

NW LRT Concept Planning Study PUBLIC INPUT: WHAT WE HEARD December 2012



WHERE WE ARE: CONCEPT PLANNING STUDY

December 5 and 6, 2012 mark the final public meetings before the Northwest LRT Recommended Concept Plan is presented to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (TIC) of City Council in 2013.

The Concept Planning Study was initiated by the City of Edmonton to determine station locations and track alignment along the City Council approved corridor. The line 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 a future St. Albert Park and Ride located along the northwest city limits.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The public involvement process involved four public meetings between April and December 2012.

April 2012: Review and Learn	Early in the project, meetings were held to overview the 2010 project and identify if there were topics and issues that needed to be considered in the Concept Planning Study.
June 2012: Options	Meetings were held to collect input on options that were being explored along the corridor
September 2012: Draft Concept Plan	All the information and input was brought together into one Draft Concept Plan, which was presented for final feedback.

December 2012: Recommendation	The final meetings identify the recommendation that will be going to Council. Participants have an opportunity to learn more about the decisions that have been made, and how public input has been considered into the plan.
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The most recent public meetings were held on September 26 and 27 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Calder Hall (12721 - 120 Street) and St. Lucy School (11750 - 162 Avenue) respectively.

Input received from the public was considered together with technical studies and policy direction to inform the design team in the development of the Recommended Concept Plan.

Overall respondents were highly satisfied with the efforts to consider public input in the development of the draft concept plan with the majority (66.7%) choosing *Satisfied* or *Very Satisfied* on a 5 point scale where 1 means *Not At All Satisfied* and 5 means *Very Satisfied*.

WHAT WE HEARD: STATION LOCATIONS AND ALIGNMENT

Respondents who completed the comment form at the public meeting or online expressed a high level of satisfaction with the station locations in the Draft Concept Plan. The majority of respondents chose *Satisfied* or *Very Satisfied* (see percentages below) on a 5 point scale where 1 means *Not At All Satisfied* and 5 means *Very Satisfied*.

- City Centre Redevelopment South - 73.3%
- City Centre Redevelopment North - 75.8%
- 132 Avenue - 59%
- 137 Avenue - 74.2%
- 145 Avenue - 62.5%
- Castle Downs - 64.5%
- 127 Street - 67.7%
- 137 Street - 73.3%
- Campbell Road - 67.7%



The majority of respondents also expressed a high level of satisfaction with the preferred track alignment within the corridor with 68.6% choosing *Satisfied* or *Very Satisfied*.

The responses also indicate a high level of satisfaction for the shared-use paths, the inclusion of a pedestrian and bicycle path on the bridge across CN's Walker Yard and Yellowhead Trail and the fencing along the LRT tracks within the Grand Trunk dog park.

KEY THEMES AND CONCERNS

The majority of respondents agree the Draft Concept Plan's station locations provide easy access for pedestrians, provide easy access for LRT users to reach their destinations and are located to best avoid property impacts.

The majority of respondents also agree the plan provides space for pedestrians and cyclists, provides vehicle access to neighbourhoods and businesses along the corridor and the proposed alignment preserves trees and landscaping.

Respondents remain concerned about impacts such as traffic congestion (particularly along 113A Street and at the Castle Downs Road/153 Avenue intersection) and congestion on roads where traffic may be diverted (137 Avenue, 127 Street and 97 Street).

Other key themes in comments received were perceived loss of property value, noise impacts, impacts to general aesthetics along the route, impacts to parking at the YMCA, general safety and crime, pedestrian safety related to crossings, the location of the Kiss and Ride at the YMCA, general concerns with the location of the Campbell Road station, concerns about the removal of right/left turns and the relocation of the transit centre currently near a seniors' complex.

See display boards or go online for information on the design teams' responses to these key concerns.

ADJUSTMENTS TO CONCEPT PLAN

The project team made the following adjustments to the Draft Concept Plan as a result of comments received from the public:

- Refined westbound left turn from 137 Avenue into Castle Down Road
- Provided left turn into Castle Downs Mall from Castle Down road
- Improved continuity of shared-use path at 137 Avenue
- Refined arrangement of 137 Avenue Transit Centre
- Provided Kiss and Ride at 137 Avenue Station
- Moved equipment room location for 145 Avenue Station to west side of Castle Downs Road
- Provided Kiss and Ride at 145 Avenue Station
- Increased length of left turn lanes at 145 Avenue and 153 Avenue
- Signaled intersection access to YMCA from Castle Downs Road and provided pedestrian crossings
- Moved Kiss and Ride at Castle Downs Station
- Refined arrangement of Castle Downs Transit Centre
- Provided turn lane westbound on 153 Avenue to provide access to the Castle Downs Spray Park and Playground
- Removed median along 153 Avenue between 134 Street and 142 Street to reduce corridor width and further separate LRT from adjacent properties
- Provided buffer from road for all sidewalks and shared-use paths

In addition, a noise study was conducted that identified noise attenuation will be required at two locations along the route.

NEXT STEPS

Comments received at the December 5 and 6, 2012 public meeting will be included in a report, along with the Recommended Concept Plan that will be presented to City Council's TIC at a public hearing in 2013 at City Hall. To register to speak, visit edmonton.ca/meetings or call 780-496-8178.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: edmonton.ca/LRTprojects

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