Citizen Working Group - Zone "A" (Downtown)

MINUTES

Meeting # 4	Location: Downtown Business Association office, 10121 Jasper Avenue	
Date: Friday, April 21, 2017	Time: 1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.	

	Members	Attendance
Allan Kwan	Chinese Benevolent Association	✓
Lindsey Trufyn	Downtown Edmonton Community League	
Lindsay Whyte	Edmonton City Centre	
Melaniee Smith	Edmonton City Centre (alternate)	✓
Ian O'Donnell	Edmonton Downtown Business Association	✓
Nancy Chan	Boyle Street Community League	
Maria Snip	Boyle Street Community League	
Brent Francis	Edmonton Chamber of Commerce	
Shelley Switzer	Churchill Square Festivals	
Amber Rooke	Churchill Square Festivals (alternate)	✓
Sally Kim	Arts District	✓
Alf White	Boyle Street Community League	✓
Bill Patrick	At Large	✓
Young Quan	Seniors / At Large	
Dan Young	City Market Downtown	
Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor (Facilitator)	✓

Guests		
Dean Heuman T	TransEd LRT	✓
Jodine Chase N	Member of Citizen Working Group "B" (River Valley)	✓

1.	Welcome & Introductions	Action by:
	 Meeting participants introduced themselves, with Dean Heuman introduced as TransEd's new Stakeholder Relations Manager. 	



Citizen Working Group - Zone "A" (Downtown)

2.	Confirmation of Agenda
	With the understanding that TransEd's construction update will include activities affecting Churchill Square, the agenda was confirmed.
3.	Previous meeting minutes
	 The previous meeting minutes were accepted as circulated, along with finalized Citizen Working Groups terms of reference.
4.	Status of action items
	i. Map showing construction limits
	 TransEd has posted a construction map that reflects the LRT alignment and project boundaries on its website. A printed copy was circulated to the group, along with one that focuses on the downtown area.
5.	Project/Construction Update
	 Dean Heuman reviewed the construction map and schedule with the group, and confirmed that in most cases, sidewalks will be kept open. Where sidewalks need to be closed, alternate routes will be provided. TransEd was urged to ensure access for cyclists and pedestrians remains as inviting as possible. TransEd's attention was drawn to the need to protect air quality in the vicinity of major building air intakes (i.e. Edmonton City Centre). Emergency service access will be maintained and providers are kept apprised of construction activities. There is interest in the group in seeing how traffic management plans will maintain access. There will be some utility work during the year on 102 Avenue, but Churchill Square will not be occupied for work until October 2017. Construction of two parallel tunnels is under way. There have been reports of work extending beyond TransEd's 9 pm window, which Dean is investigating in cooperation with the Chinese Elders Mansion. (TransEd has an overnight work permit but is trying to avoid the community disruption of overnight work at street level.) There was discussion of the need for coordination with other projects, including Encore Tower and those active in the Civic Precinct area. Access to Three Bananas and Tix on the Square will be maintained. In addition, the TD Tower is to undergo an exterior renovation in 2018. TransEd will be offering hoarding space at Churchill Square and the Quarters to the arts/festival sector for art and announcements. There was also discussion over the need to ensure street lighting remains sufficient for security purposes. It was suggested that TransEd consider an information booth at some of the major Churchill Square festivals, and continue to emphasize that the festivals will remain present on the square in 2017. Jack provided a brief summary of engagement underway with the Chinese Benevolent Association for an appropriate phrase to be applied above the tunnel
6.	Round Table
	There is interest in Riverdale in connections to the new Downtown Bike

Citizen Working Group - Zone "A" (Downtown)

	Network, and addressing continuity gaps. There may be more information available at a future meeting. Edmonton City Centre has a cycle centre that might be useful for distribution of notices and information.	
	 There was a question regarding geotechnical investigations near the tunnel portal on the north bank of the river. It was explained that geotechnical monitoring to confirm slope stability is an ongoing activity. 	
	 Edmonton Arts Council has selected artists for several locations on the Valley Line, including the Tawatinâ Bridge, the Churchill Square Connector, Davies Station and the Mill Woods stop. Additional public art calls have been issued for other locations, with more to come. 	
	 Realization that the tunnel construction does not involve cut-and-cover techniques has been well-received. Appreciation was also expressed for reference in traffic notices to impacts on cyclists and pedestrians. 	
	 Concern was expressed over construction impacts on local businesses. TransEd is maintaining access where mandated and attempting to minimize impacts. 	
7.	Next meeting	
	 The target date for the next meeting should be early September, before the closures affecting Churchill Square begin. 	

Notes by Jack Stuempel