

PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROCESS - SE TO W LRT

Over the course of the next two years, The City of Edmonton will develop and finalize the Preliminary Design for a 27 km urban style low-floor rail system from Mill Woods to Lewis Farms. This Preliminary Design will build on the approved Concept Plans by conducting more detailed analysis of how the new low-floor urban LRT will operate, as well as how the system will integrate into the existing and planned (future) transportation network and adjacent communities.

The earlier Concept Planning Phase of this project defined the major features of the SE to W LRT (from Mill Woods to Lewis Farms), including the corridor and alignment, station locations, integration with the transportation network, preliminary property requirements, and cost estimates. (Concept Plans have been approved by City Council, with the exception of the Downtown Connector, which is on Council's Agenda on January 18, 2012.)



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The design and ultimately the construction of the SE to W LRT will affect Edmontonians who live or do business in the established communities along the route. The City is committed to involving stakeholders, and all interested members of the public, in the Preliminary Design Phase of the SE to W LRT project.

The public involvement process for the Preliminary Design will present opportunities for all interested parties to be involved in key elements of the preliminary design process where they can affect the decisions to be made and will take into consideration related issues and concerns of stakeholders.

Where there is no opportunity for input (i.e. decisions were made in the earlier Concept Planning Phase, or decisions will be made in accordance with best engineering practice, industry and safety standards, LRT Design Guidelines, and other applicable existing City standards and policies), the public will be informed about ongoing developments.

LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

In technical projects like the SE to W LRT project, the level of detail increases as the project progresses from Concept Planning to Preliminary Design, and the opportunities for public involvement are more defined as plans become more finalized.

At the City of Edmonton, public involvement is conducted using the Continuum of Public Involvement. This spectrum helps to set clear expectations for everyone involved, informing stakeholders and the public on what they are able to influence and when.

Overall Level of Involvement: Information Sharing/Consultation

CONTINUUM OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT				
Information Sharing	Consultation		Active Participation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing information to build awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing ideas or concepts to build knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborating to develop solutions to build commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing decision making to build ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegating decision making to build responsibility

This Public Involvement Process will incorporate all three categories of the continuum as shown above and specifically, as itemized below:

Information Sharing

Where decisions have been made in the Concept Planning Phase, or will be made based on engineering standards and guidelines, the public will be kept informed about those decisions. This includes:

- SE to W LRT corridor location
- Track alignment
- Technical design guidelines
- LRT stop/station locations
- Transit Centre locations
- Cost Estimates
- Vehicle design and branding
- Construction staging
- Property requirements
- Land re-development and TOD potential

Consultation

- Structural aesthetics (Visual integration of the system into the existing landscape and adjacent communities)
- LRT stop/station aesthetics
- Landscape architecture aesthetics
- Public Art opportunities
- Connectivity to the existing transportation network across all modes of transportation
- Aesthetics for noise attenuation mechanisms, where identified per the City of Edmonton Urban Traffic Noise Policy 5061
- Understanding the impacts to stakeholders and working together to mitigate issues where possible

Active Participation

In areas where sound attenuation is warranted as per the City of Edmonton Urban Traffic Noise Policy 506, adjacent property owners will have the opportunity to vote on the installation.²

¹ In the case of an existing residential area, where noise mitigation measures are appropriate and supported, the City will seek to involve community stakeholders in the selection of suitable materials and the design of the structure.

² The City of Edmonton will undertake a survey of affected property owners to determine support for the installation of any noise attenuation measures proposed under the City's retrofit noise attenuation program. Affected property owners are those who are immediately adjacent to the proposed noise attenuation measure (berm and/or noise wall), in an area encompassing the entire length of the proposed noise attenuation device. Endorsement of the proposed project will be considered sufficient if 60% or more of property owners indicate support (targeting a 100% response rate).

HOW THE PUBLIC WILL BE INVOLVED

The public involvement process for the Preliminary Design Phase will endeavour to involve a wide range of stakeholders and all interested members of the public through a variety of activities over several stages of design development. The proposed face to face meetings and the online activities are designed to capture input from participants on specific key elements of the project that will be considered by the technical team as part of design development.

The 27 km of the SE to West LRT has been divided into six distinct areas to allow stakeholders in each area to be involved in development specific to their area of interest.

- Area 1: Mill Woods Town Centre to Whitemud Drive
- Area 2: Whitemud Drive to Argyll Road
- Area 3: Argyll Road to Strathearn
- Area 4: Strathearn to City Centre West
- Area 5: City Centre West to 149 Street
- Area 6: 149 Street to Lewis Farms Transit Centre

There are five stages to this Public Involvement Process that will be conducted over the course of 2012 and 2013.

STAGE 1 PRE-CONSULTATION

All Areas (Nov 2011 to Feb 2012)

Level of Involvement:	Information sharing & consultation to receive feedback to help finalize the Public Involvement Plan
-----------------------	---

The Pre-Consultation Stage is focused on developing the Public Involvement Plan that will define the opportunities for public involvement during the project. The Plan will be based on input and information from the Concept Planning Phase, as well as new information gathered through interviews with key stakeholders and an online survey.

STAGE 2 INITIATION

Areas 1 to 4 (Feb to Mar 2012) & Areas 5 & 6 (Apr to May 2012)

Level of Involvement:	Information sharing & consultation to receive feedback on various items where public input will be considered by the technical team
-----------------------	---

The public involvement process will begin in all six areas in the Initiation Stage. The Area Meetings (one in each of the six areas) will be a combination of information sharing (presentations and information updates), as well as seeking input from participants on the various elements where public input will be considered by the technical team in the developing design. Anyone who is interested in this project will have opportunities to be involved by attending the meeting for their area, or by participating online. While interested stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in their Area Meetings in each of Stages 2 to 4, this will not be a prerequisite. Reports from the Area Meetings and online input will be posted on the website and participants will be informed about how their input was used in the technical developments.

STAGE 3 CONSULTATION

Areas 1 to 4 (May to June 2012) & Areas 5 & 6 (Nov to Dec 2012)

Level of Involvement:	Information sharing on project updates and the ongoing technical developments & consultation to receive feedback on various items where public input will be considered by the technical team
-----------------------	---

The focus of the Area Meetings in Stage 3 will be to present first stage preliminary designs for each area, proposed changes to roadways and related concepts for connectivity and pedestrian/cyclist access, as well as noise attenuation

(where applicable). Participants will have opportunities to be involved by attending the meeting in their area or by participating online. Reports from the Area Meetings and online input will be posted on the website and participants will be informed about how their input was used in the technical developments, or how it wasn't and why.

STAGE 4

REFINEMENT

Areas 1 to 4 (Sept to Oct 2012) & Areas 5 & 6 (May to June 2013)

Level of Involvement:

Information sharing on project updates and the ongoing technical developments & consultation to receive feedback on various items where public input will be considered by the technical team

Participants in this third round of Area Meetings will review and provide final input on the proposed designs and other key elements discussed in Stages 2 and 3, as well as receive updates on the ongoing technical developments.

Participants will have opportunities to be involved by attending the meeting in their area or by participating online. Reports from the Area Meetings and online input will be posted on the website and participants will be informed about how their input was used in the technical developments, or how it wasn't and why.

STAGE 5

CONCLUSION

Areas 1 to 4 (Jan to Feb 2013) & Areas 5 & 6 (Nov to Dec 2013)

Level of Involvement:

Two-way Information sharing on final designs & other related technical items

The final designs and future project information will be shared with the general public in a public information/open house format for final review and comments before being submitted to The City. Information that is shared at the Open Houses will be posted on the project website, along with an opportunity for viewers to provide comments via an online survey that will be available for a specified period of time. Reports from the Open Houses and online input will be posted on the website, along with a final evaluation of the overall Public Involvement Process.