



Citizen Working Group - Zone "B" (River Valley)

MINUTES

Meeting # 9	Location: Riverdale Community League Rinkhouse, 9231 100 Avenue
Date: Thursday, November 29, 2018	Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Members		Attendance
David Kahane	Riverdale Community League	✓
Jodine Chase	Riverdale Community League	
Paul Bunner	Cloverdale Community League	✓
Peter McFarlane	Cloverdale Community League	✓
Jason Yeung	Strathearn Community League	
Dan Jancewicz	Strathearn Community League	✓
Nancy Rempel	Bonnie Doon Community League	
Andrew Leach	Bonnie Doon Community League	
Alice Harkness	Bonnie Doon Community League (alternate)	
Vacant	Edmonton Ski Club	
Bob Meyer	Edmonton Folk Music Festival	✓
Patrick Tso	Edmonton Chinese Garden Society	
Lorrie Deutscher	Public at Large	
Matt Knight	Public at Large	
Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor (Facilitator)	✓

Guests		
Dean Heuman	TransEd LRT	✓
Ginny Kulak	Valley Line Communications Team	✓



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1.	Welcome & introductions	Action by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees introduced themselves. Ginny will be attending meetings, to capture notes used by Jack to form the meeting minutes. 	
2.	Confirmation of agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project construction update is to include reference to the project schedule. The 98 Ave overpass (including the ramp/approaches for the LRT) was added as a specific agenda item (appearing as #6). 	
3.	Previous meeting minutes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as circulated. 	
4.	Status of action items	
	<p>i. <u>Landscaping site walkabout (Dean)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean suggested it would be best to arrange the site walkabout for April. There have been no material changes since the last landscape drawings were shared by a landscape architect in a meeting with some members of the group in June 2018. While the original walkabout request was for the north side of the river, the south side can be included as well. 	Dean
	<p>ii. <u>Drawing of final alignment alignment of portal access road (Dean)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean will email the final alignment drawing to the members of the group. He noted that the finishes on retaining walls will be consistent throughout the project. 	Dean
	<p>iii. <u>Images of traction power substations (Dean)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean had issued renderings of traction power substations (TPSS) for some locations, but doesn't have one for the TPSS near the Muttart stop. Dean explained that it will be designed to fit into the area, and will feature landscaping and public art. Dean will resend the rendering of the TPSS near The View to group members. In response to an inquiry, Dean assured there are no health or safety issues associated with these substations. 	Dean
	<p>iv. <u>Louise McKinney soil condition report (Jack)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack reported that the LMRP soil condition report has been submitted to Alberta Environment but it likely won't be posted on the Environmental Site Assessment Repository (ESAR) until next spring. Members inquired about the possibility of pursuing the information via the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Jack will follow up with access information. 	Jack



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	<p>v. <u>Notice boards in LRT stop shelters (Jack)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack outlined some challenges with respect to adapting the design of the LRT stop shelters to accommodate public notice boards or kiosks. Members noted that they live in vibrant communities, and such notice boards would help to support the activation of community around the stations. Jack will further pursue the matter. Group members would also like some information on the nature of paid advertising to be brought into their neighborhoods at the stops. 	<p>Jack</p> <p>Jack</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Construction Update</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack displayed photos of some recent milestones (arrival of the first LRV, first track laid). Dean provided some construction update brochures (available on the TransEd website at http://transedlrt.ca/resources/) and provided a verbal update to the group, including (with responses to questions): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tunnel access support beams and systems have been installed at The Quarters, followed by finishing work in the tunnel. The yard at 95 St & Jasper Ave will continue to be used until service commencement. In the river valley, concrete bases are being poured. Cofferdams will be removed on the north side of the river valley in January 2019, which will create some noise and vibration, but not as much as their initial placement. On the south side of the river, cofferdams will be pulled out in early January 2019. This will also involve create some noise and vibration. Sources of noise/vibration might include the light generators, heat generators (for winter concrete work) and concrete vibrators, which help concrete to set properly. Currently-closed pedestrian trails will remain closed for some time. Due to re-ordering of the bridge construction, a pedestrian crossing of the river remains delayed for an uncertain period. A time-line for restoring trail passage might be available by spring 2019. Similarly, there may be better information on other schedule elements next spring. While there have been challenges to the schedule, TransEd is proposing measures to the City that would make it possible to achieve service commencement by the end of 2020. Some land contouring in preparation for landscaping may occur next spring. 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall supporting the LRT approach to the 98 Avenue crossing is being covered until more work can be done. The span over 98 Avenue will likely be set in place in 2019. The surface finish on the overpass will be smooth for graffiti resistance. There was some disappointment expressed from within the group over the resulting lack of aesthetic appeal. (More on this appears under agenda item #6.) • The retaining wall along Connors Road is under construction. The largest piece is complete. Complete access to the west end of Gallagher Park is expected to be available in 2020. • TransEd is working with the Muttart as drainage work is happening in the area. • A large bump on Connors Road is to be flattened. Work is occurring on the retaining wall along Connors Road, to be followed by the noise wall. Paving will follow next year. The shared use path (SUP) will be poured, then work on the rail bed will begin. All work related to the Edmonton Ski Club was completed in October. • Drainage work at the top of Connors Hill is underway. On 95 Ave, drainage work is being done, with care taken to do the noisiest work during the day. Two shifts of work per day have increased the efficiency of work being done. There will be progressive closures of side streets, not all streets will be closed at the same time. • Traffic lights be reinstalled at 95 Avenue and 85 Street in the future, likely late 2019. TransEd is aware of pedestrian safety concerns and is working with the City to address this. • Dean also acknowledged concerns over the condition of 95 Avenue which contains many large potholes. He also noted that the Strathearn community has expressed concern over the lack of light in the area (after the removal of street lights). More light plants are on order for the area. • Tie-ins for properties affected by a change in elevation are being discussed with those property owners. • Dean was encouraged to ensure that TransEd’s communications to the neighbourhoods be timely and relevant. 	
6.	98 Avenue Overpass	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern was expressed that the mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall (essentially an armoured berm) that will function as the LRT approach 	



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	<p>ramp to the bridge over 98 Avenue is less attractive than the poured concrete retaining walls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean noted that there are plans to landscape such areas to screen and soften the “wall” effect. He will check and share the landscape drawings and is prepared to arrange a site visit. • A small number of trees remain to be removed, some to enable the construction of a new sidewalk on the south side of 98 Avenue. • There was some question over how the smooth wall exemplified the principles of Sustainable Urban Integration (SUI) which guide LRT aesthetics. Jack will follow up. (Post-meeting note: The Valley Line LRT Design Guide is posted on the City’s website at: https://www.edmonton.ca/documents/RoadsTraffic/2014_valley_lrt_design_guide.pdf.) 	<p>Dean</p> <p>Jack</p>
7.	Round Table	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group member inquired on the level of confidence that Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) will be delivered on schedule. Dean stated that TransEd is confident, as milestones have thus far been met. • There was a question regarding the potential for light pollution in surrounding neighbourhoods from the lighted Tawatinâ Bridge. Dean responded that it will be ambient lighting. 	
8.	Next meeting	
	The group agreed to target March 14, 2019 for their next meeting.	

Notes by Ginny Kulak & Jack Stuempel