

Citizen Working Groups - Zone "I" (Mid-87) & "J" (West 87)

MINUTES

Meeting # 9	Location: Online
Date: March 23, 2021	Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Members	Attendance
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<i>Zone "I"</i>		
Andrea Kendall	Misericordia Hospital (AHS)	
Bill Mayou	Public at Large	
Christine Belter	Summerlea Community League	✓
Karen Merkel	Elmwood Community League	
Pam Winski	Public at Large	✓
Rusk Redmond	Summerlea Community League	✓
Sharon Quickfall	Thorncliff Community League	✓
Stephen Poole	West Meadowlark Community League	✓
Trevor Small	Misericordia Hospital (Covenant Health)	

<i>Zone "J"</i>		
Aaron Clark	Aldergrove Community League (alternate)	
Daniel Eggert	Melcor Developments (West Henday Promenade)	
Gary Adams	Aldergrove Community League	
Jasmine Allen	Belmead Community League	✓
Lorena Munteanu	Public at Large	
Mark Edey	EPSB	✓
Maxime Belanger	Secord Community League	
Melvin Lacebal	Public at Large	✓
Paul Andrews	Rosenthal Community	✓
Danielle Striemer (for Rebecca Goldsack)	Lewis Estates Community League	✓

Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor (Facilitator)	✓
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Guests

Andrew Knack	Councillor, City of Edmonton	✓
Ginny Kulak	Communications, LRT Expansion & Renewal	✓
Jeri Romaniuk	Marigold Infrastructure Partners	✓
Jodi Doesburg	Marigold Infrastructure Partners	✓
Danielle O’Brien	Communications, LRT Expansion & Renewal	✓
Mariam Ibrahim	Communications, LRT Expansion & Renewal	✓
Kevin Pringle	Partnerships Manager, LRT Expansion & Renewal	✓
Hazel Battad	Engineer, LRT Expansion & Renewal	✓
Yonathan Sumamo	Marigold Infrastructure Partners	✓

1.	Welcome & introductions	Action by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting participants introduced themselves 	
2.	Confirmation of agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was adopted as circulated. 	
3.	Previous minutes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as circulated. 	
4.	Status of action items	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Speaker on traffic management</u> (Jack) A speaker hasn’t been arranged yet. Discussion at the meeting may help refine the focus on aspects of traffic management to be covered. b) <u>Representative from EPCOR</u> (Jack) This item may be moot as EPCOR utility relocations have been ongoing. c) <u>Security at City-owned properties</u> Concerns over security at City-owned properties had been brought back to the project team and appear to have been substantially addressed with the removal of unoccupied buildings. 	Jack
5.	Project Update	

	<p><u>City Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before sharing the project update, Kevin, the project team’s Partnerships Manager, explained his role on the project as working closely with the project’s communications and engagement team, the contractor and the community to listen and be responsive to concerns.• Marigold Infrastructure Partners (MIP) has been selected to build the Valley Line West.• Construction will begin this year and will last for up to 6 years.• The City has also issued an RFP for new trains with a plan to select a proponent by the end of the year.• The City is emphasizing open communication and access to information through the LRT team, ensuring special needs and circumstances are considered, providing empathy regarding disruption, and applying a “boots on the ground” approach to stakeholder relations.• Committee and community members who haven’t already done so are encouraged to sign up for mailing lists, call with questions, and provide feedback wherever possible. It was noted that Marigold is setting up mailing lists and has its own contact points to share construction-related information. (public@marigoldinfra.ca; 780-412-2183)• Generally, activity in the months ahead will involve drilling geotechnical boreholes, final building removals, foundation work for elevated guideway, sewer utility works, and the start of earthworks around the Anthony Henday crossing.• The geotechnical work is done to assess current ground conditions. Notifications will be issued, and work will take place during off-peak hours (9 am - 3 pm). This work should be completed by mid-April.• Most building demolitions have been completed.• WEM Transit Centre is being temporarily relocated during construction. It will be relocated north of the mall north of 90 Ave and east of 175 Street. This is expected to be completed by the fall. The relocation project is not part of MIP’s scope and is being managed by the City separately. <p><u>Marigold Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeri of Marigold explained that Marigold Infrastructure Partners is a partnership between Colas (the parent company of Standard General) and the engineering firm Parsons. Both companies combine a strong local presence with international experience, and the team is currently being built.• MIP is committed to being a good neighbour by reducing disruption and neighbourhood inconvenience as much as possible.• The presentation reviewed the Valley Line West alignment and renderings of the Lewis Farms facility, the stations at West Edmonton Mall and Misericordia Hospital and the 87 Avenue elevated guideway.• This construction season will focus on early works including geotechnical investigations (which will have some off-peak traffic impacts), tree removal, utility relocations and foundations for the elevated guideway.• Design and Planning will also be happening this year.• As much as possible, MIP is attempting to capitalize on lower traffic	
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	<p>volumes resulting from the COVID situation. There will also be local conversations if there is flexibility to adapt the construction approach to neighbourhood preferences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There will be a close working relationship between the City and Marigold to ensure that community interests and concerns collected by the City in past engagement and communications are passed along. ● In response to a question about guarantees for on-time delivery of the light rail vehicles, which are being procured separately, it was explained that the procurement process takes into account the time required for fabrication, delivery and testing, but details won’t be finalized until a contract is awarded. ● There was a question about how much of the recent renovations to the West Edmonton Mall constitute “throwaway” costs. The response indicated that it was not possible to defer the essential repairs but the work was designed and implemented with the new LRT station in mind to avoid throwaway costs when the new combined station/permanent transit centre is built in the same location. ● The potential neighbourhood disruption of overnight drilling of boreholes was raised as a concern. It was explained that the timing is to minimize the impact on traffic, and the noise is expected to be minimal (somewhat like white noise) and short in duration. ● Participants were assured that the signalling system for Valley Line West and Valley Line Southeast will be fully integrated. 	
6.	Round Table	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There was discussion regarding the plan for communications, with a concern over too much reliance on Citizen Working Groups. There will be several methods of early communication, including printed materials, updates to the Valley Line West page on the City website, an updated Valley Line West booklet, social media, SMS (text) updates and mailing lists. In collaboration with MIP, additional methods will be added to ensure information issued in advance of work. Community events could provide opportunities to engage in outreach. There are several points of contact for questions and concerns. ● A variance has been issued as part of the development permit for the temporary transit centre. It was explained that, with the limited space being developed for the temporary use, this variance permits less landscaping than would normally be required. The regular landscaping requirement will be restored when the land is returned for redevelopment after the temporary use, and trees that have been removed will have to be replaced. ● There was concern that the distribution of zoning-related notices might not reach enough of the interested community due to distance from the land to be used by the temporary transit centre. It was suggested that this conversation, which relates to Planning and Development rules and practices, could be continued separately. ● The footbridge over 170 St was briefly discussed, and there is a plan in place to replace it. However, it is a separate project. ● A participant suggested that densification be discussed at a future meeting. The project team indicated this could occur in the context of explaining transit-oriented development within the new City Plan, but it will not affect the Valley Line West LRT design. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A participant asked for more frequent meetings, and more frequent information “bursts”.	
8.	Next meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was agreed that the next meeting should again be held as a joint session of Groups “I” and “J”, with June 29, 2021 set as the target, again online.	

Notes by Ginny Kulak and Jack Stuempel