



UDI-ER COUNCIL BRIEFING NOTE

Date: June 1, 2020

Municipality: City of Edmonton

Topic: *LRT Transit Priorities (Update) - Strategic Options, Extension Planning and Proposed Stages of Construction*

Summary

- On Monday, June 1, 2020, at a Special City Council Meeting, Council voted 8-5 to approve Administration's recommendation regarding the next segments of construction priorities for funding LRT expansion - specifically, that the Capital Line South extension from Century Park to Ellerslie Road be prioritized over the Metro Line North from Blatchford to Castle Downs.
- While both extensions have had preliminary designs completed, Administration recommended prioritizing the Capital Line South extension due to certain logistical and land related issues.
- Administration is slated to return to Council with a business case and capital profile in August/September 2020 to advance the next prioritized project.

Background

At the May 3/4, 2016, City Council meeting, Council passed a motion, which included prioritizing the following LRT design projects for further work with the Phase 1 Federal Transit Stimulus funding (*alphabetical order*):

- Capital Line, Century Park to Ellerslie (HSW-1 to update preliminary engineering),
- Metro Line, North Blatchford to Campbell Road (HNW-2, HNW-3 for preliminary engineering).¹

At the May 25/27, 2020, City Council meeting, Council passed a motion asking Administration to return on Monday June 1, 2020, with an updated LRT project prioritization report to accelerate use of the balance of transit infrastructure grants previously committed to Edmonton, over and above the dollars allocated to West and Blatchford extensions, as well as, any additional funds that become available through transit stimulus and/or long term provincial and federal transit funding commitments.²

¹ City of Edmonton. Council Report (CR_8337), p. 1.

<http://sirepub.edmonton.ca/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=2736&doctype=agenda&itemid=81586>

² Ibid.

While the preliminary designs for both of the aforementioned LRT extensions are complete, City Administration stated in their report that, “from a project readiness perspective, the Capital Line is better positioned to commence construction sooner.”³ This is due to the following:

- The Capital Line extension will be built on land that is already owned by the City or is to be acquired from the Government of Alberta.
- Conversely, in order to advance the Metro Line extension beyond Blatchford, further work is still underway with CN on an agreement for the crossing of Walker Yard.
- There are also over 35 full and partial property acquisitions required along the North Metro line.
- Therefore, it is expected that construction could begin on the Capital Line extension as early as 2021, while construction on Metro Line, if funded today, could not likely begin until 2023/2024.⁴

Additionally, in terms of funding, the City has received \$2.94 billion for LRT construction from both the Province of Alberta and the Federal Government. Of this, \$2.25 billion has been allocated for the Valley West line and for the extension of the Metro Line from NAIT to Blatchford. This means the City currently has approximately \$700 million remaining for additional LRT expansion.

What Happened at Council

At the Special City Council Meeting on Monday, June 1, 2020, Council voted 8-5 to approve Administration’s recommendation that the following segments be the next construction priorities for funding LRT expansion:

- 1. Capital Line South from Century Park to Ellerslie Road
- 2. Metro Line North from Blatchford to Castle Downs

This means that the Capital Line South extension has been prioritized over the Metro Line North extension.

Next Steps

Moving forward, Administration will convey Council’s decision regarding LRT prioritization to the Provincial Government to secure the balance of government funding (both provincial and federal) and discuss potential additional funding opportunities for extensions further south of Ellerslie and north of Blatchford. They will also prepare a business case and capital profile for Council’s consideration in August/September 2020 to advance the next prioritized project.⁵

UDI-ER will continue to monitor and keep Members apprised regarding all LRT related Council activity.

³ Ibid, p. 3.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ City of Edmonton Administration Council Presentation. June 1, 2020.

<http://sirepub.edmonton.ca/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=2736&doctype=agenda&itemid=81586>