



Citizen Working Group - Zone "E" (Mill Woods)

DRAFT

MINUTES

Meeting # 5	Location: Golf Course Maintenance Building Mill Woods Golf Course, 4540 - 50 Street
Date: April 24, 2017	Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Members		Attendance
Leigh Makarewicz	North Millbourne Community League	✓
Mariah Samji	North Millbourne Community League	✓
Linda Shute	Mill Woods Town Centre	
Joan Kirillo	MCARFA	✓
Mitch Baxter	Leefield Community League	✓
Wil Tonowski	Leefield Community League (alternate)	
Dennis Emmerling	Woodvale Community League	
Al Aben	Woodvale Community League	✓
(Currently unassigned)	Lakewood Community League	
Michael Neuherz	Public at Large	
Paul Conway	Public at Large	✓
Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor (Facilitator)	✓

Guests		
Dean Heuman	TransEd LRT	✓

1.	Welcome and Introductions	Action by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting participants introduced themselves, and Dean Heuman was welcomed as the new Stakeholder Relations Manager from TransEd. 	
2.	Confirmation of Agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the addition under "Project Update" of the TransEd public open house to be held on April 26, the agenda was confirmed. 	
3.	Previous meeting minutes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as circulated. 	



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4.	Status of Action Items	
4.i	<p><u>Landscaping before/after map (TransEd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack circulated a construction activity zone map posted by TransEd on its website, and Dean showed maps of landscaping plans. 	
4.ii	<p><u>Seek opportunities for more trees east of 66 Street (TransEd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This item was discussed with as part of 4.iii below. 	
4.iii	<p><u>Like-for-like comparison of trees removed/planted (TransEd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean informed the group that the number of trees identified for removal between the Mill Woods Town Centre stop and Whitemud Drive had been 387, and that as of the end of March, the actual number of trees removed was 334. This is expected to be very close to the final number. He noted that trees are only removed where necessary for construction, or where they would not survive due to construction. As part of its landscaping plans following construction, TransEd intends to plant 1,190 trees and 31,550 shrubs in the same zone. While planting mature trees is impracticable, the minimum branch height on canopy trees being planted will be nearly two metres. It was noted that this level of detail is quite new as the landscaping plans are still in progress, and space is a consideration in the placement of trees. 	
4.iv	<p><u>Increase schedule & landscaping information (TransEd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TransEd has produced a high-level construction activity schedule which will be updated periodically. It is now being supplemented by localized neighbourhood summaries containing more detail, with community leagues to be notified when these local summaries are updated and posted on the TransEd website. It was agreed that updated summaries for areas south of Whitemud Drive will also be emailed to members of the Citizen Working Group. Dean also shared work-in-progress designs for LRT stops, and noted that the Edmonton Arts Council has issued calls for public art for these stops. Platforms will be very slightly higher than a normal sidewalk and fully accessible. LRT cars will be able to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, bicycles and even skis. It was observed that the stops do not appear to have a means of dispensing fares, however Dean noted that by the time the Valley Line goes into operation, the entire ETS system, including the Valley Line, is expected to be operating on smart cards. <p><u>Confirm email opt-in offers sent (Jack)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack confirmed that people on the City's email distribution list have been sent invitations to sign up for updates from TransEd. There have been a number of bounce-backs, suggesting that some people have changed email addresses without updating their subscriptions, and this may explain why not all members of a list are receiving updates. 	<p>TransEd</p> <p>TransEd</p>



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	<p><u>Zipper-merge messaging (TransEd)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TransEd has spoken with the City about a previous suggestion from the group encouraging promotion of the "zipper-merge" approach to efficient traffic movement in lane reductions. Dean reported that while the method is promoted by the Alberta Motor Association, it hasn't been formally adopted as a City policy. Nevertheless, TransEd is exploring social media opportunities and possible partnering opportunities with the AMA. <p><u>Woodvale Community League Sign (Jack)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack has explored partnering opportunities within the City for a new community league sign for Woodvale, however, at this time, accommodating a sign on City property appears to be the extent of the City's participation. There was a discussion about the convenience to community leagues of digitized signs capable of being updated remotely. This may need to be pursued as a separate matter with the City outside the context of the Valley Line. However, it would be helpful to first obtain clarity if there are any partnership opportunities with TransEd due to the possible need to remove the sign for the traction power substation. It was noted that North Millbourne also has some interest in establishing its own sign on the west side of 66 Street at 41 Avenue. 	<p>TransEd</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Project Update</p>	
	<p><u>Upcoming construction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean summarized plans for upcoming local construction activities during the next few weeks, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mill Woods Town Centre to 31 Avenue: Pipeline work at 29th Avenue; preliminary work to prepare for the Mill Woods Town Centre LRT stop. Noise wall work along the east side of 66 Street from 31 Avenue to 38 Avenue. Traffic on 66 Street will be shifted to the west side in advance of railbed preparation. Similar work (noise wall, traffic shift) is expected to begin by early summer between 38 Avenue and Whitemud Drive. Noise wall work on the west side is expected to follow. While there has been considerable public interest, there has been no new direction that would see the establishment of a Mill Woods Park & Ride. Other project update items were generally dealt with under #4 above. <p><u>April 26 public open house (and related matters)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a discussion about inquiries to the project information line and conclusions regarding the level of public satisfaction with respect to the Valley Line. Dean reported that the majority of callers to the project information line are seeking information on future LRT operations. Among residents whose properties are directly on the alignment, the satisfaction level has been mixed: while the project generally has strong support, such 	



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	<p>support is not universal. Where specific issues arise, efforts are made to resolve concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters such as transit trip planning after the LRT is operational at the end of 2020 are not able to be addressed in detail at this time. However, several months before the Valley Line goes into operation, there will be an extensive information campaign regarding updated bus routes and schedules. TransEd works closely with ETS with respect to construction impacts to day-to-day bus routes and stops. It is also considering neighbourhood concerns regarding short-cutting to avoid construction, and the prospect of future non-residential parking near the LRT alignment. The City is prepared to discuss residential parking programs in advance of the LRT opening with neighbourhoods concerned about non-residential parking. Given existing parking issues around the Grey Nuns Hospital, it was suggested that it would be useful to research if the Metro Line LRT has resulted in a reduction of parking issues in the vicinity of the Royal Alexandra hospital, and to consider if a targeted pass program might be warranted. There was an extensive discussion about the role of Citizen Working Group members in relation to other public engagement events, with the suggestion that consideration be given to a more formalized expectation for members to be present for such sessions. Given that members are already volunteering their time at the working group meetings, there has been a hesitation to impose additional obligations. However, members expressed a strong desire to receive early notification of other engagement activities and be invited to become involved. Past frustrations at the scarcity of timely information in the start-up period were reiterated, accompanied by questions from some members about the value of the group, the process, and its facilitation. While other members indicated they have felt sufficiently engaged, it was agreed that more information of the nature shared at this meeting, provided more frequently, would be beneficial. In support of this principle, TransEd offered to email Citizen Working Group members advance copies of construction bulletins and neighbourhood updates destined for the public subscription list and the project website. 	<p>Jack</p> <p>TransEd / Jack</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Round Table</p>	
<p>6.i</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern was expressed about the possibility of additional traffic cutting through residential areas in the northern part of Mill Woods to drop off LRT passengers at the Millbourne/Woodvale stop. However, it was suggested that a no-stopping zone for cars might address such issues, especially with a kiss-and-ride conveniently located a short distance north of Whitemud. In response to a question regarding Bombardier's ability to deliver light rail vehicles, Dean indicated that TransEd fully expects that delivery commitments will be met. Given the width of staircases in the Capital Line elevated stations, there was a question regarding the adequacy of staircases where they are required on the Valley Line, at the elevated station at Davies and at the LRT hub at Churchill. Dean will follow up. 	<p>TransEd</p>



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7.	Next meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The group agreed that the next meeting should occur on July 17, 2017, at 7 pm, again at the Mill Woods Golf Course Maintenance Building.	

Notes by Jack Stuempel