

NW LRT Concept Planning Study

PUBLIC INPUT: WHAT WE HEARD

September 2012



CONCEPT PLANNING STUDY

A concept planning study for the Northwest LRT was initiated by the City of Edmonton in late 2011 with a goal to determine station locations and track alignment along the City Council approved corridor (July 2010). The corridor extends from NAIT, through the City Centre Redevelopment, across Yellowhead Trail and CN's Walker Yard, north along 113A Street and Castle Downs Road, and west along 153 Avenue to the northwest city limits.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A process involving four public meetings was designed to obtain public input for the Northwest LRT Concept Planning Study. This process is illustrated in the graphic below.

Public Event #2 was held on the evenings of June 19 and 20 at Caernarvon School and Calder Hall respectively. These "Options and Concepts" events provided an opportunity for public input on proposed station locations and track alignment options along the Northwest LRT corridor. The public could also comment on community access points, as well as other concerns and opportunities relative to the LRT.

This document provides highlights of the input received on both comment forms and sticky notes at the June public events (and online).

HOW INPUT IS USED

Input received from the public is considered together with technical studies and policy direction to inform the design team in the development of preferred station locations and track alignment along the corridor. This is especially important when input received from the public provides conflicting viewpoints on a single element.

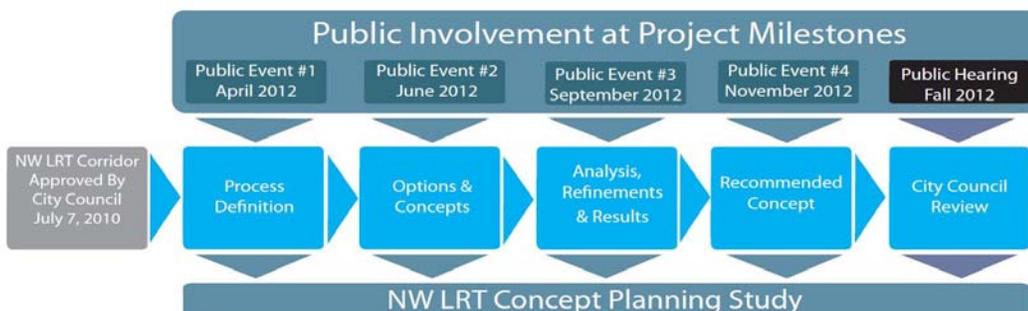
WHAT WE HEARD

When thinking generally about station locations along the overall corridor, respondents view the following as the most important considerations:

- Providing easy access to LRT for residents of the community
- Providing easy access for LRT users to reach destinations in the area
- Locating stations where there is available land – avoiding property impacts

When considering track location (i.e., centre or side of the street) along the corridor, the considerations viewed as most important are:

- Optimizing passenger access into LRT stations
- Ensuring space for pedestrians and
- Preserving trees and landscaping





KEY THEMES AND CONCERNS

Overall, public input received can be categorized into the following key themes and concerns:

THEMES

- Minimize traffic impacts
- Minimize noise impacts
- Cost of project to Edmonton taxpayers
- Need for City of St. Albert to contribute financially
- No station required at 121 Street
- Preserve and fence dog park
- Timing – eagerness to proceed

CONCERNS

- Through traffic/neighbourhood traffic
- Loss of frontage access
- Noise (need for sound barriers, landscaping)
- Proximity of tracks to housing
- Loss of trees and landscaping

CONFLICTING VIEWS

Respondents are conflicted over the alignment along 113A Street, specifically whether or not the City should acquire the properties along the east side of 129 and 130 Avenues to allow for two-way traffic to remain, together with the LRT. While respondents voiced opinions both for and against the City acquiring the properties, there is great concern about the potential impacts to traffic flow if the traffic was removed along this section of roadway and great support to ensure that impacts to traffic be minimized.

There are also conflicting views as to the track alignment along 153 Avenue as residents both north and south of the roadway are concerned about potential impacts of the LRT such as noise, safety and security as well as neighbourhood access, traffic congestion and loss of green space.

GET INVOLVED!

Let us know what you think about the proposed draft concept plan. Fill out our survey on site or online. Feedback will be used to fine-tune the plan before it is presented to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

NEXT STEPS

Watch for details of our next public event to be held later this fall.

MORE INFORMATION

Click: www.edmonton.ca/LRTprojects

Call: 780-496-4874

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