jacob.
- Opened April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### ■ South Campus

- Located west of 113<sup>th</sup> Street at approx. 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue adjacent to U of A's Foote Field.
- New 14-bay transit station for ETS buses.
- Artwork: "Passengers" by Ray McAdam.
- Opened April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### ■ Southgate

- Located at 111<sup>th</sup> St./49A Ave.
- Pedestrian overpass above 111<sup>th</sup> Street connects station to Southgate Mall, Southgate Transit Centre and surrounding communities.
- Artwork: "Immense Mode" by Dawn Detarando and Brian McArthur.
- Opens April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### ■ Century Park

- Located at 111<sup>th</sup> St./25A Ave.
- Pedestrian overpass above 111<sup>th</sup> Street connects station to Century Park Transit Centre, surrounding neighbourhoods and Century Park commercial development.
- 1,100-stall temporary Park & Ride lot, to compliment 130 existing stalls.
- Artwork: "Continuum" by Cezary and Danielle Gajewski.
- Opens April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

## Two new train tunnels:

- 114-metre tunnel beneath Belgravia Road between McKernan/Belgravia and South Campus stations.
- 90-metre tunnel beneath southbound lanes of 111<sup>th</sup> Street with tracks emerging in the 111<sup>th</sup> Street median south of 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue between South Campus and Southgate stations.

## Two new bridges:

- A one-way bridge over Belgravia Road connecting vehicles from South Campus Transit Centre and Neil Crawford Centre to Fox Drive.
- An LRT bridge across Whitemud Drive south of Southgate Station.

## Trains, Trails & Platforms:

- 26 new light rail vehicles.
- Fully landscaped multi-use recreation trail and linear park following entire length of South LRT Extension.
- Platforms to accommodate 5-car trains.



*A train enters the tunnel portal at Belgravia Road.*



## Costs

The total budget for the South LRT Extension from Health Sciences to Century Park was \$690 million:

- General funding from municipal taxes — \$8.3 million
- Provincial funding from fuel rebate — \$12.7 million
- Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program — \$25 million
- Federal funding from New Deal for Canadian Cities and Communities (federal grant funded by gas tax revenue) — \$56 million
- Tax supported debt (to be repaid from NDCC) — \$573 million
- Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (federal/provincial/municipal) — \$15 million

The University of Alberta donated approximately 2.5 hectares of provincially-owned land at the Neil Crawford Centre for South LRT development.

## The Vision

The City of Edmonton is a vibrant, growing community that seeks to create compact and sustainable urban space, in part by shifting the transportation mode of citizens away from single-passenger automobiles and onto rapid and efficient mass public transit. A highly utilized public transportation system creates connections between Edmonton's various and diverse communities, which in turn strengthen the cultural fabric of the city as a whole.

The South LRT Extension to Century Park connects southwest Edmonton to the University of Alberta, downtown, north Edmonton destinations such as Commonwealth Stadium and Rexall Place, and all services and amenities close to Edmonton's LRT network. By creating these connections it also enhances the potential of future LRT expansion planned for other areas of the city and beyond.

## Accomplishments

The South LRT Extension is the most recent achievement of the City of Edmonton's award-winning LRT Network Plan. It was named the top civil construction project in Alberta in 2010 by Alberta Construction Magazine.

## South Campus Station

