



Public Involvement Downtown LRT Connector

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August 2011

Participant Feedback - Tour & Workshop #1 **102 & 102A Avenue Area Consultation – 95 Street to 97 Street** **July 24, 2011**

On July 24, the first in a series of three meetings was held at the Winspear Centre with residents, business owners, property owners, and other stakeholders from the community surrounding 102 Avenue and 102A Avenue, between 95 Street and 97 Street. The consultation sessions are being conducted by the City's Transportation Planning Branch at the request of City Council. The goal of these consultation sessions is to obtain additional stakeholder input on the LRT alignment through this area, including options along 102 Avenue and 102A Avenue. The input received will inform the City's analysis of LRT options. Following the additional consultation and analysis, the Transportation Planning Branch will report back to City Council with a recommended LRT alignment through the area.

The event began with a walking tour of the study area, beginning at 102 Avenue and 97 Street, proceeding east to 95 Street, north on 95 Street and then west on 102A Avenue, returning to the workshop meeting room at the Winspear Center. Six tour groups were formed on an ad hoc basis.

Participants were tasked with sharing their detailed local knowledge of the area, including pedestrian and vehicular traffic patterns, current patterns of usage of access/departure from buildings, parking and loading/unloading areas, urban design, land use and any other significant features of the area whether or not related to the LRT planning. The goal of the walking tour was to have locals tell the project team what is important about their community.

Following the tour, a brief presentation was made by the LRT project team to inform/refamiliarize the participants with the history of the project to date, the context and the purpose of the workshop and the next steps in the consultation process. The team confirmed with the stakeholder group that this consultation process would include three meetings addressing the following tasks.

- **Workshop #1** – This workshop focused on understanding the important aspects of the community and transferring this knowledge from the local residents to the project team. This workshop also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to identify their issues and aspirations for the study area.
- **Workshop #2** – This workshop will focus on working with the stakeholders to develop LRT alternatives/options within the study area for further analysis. These alternatives will then be further engineered and analyzed based on the analysis criteria previously developed for the Downtown LRT Connector.
- **Information Meeting #3** – This information meeting will focus on sharing the results of the analysis and the alternative to be recommended by the Transportation Planning Branch to City Council. Additional input will be collected at this meeting and packaged for City Council.

Following the presentation, the participants broke into 6 smaller groups to complete an exercise intended to collect comment and input. A map of the study area was provided for each group. Based on the discussions from the walking tour, participants were asked to document their thoughts regarding issues, opportunities, and aspirations for the study area. Stakeholder comments were collected on sticky notes and attached to the map at a specific location pertaining to their comment. In addition, a facilitator from the project team assisted each group and a recorder was chosen from each group to capture comments and then report the results back to the other groups.

Workshop Feedback - Group Key Points

Each workshop group was asked to identify a list of their issues, opportunities, and aspirations regarding the study area. Participants were then asked to pick their 3 most important topics from the broader list. The topics were presented to all stakeholders at the meeting. Below is a list of the most common themes identified through the group exercise. These comments represent the general themes from the meeting and are paraphrased from the original comments.

- **China Gate** - China Gate is an important historic site with symbolism and cultural meaning and is tied to a cultural contract with the City of Harbin, China. (The gate was a gift from the City of Harbin.)
- **Community/Cultural Identification** - 102 Avenue area is the core of the Chinese community with many important cultural, recreational, and residential organizations/facilities that serve residents from all parts of Edmonton.
- **102 Avenue** - 102 Avenue is an important street carrying many pedestrians, buses, and traffic out of downtown Edmonton.
- **102A Avenue** - 102A Avenue has more vacant lots (specifically on the north side) and is not as highly used by vehicles, pedestrians, or buses as is 102 Avenue.
- **Underground Option** - If the LRT was located underground, any potential negative impacts would be mitigated.
- **Development/Housing** - Even with the multiple residential, cultural, and business uses, the area would benefit from more development and activity to draw new people.
- **Parking/Vehicular Access** - Many of the attendees at cultural activities, those frequenting businesses, and the families of senior facility residents come from across Edmonton. Emergency access is critically important to the senior's facilities on both the 102 and 102A Avenues. Therefore, most visitors arrive to the area in vehicles so vehicular access and parking remain important.
- **Pedestrian Realm & Crosswalks** - This area attracts many pedestrians moving through the area, as well as those pedestrians who live in the area. Seniors walk along 102 Avenue and the staff of local businesses cross 102 Avenue on foot throughout the day. Pedestrian safety, with provision for mid-block crosswalks is important.

A complete compilation of the stakeholder input was collected from the maps and flip chart notes used at the meeting. These notes were used to develop the key themes identified above. Additional information is available upon request from the project team at 780-496-4874 or LRTprojects@edmonton.ca.

To close the workshop, the next steps in the process were reviewed including confirmation of the next workshop – Sunday, August 21, 9:00 AM at Winspear Center.