

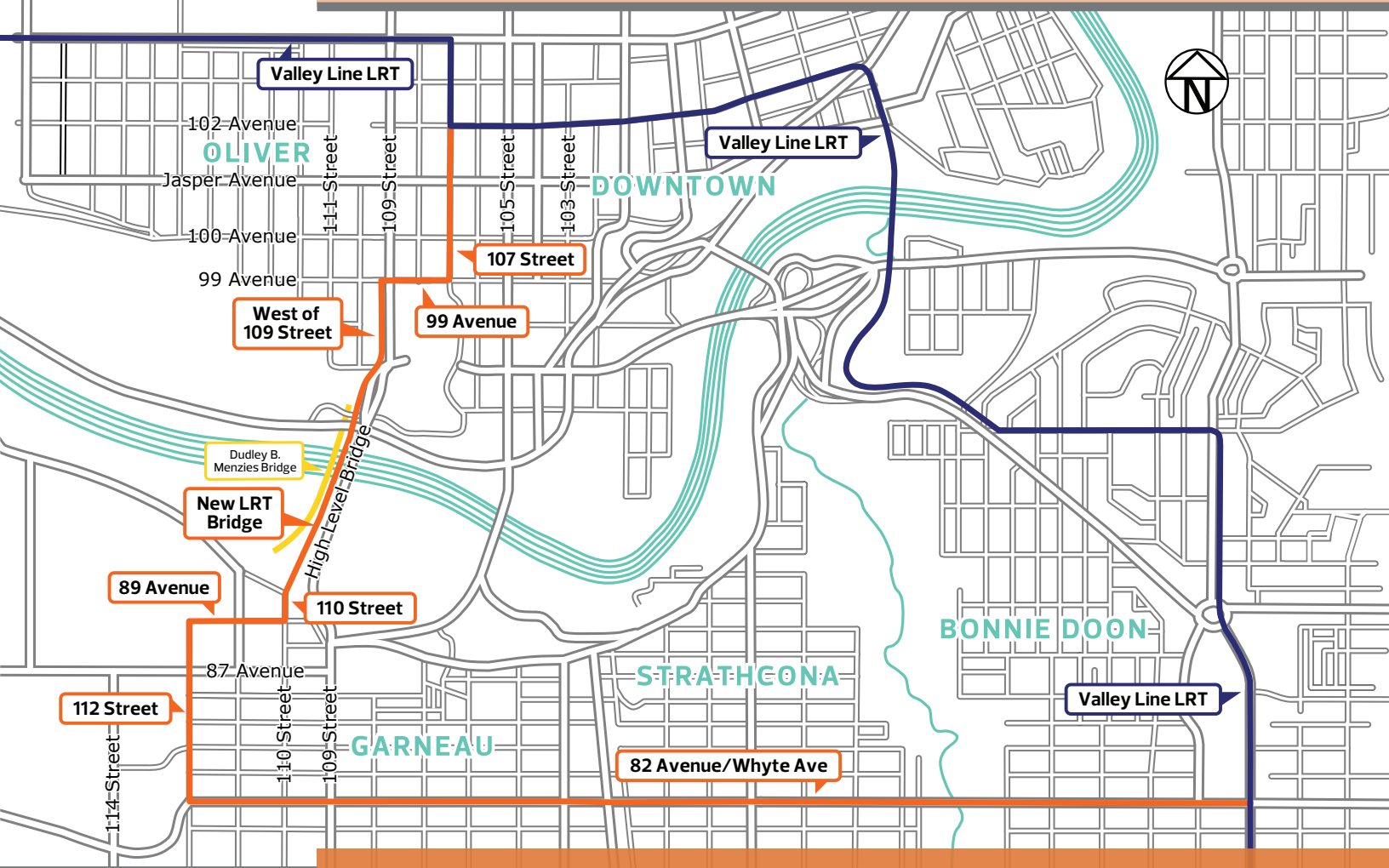
# CENTRE LRT STUDY

Strathcona/Downtown/Bonnie Doon

FEBRUARY 2018

## PREFERRED LRT ROUTE

After months of technical analysis, public engagement and stakeholder input, a new low-floor Light Rail Transit (LRT) route has emerged as the preferred route option to best connect Downtown, the University of Alberta, Strathcona, Bonnie Doon and east neighbourhoods. This new route is part of City Council's 2009 long-term LRT Network Plan to create seamless or one transfer connections via LRT and/or bus to all quadrants of the city. The City will continue to explore options and possible approaches to mitigate any issues raised by the public and stakeholders prior to City Council approval of the route.



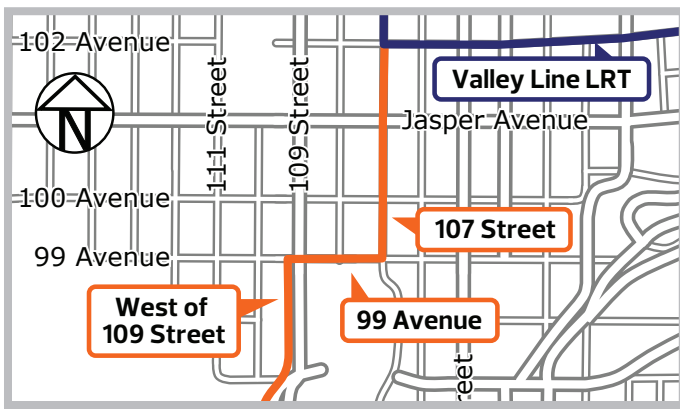
Now is your chance to comment on the preferred route and help determine future stop locations!

Please answer our online survey at: [www.edmonton.ca/centrelrtstudy](http://www.edmonton.ca/centrelrtstudy) and attend a public engagement event (see back page for information).

## WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE PREFERRED ROUTE:

### DOWNTOWN

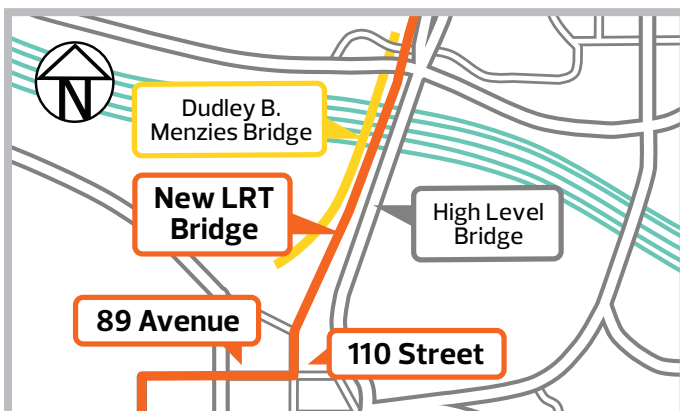
The new central LRT route will connect with the Valley Line West LRT at 102 Avenue and 107 Street (exact arrangement to be determined). It will head south on 107 Street, turning west on 99 Avenue and then south (just west of 109 Street) to a new bridge river crossing.



### CROSSING THE RIVER

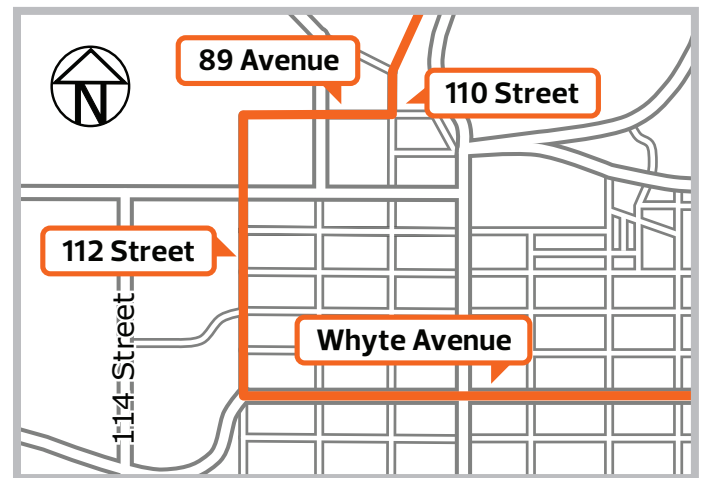
While the High Level Bridge was the preferred river crossing, investigation and analysis determined the bridge, with or without extensive upgrades, could not support the additional load of LRT trains. The Dudley B. Menzies Bridge was not considered as it runs the Capital and Metro high-floor LRT lines and cannot accommodate the low-floor system.

The study reviewed alternative river crossing locations to the east and west of the High Level Bridge and recommends a new bridge structure located between the High Level Bridge and the Dudley B. Menzies Bridge.



### UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AREA

After crossing the river, the preferred route has the LRT on 110 Street before turning west onto 89 Avenue and south on 112 Street where it will then head east onto Whyte Avenue.



### WHYTE AVENUE

Whyte Avenue emerged as the preferred east/west route; however, it comes with its challenges. While this segment will provide better connections to key destinations, trade-offs will need to be considered to manage potential impacts to parking, trees, medians and vehicle space.

### EAST EDMONTON

The preferred route will be determined to an end point in the Bonnie Doon area. Initial analysis of route options farther east revealed more in-depth studies of the future study area are required. This additional work will be deferred to a future study.



## WE ALSO KNOW...

### LOW-FLOOR, URBAN-STYLE LRT

The new LRT route will be a low-floor, urban-style system, which has many differences from Edmonton's current high-floor, suburban system.

#### Low-floor LRT:

- Predominantly operates in dedicated lanes, at posted speeds and uses traffic signals
- Has stops located at street-level, curb height with step-free boarding
- Usually doesn't use crossing gates and bells, and has minimal barriers
- Has minimal infrastructure and less impacts in neighbourhoods

#### Urban-style LRT:

- Builds smaller scale stations that are spaced closer together
- Provides better links to a greater number of destinations, with more direct transit, pedestrian and cyclist connections
- Maximizes openness of space to create a safe environment
- Reduces speeds in congested areas to support safe, pedestrian-oriented communities
- Invests in landscaping, streetscaping, and architectural features to improve visual appeal

The Valley Line LRT Southeast (currently under construction) is also a low-floor, urban-style system.

## HOW DID THIS BECOME THE PREFERRED LRT ROUTE?

Potential corridors for LRT projects are evaluated based on a range of criteria, determined earlier in the project by the City technical team, City Policy, and informed by stakeholder and public input. The technical criteria fall under different categories – Financial, Business, Community and Social, Sustainable Urban Integration, Transportation, Environment and Feasibility/Constructability. Specific criteria include items such as: serves community destinations, local access, property impacts, pedestrian connections, connections to transit, impact on auto and goods vehicles, impact on parking, impact on parks and open spaces and construction impacts. City Policy provides guidance and public input helps inform and identify important destinations, as well as concerns and opportunities in the study area.

### Technical Analysis

An in-depth technical analysis conducted a corridor screening of the entire Centre LRT Study project area including every possible street and avenue between 104 Avenue and 76 Avenue and between 116 Street to 83 Street.

**Initial Screenings:** An initial screening process removed corridors that had significant feasibility issues. These include steep gradients, narrow corridor widths, constructability issues, significant environmental issues and other impacts.

**Low Performance:** Further evaluation removed lower/poor performing segments. Some segments performed very poorly against a single category, e.g. narrow alignments which would have required significant property acquisition and would have impacted the community. Other segments were lower performing across multiple categories.

**Viable Routes:** With the remaining segments, potential routes were developed and further evaluated against project categories considering aspects such as route length, and the potential for providing stops close to key destinations, and to existing and planned transit.

**Preferred Route:** The preferred route emerged because it performed the best at both a route and segment level against the predetermined criteria. While there are trade-offs that have to be made for every option, the preferred route is considered to minimize the impacts and best meet the project objectives. The City will continue to explore options and possible approaches to mitigate any issues raised by the public and stakeholders prior to City Council approval of the route.

### City Policy

Route selection is guided by City policies including:

- *The Way Ahead – City of Edmonton Strategic Plan*
- *The Way We Grow – City of Edmonton Municipal Development Plan (MDP)*
- *The Way We Move – City of Edmonton Transportation Master Plan (TMP)*
- *The Way We Live: Edmonton's People Plan*
- *City of Edmonton LRT Network Plan*
- *City of Edmonton LRT Route Planning & Evaluation Criteria*
- *City of Edmonton Sustainable Urban Integration Guidelines for LRT*

### Public Engagement

Since June 2017, the Centre LRT Study project team has been gathering input to better understand local perspectives on the future route. Engagement activities included public events, street team interactions, one-on-one meetings and surveys.

## NEXT STEPS: TECHNICAL

Over the coming months technical work will lead to recommendations on stop locations; track alignment within the roadway; connectivity with transit; pedestrian and cycle facilities; business and community accesses; as well as the necessity of grade separations.



## SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY

At this phase of the study you are invited to advise the project team by providing input on:

- The preferred LRT route
- Stop locations
- Community integration – how the LRT will fit into neighbourhoods

**Attend one of our public engagement events and visit the project website to complete our survey before March 16, 2018.**

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

The Matrix Hotel, 10640 – 100 Avenue NW

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

St. Basils Cultural Centre, 10819 71 Ave NW

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Campus Saint Jean McMahon Pavilion, 8406 Rue Marie–Anne Gaboury

#### OPEN FOR DROP-IN

**4:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

#### PRESENTATIONS (repeat)

**5:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

## CENTRE LRT STUDY TIMELINE

### JUNE 2017

Study launched

### Early 2018

Preferred route presented to City Council for approval

### Early 2019

Concept plan presented to City Council

For more information and survey visit:

**[www.edmonton.ca/centrelrtstudy](http://www.edmonton.ca/centrelrtstudy)**



**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**  
SHARE YOUR VOICE SHAPE OUR CITY

For more information:

- 🌐 [www.edmonton.ca/centrelrtstudy](http://www.edmonton.ca/centrelrtstudy)
- ✉ [centrelrtstudy@edmonton.ca](mailto:centrelrtstudy@edmonton.ca)
- ☎ 311

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