

Valley Line West - MINUTES

Citizen Working Groups H, I & J
(156 Street/SPR to West 87)

Edmonton

Meeting # 15 November 28, 2024 7 to 8:30 P.M. | GOOGLE MEET

Members		Attendance
<i>Zone "H"</i>		
Andrew Selwood	Meadowlark Community League	
Brent Dragon	Public at Large	
Byron Kwasnitza	Jasper Park Community League	✓
Jamie Post	Glenwood Community League	
Jane Duffy	Public at Large	
Josh Thompson	West Jasper / Sherwood Community League	
Sharon Beitel	Lynnwood Community League	
<i>Zone "I"</i>		
Andrea Kendall	Misericordia Hospital (AHS)	
Bill Mayou	Public at Large	
Christine Belter	Summerlea Community League	
Elisabeth Millinger	Elmwood Community League	✓
Pam Winski	Public at Large (Thornclyff)	✓
Rusk Redmond	Summerlea Community League	✓
Sharon Quickfall	Thornclyff Community League	✓
Stephen Poole	West Meadowlark Community League	
Trevor Small	Misericordia Hospital (Covenant Health)	
<i>Zone "J"</i>		
Aaron Clark	Aldergrove Community League (alternate)	

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Jasmine Allen	Belmead Community League	✓
Kelly Cromwell	Lewis Estates Community League	
Lorena Munteanu	Public at Large	
Mark Edey	Aldergrove Community League	✓
Maxime Belanger	Secord Community League	
Melvin Lacebal	Public at Large (Belmead)	✓
Paul Andrews	Rosenthal Community	
Danielle Stiemer	Lewis Estates Community League	✓
Scott Sowinski	Melcor Developments (West Henday Promenade)	

Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor	✓
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COE / MIP / Guests

Brian Latte	Project Director, COE	✓
Wade Wilson	Valley Line LRT Stakeholder Relations/CWG Facilitator	✓
Meghan Capicio	Valley Line LRT Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Associate	✓
Jonathan Cox	Deputy Construction Manager, Marigold Infrastructure Partners	✓
Jodi Doesburg	Communications Manager, Marigold Infrastructure Partners	✓
Lynley Kotyk	Senior Communications Advisor, Marigold Infrastructure Partners	
Sheila Keenan	Valley Line West LRT Communications Advisor, COE	

	DISCUSSION ITEMS	ACTION BY:
1	Welcome & Introductions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 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 and action items from the previous meeting were reviewed and discussed. 	
4	Action Item Review	
	<p>155 Street shortcutting from 156 Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Josh to send an email to Wade to specify areas where more signage could be added. (Complete) Wade will follow up with Josh to get more information. 	Ongoing
	<p>189 Street traffic congestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melvin to share the exact location (Complete) Tania to email response (Complete) 	Complete
	A hard copy of the VLW booklet was sent to Rusk (Complete)	Complete
	<p>Bike traffic over Anthony Henday Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rusk to email MIP with concern Rusk did not email MIP with the concern but shared that the bike path has improved. 	Complete
5	MIP Project Update (presentation)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A copy of the MIP/City presentation accompanies these minutes. Marigold will reopen the Stony Plain Road Bridge and 131 – 139 St to vehicle and pedestrian traffic on November 30, 2024. North/south traffic on 156 Street/Meadowlark Road between 87 Avenue and 100A Avenue will be shifted east, and one lane of traffic in either direction will be maintained. Left turns from 156 Street are permitted on 95 Avenue only. This change is permanent. Work on 87 Avenue will shift to the north side of the road, causing east/west traffic to shift south. The 175 Street access to West Edmonton Mall has been reopened. The Gantry Crane has been winterized and will resume operations in the spring. Work continues at most stops, stations, and utility complexes. Drainage work is to begin in January. Light plants and generators are being used alignment-wide to facilitate winter work. Jonathan explained that the Lewis Farms Transit Center stores Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) at an appropriate temperature for the first-morning ride. 	
	<p>Sharon asked when MIP removed the barricades from 175 Street and if this access would be closed again after Black Friday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jodi shared that the 175 Street access opened at 4:00 pm that day (November 28), and it will not be re-closed. Sharon asked if the pedestrian access was open too. Jodi confirmed that it is open. 	

	<p>Rusk asked about the elevated guideway's timeline for completion. He thought it was supposed to be completed this season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan shared that some concerns needed to be investigated regarding the guideway, but it should be completed next season. 	
	<p>Jasmine and Rusk asked about the Traction Power Substations (TPSS), specifically the one in Aldergrove, and whether this will be a permanent structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan shared that the TPSS will stay in the location permanently, but a brick building will surround the electrical wires. A rendering of a TPSS was shown to the Citizen Working Group members. 	
6	City Update (presentation)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A copy of the MIP/City presentation accompanies these minutes. The City has collaborated with Marigold Infrastructure Partners (MIP) to regularly meet with medium and large stakeholders through MIP-hosted stakeholder meetings. The City leads the proactive outreach program to engage with residents, small businesses, and other organizations as required. MIP and the City regularly meet with community leagues and business improvement areas along the alignment. If you would like MIP and the City to present and answer questions about Valley Line West at one of your community league meetings, please contact us. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valley Line West 2024 booklet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City shared that they have a Valley Line West information booklet available online and printed copies as well. Please contact Wade if you would like a hard copy mailed to you. https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/ValleyLineWest-LRT-Booklet.pdf 	
6	Round Table	
	Byron shared that his Community League is not overly concerned with shortcutting and thanked Wade and Jack for hosting the Citizen Working Group meetings.	Byron
	Danielle shared that he has been impressed with MIP's work and has started seeing the piece come together. Danielle shared that the traffic has been difficult, specifically in the 104 Avenue area.	Danielle
	<p>Elisabeth shared that she is glad that Wade offered that the City and MIP can present to individual Community Leagues and said Elmwood would be interested in having one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wade asked Elisabeth to email him, stating that the Elmwood Community League would like a meeting. 	Elisabeth
	<p>Jasmine shared that she felt this meeting was very valuable but can understand why it is wrapping up now. She gave kudos to the City and MIP, especially MIP, for their communication. She feels that there has not been a lack of communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wade thanked Jasmine on behalf of the City. Jonathan thanked Jasmine for the kudos and asked her to continue to share feedback on the project. 	Jasmine
	Mark shared that he submitted a concern through the MIP website regarding the 189 Street and 87 Avenue closure and has not heard back.	Mark
	Mark shared that he was invited to be a part of the feedback group who has not been satisfied with MIP's construction. Mark expressed that this experience was disappointing and frustrating and suggested that MIP does not include Citizen Working Group members in this in future.	Mark

	<p>Mark shared that the Street Team has visited the Aldergrove Community League a few times and appreciates them sharing information with community members. However, during the most recent visit, Mark shared that the team was not as engaging as compared to prior events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meghan shared that she appreciated the feedback from Mark. 	Mark
	<p>Melvin gave kudos to Wade and Jack and shared that he was amazed that there was a Citizen Working Group created for the Valley Line West project.</p>	Melvin
	<p>Pam shared that she appreciated being in the group and thanked the City and MIP for addressing her concerns over the years. Pam expressed that MIP dropped the ball regarding closing 175 Street. She shared that incorrect signage was on a barricade, and there was a no-left-turn sign that resulted in people shortcutting through Thornclyff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jodi shared that she is familiar with the incident. A subcontractor moved the barricade into the wrong place, and that is how the signage ended up wrong. • Pam shared that the subcontractor's mistake took several days to fix, MIP's website was not updated with the 175 Street closure, and there is a general lack of communication regarding construction delays. • Jodi acknowledged that MIP missed updating the website regarding the 175 Street closure and has no answer as to why this work was delayed. 	Pam
	<p>Rusk shared that he enjoyed these meetings and that hearing how other communities are impacted is interesting. Rusk asked when the Valley Line West project is expected to be completed considering MIP did not hit their schedule this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian shared that the City will provide more information on the project's timelines at the Stony Plain Road bridge opening event. 	Rusk
	<p>Rusk asked if the gantry work delay would impact the temporary transit center at West Edmonton Mall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian shared that the City will get an extension for the temporary transit center if needed. 	Rusk
	<p>Rusk shared that he has trouble navigating the City of Edmonton website when trying to find Valley Line West information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the direct link to the City of Edmonton's Valley Line West information page. • https://www.edmonton.ca/projects_plans/transit/valley-line-west 	Rusk
	<p>Sharon shared kudos to the City and MIP for hosting the meetings. Sharon found these meetings very helpful when sharing information within her community. She was able to correct misconceptions in her community when people thought a certain scope of work was MIP's when it was not.</p>	Sharon
8	<p>Citizen Working Group Close-Out</p>	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wade shared with attendees that this will be the last Citizen Working Group meeting. • Wade shared that as major construction projects move through the stages, the amount of influence external stakeholders have on the project changes. The project is now in the Build stage, moving from engagement to more of an information sharing, questions, and concerns meeting • Jack explained the history of the Citizen Working Group meetings. After construction launched, there was less opportunity for influence, so the City and Marigold saw a decline in attendance and discussion. • The City and MIP have numerous ways for you to stay informed, share your concerns, and ask questions. • Brian Latte, Project Director for Valley Line West, thanked members for their participation and time in these meetings. • The City and Marigold thanked members for attending. • Wade shared that Citizen Working Group members will be invited to join the project team for the “First Ride” when Valley Line West opens 	