

# Metro Line Northwest LRT Extension

## Fact Sheet

Edmonton

### **About the Project**

The LRT Network Plan calls for a change in approach to an urban LRT system. This will offer citizens a consistent and reliable service that meets the needs of our diverse and growing population. By 2040, the City of Edmonton will have expanded LRT service to all sectors of the city. The LRT Network Plan balances Edmonton's long-term transportation needs with a commitment to grow green and create a compact, integrated urban environment featuring a high-quality, accessible transportation mode. Expanding the Metro Line NW LRT is part of the City's vision to serve developed, redeveloping and new neighbourhoods in the North and Northwest sections of the city.

### **Urban Style LRT**

An urban LRT system means:

- Building smaller scale stations that are spaced closer together than currently seen on the existing LRT system
- Integrating LRT with the surrounding area
- Providing better links to a greater number of destinations, and providing more direct transit, pedestrian and cyclist connections
- Integrating visual elements that minimize intrusion and maximise openness of space to create a safe environment.
- Respecting communities. The LRT will operate with reduced speeds in congested areas, allowing LRT to fit and operate safely in pedestrian-oriented communities with reduced right-of-way and fewer barriers.
- Investing in aesthetics, landscaping, streetscaping and architectural features to fit within an urban environment.
- Investing in embedded track instead of traditional rock ballast and railway ties to improve visual appeal.

## **Metro Northwest LRT Alignment**

The Metro Line Northwest will extend from a new station at NAIT, north through Blatchford to connect to key activity centres along 113A Street and then west along 153 Avenue before terminating at a Park and Ride facility at Campbell Road.

The City evaluated a number of potential alignments during the route selection process. The final Metro Northwest LRT extension alignment was determined to be the most in line with the City's vision to connect Edmontonians with schools, hospitals, work and leisure destinations, as well as to build more transit-oriented communities. The route was approved by City Council in 2010.

## **Public Engagement**

Public engagement activities began in spring 2017 to obtain input for the final concept for the alignment and station design. Engagement on preliminary engineering began in fall 2017 and continued in 2018 when the preliminary designs were shown to Edmontonians for feedback.

The Metro Northwest LRT public engagement included:

- 10 public engagement events (750+ attendees)
- 4 public information sessions (600+ attendees)
- 1,200+ online survey respondents
- 13 individual stakeholder meetings
- 4 community pop-ups

## **Project Status**

The Metro Line Northwest LRT Extension will occur in two phases:

Phase 1 – NAIT to Blatchford

Phase 2 – Blatchford to Campbell Road

With funding in place for Phase 1 of the Metro Line LRT extension from NAIT to Blatchford, the City has entered into the procurement phase which involves undertaking a rigorous competitive process to select a contractor to deliver the project. The City has shortlisted three teams to continue into the next phase of procurement. Phase 1 is anticipated to begin construction in 2020.

On January 22 2019, City Council approved the concept plan amendments to the Metro Line LRT extension from Blatchford to Campbell Road. The City has completed preliminary design of Phase 2 and the project will move forward when funding becomes available.

## **For more information**

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