

Citizen Working Group - Zone "I" (Mid-87)

MINUTES

Meeting # 1	Location: West Meadowlark Community League, 9311 165 St
Date: October 25, 2017	Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Members		Attendance
Sharon Quickfall	Thorncliff Community League	✓
Karen Merkel	Elmwood Community League	✓
Erin Dobbin	West Meadowlark Community League	✓
Stephen Poole	West Meadowlark Community League	✓
Rusk Redmond	Summerlea Community League	✓
Tom Alston	Misericordia Hospital - AHS	
Dean Olmstead	Misericordia Hospital - AHS (alternate)	✓
Brian Monaghan	Misericordia Hospital - Covenant Health	✓
Bill Mayou	Public at Large	
Pam Winski	Public at Large	✓
Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor (Facilitator)	✓

Guests	

1.	Welcome & introductions	Action by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees introduced themselves, and Jack provided a brief summary of the history and purpose of the Valley Line LRT Citizen Working Groups. 	
2.	Confirmation of agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was adopted as circulated. 	
3.	Terms of reference	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group reviewed and discussed the terms of reference, which describe the role, purpose, membership and coverage areas for the Citizen Working Groups. It was explained that the groups are a supplement to other forms of engagement that will still be undertaken by the City. 	
4.	Zone boundaries	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group reviewed the boundaries that have been proposed for the Mid-87 zone (Zone “I”) as well as other zones. The working group for the West 97 zone (Zone “J”) has already proposed an overlap with “I” due to common interests and characteristics of the communities. After some discussion, it was agreed that an overlap in which Zone “J” extends eastward to 170 Street and Zone “I” extends westward to 184 Street, with opportunities for joint meetings and cross-pollinating would be appropriate at this time. 	Jack
5.	Group composition / membership	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group reviewed the composition of the group. It was noted that some gaps still need to be filled, and it was suggested that a representative from the seniors sector might be recruited with the help of the Westend Seniors Activity Centre. For the school sector, it was suggested that emphasis be placed on high and junior high schools. Also, it was suggested that the post-secondary student sector should also be approached, due to the number of such students living in the area. 	Jack
6.	Project update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack presented an overview and status update of the Valley Line West project, including the underlying concept and the elements of the technical review that is currently being carried out to adapt the concept plan and preliminary design to unforeseen changes since the design was completed in 2013. The technical review includes an assessment of the LRT crossings at several major intersections. While the LRT will cross most intersections at ground level, controlled by the same signals that control car traffic, some major intersections are being evaluated to determine if a grade-separated crossing would improve intersection performance enough to warrant the cost and other potential impacts. Public engagement sessions are planned for November 15 and 16 to obtain further input on LRT crossing assessments before recommendations go to City Council. Jack will share a copy of the newspaper advertisement for members to include in local newsletters. 	Jack

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there is a need for the City to acquire private property, the City is beginning to take steps toward make purchases. • New baseline noise studies will be launched in the near future to supplement information collected previously. Affected residents (where noise meters are to be placed for the study) will be notified by letter. 	
7.	Round Table	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that the City might have a conversation with the Enoch Cree Nation regarding LRT / transit / shuttle connections. • There are concerns over future construction impacts, as many residents will inevitable come across LRT construction in their travels when work begins. It is hoped that the local knowledge from the Citizen Working Groups can be harnessed in the development of construction traffic management plans. • Neighbourhood access, both during construction and after the Valley Line is completed, is a major concern, as is ensuring safe crossing opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians. It was suggested that construction contracts stipulate a minimum number of neighbourhood accesses to be maintained during construction. Aldergrove and Elmwood are particularly sensitive to permanent access impacts. • The City is urged to acknowledge that it will take time to develop the transportation system sufficiently to make a reduction in car dependency more practical for more people. Until that point, consideration should be given to the impact on drivers. • It was suggested that adequate parking should be provided to encourage greater usage of LRT by those not directly on the line but unwilling to take a bus to an LRT stop or station. This might become even more important with the future development of future connections to other LRT lines. • There is interest in knowing travel times to be expected when the LRT is in operation. • There is some skepticism at the ability of the Citizen Working Group to influence the construction process. But it was also acknowledged that there is value in the information-sharing • It would be valuable for a senior engineer to attend a future meeting to share technical knowledge and hear concerns that might be addressed in the fine-tuning of the design. Attendance by a representative of Parking Services would also be welcome. 	Jack
8.	Next meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group agreed the next meeting should be targeted for late January, with Jack to poll for a date. 	Jack

Notes by Jack Stuempel