

Backgrounder

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Health Sciences Station

- The new section travels underneath St. Joseph's College and the University of Alberta's Education Car Park, emerging across from the University of Alberta Hospital at 114 Street and 84 Avenue. (Total distance: 600 m)
- During construction, a tunnel boring machine was brought in from Singapore to build the tunnels, removing 40,000 m³ of sand, clay and sandstone (enough to cover the surface of a hockey rink to the height of 25 m).
- The climb to bring the tracks to surface is at a six per cent grade. The City had to upgrade the brakes on its Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) fleet to accommodate the climb.
- Station construction: July 2004 to December 2005
- Project budget of \$108 million includes:
 - Construction: \$100.1 million
 - Design and property acquisition for the next phase of the extension: \$7.9 million
- All three levels of government contributed funds, including
 - \$26 million from the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta program (funded equally by the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, and the City of Edmonton)
 - \$76 million from the Provincial Fuel Rebate Grant Program (Government of Alberta)
 - \$6 million from the City of Edmonton's general financing

Edmonton's LRT System

- Hours of operation: 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. (Monday to Saturday); 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Sunday)
- 37 vehicles (an additional 26 new LRVs will begin to arrive in May 2008)
- Operating speed: 70 km per hour (maximum)
- 11 stations (6 underground, 5 surface)

LRT Service Frequency

Monday to Friday

Peak hours: 6 minutes

Midday: 10 minutes

Evening: 15 minutes

Saturday:

Early morning: 15 minutes

Midday: 10 minutes

Evening: 15 minutes

Sundays and holidays:

15 minutes

Schedules available at www.takeETS.com

South LRT Extension

- The project will make public transit more accessible, better integrate the LRT with the current transit system, and allow additional high-speed transit development in the future.
- Construction is underway on the next phase, which will open the 76 Avenue Station and the South Campus Station by the end of 2008, and the Southgate Station and Century Park Station by the end of 2009.
- The remaining project includes two parkades (at Southgate and Century Park), two LRT underpasses (at Belgravia Road and 114 Street, and one under the southbound lanes of 111 Street near 61 Avenue), a pedestrian underpass at 76 Avenue, and a bridge over Whitemud Drive.
- Budget of \$595 million is jointly provided by the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, and the City of Edmonton.

Date: January 3, 2006

Release No.

Time: