

#### Terwillegar Drive Expansion September 2020 Update

Edmonton

### **Project Background**

In October 2018, Edmonton's Urban Planning Committee accepted a motion to advance engagement on the expressway option for Terwillegar Drive. A public information session was hosted in September 2019 to share the recommended concept plan. The plan included three stages of upgrades to accommodate all users safely and efficiently, and support planned rapid bus transit services between the future site of the Ambleside Park n' Ride and South Campus LRT Station:

- Stage 1:
  - Widening Terwillegar Drive to four lanes in each direction between Anthony Henday Drive and Whitemud Drive (three lanes for motor vehicles and one *segregated\** lane for transit), intersection upgrades, enhanced bus stops, and a shared-use path on the east side of the corridor.
- Stage 2:
  - Whitemud Drive/Terwillegar Drive interchange improvements and rehabilitation/widening of the Rainbow Valley Bridges
  - Pedestrian/cyclist bridge over Whitemud Drive at 142 Street
- Stage 3:
  - Anthony Henday Drive interchange upgrades

More information, including what was shared at the event, can be found at <u>edmonton.ca/terwillegardrivestudy</u>.

#### What's New

On July 8, 2020, the Government of Alberta announced funding for upgrading Terwillegar Drive. The investment provides construction funding towards the south portion of Stage 1, from Anthony Henday Drive to Rabbit Hill Road, the shared-use path on the east side of Terwillegar Drive, the pedestrian/cyclist bridge and Stage 3.

The City is continuing to advance planning and design of Stages 1 and 2 and is currently conducting a technical study to further refine the concept plans for Stage 2. The study includes planning for transit priority measures (e.g., bus lanes, transit stops, etc.) to connect the planned rapid bus transit services to South Campus LRT Station.

The City has also initiated a study to develop a design for the pedestrian/cyclist bridge over Whitemud Drive. This study will provide opportunities for nearby residents, community members, community organizations and users to co-create a project vision and refine the bridge crossing concept.

### **Staging Plan**

Following the Government of Alberta's funding announcement, the City is continuing to refine the staging plan for the expansion of Terwillegar Drive as planning and design progresses. The currently anticipated staging plan is summarized below.

Design Highlights	Anticipated Timelines			
Stage 1 - Terwillegar Drive Expressway (Anthony Henday Drive to Whitemud Drive)				
<ul> <li>Terwillegar Drive widening to four lanes in each direction (three for motor vehicles and one <i>dedicated</i>* lane for transit). Intersection upgrades with enhanced bus stops</li> <li>Shared-use path</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fall 2020: Site preparations and utility relocation</li> <li>2021-2022: Construction - Rabbit Hill Road to Whitemud Drive Drive</li> <li>2021/22: Anticipated start of construction - Anthony Henday Drive to Rabbit Hill Road</li> </ul>			
Stage 2 - Whitemud Drive / Terwillegar Drive Interchange Upgrades Rainbow Valley Bridges Rehabilitation/Widening Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge over Whitemud Drive				
<ul> <li>Whitemud Drive/Terwillegar Drive interchange: ramp upgrades and transit priority measures</li> <li>Whitemud Drive: widening and associated upgrades</li> <li>Rainbow Valley Bridges: widening to four lanes in each direction</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>2020-2022: Design</li> <li>2022/2023: Anticipated start of construction</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Pedestrian/cyclist bridge over Whitemud Drive</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>2020-2023: Planning and design</li> <li>2025/2026: Anticipated start of construction</li> </ul>			

	Stage 3 - Anthony Henday Drive Interchange Upgrades		
٠	Interchange upgrades, including an	•	2021-2023: Planning and design
	additional northbound bridge, ramp	•	2023/2024: Anticipated start of construction
	improvements, active mode		
	improvements and transit priority		
	measures		
•	Terwillegar Drive/170 Street widening		

## **Notable Design Changes from 2019**

**Staging** - With the Provincial funding, all three stages of the Terwillegar Drive upgrades can advance to construction. With these upgrades, the projected improvements to traffic flow will be fully realized. Planned new rapid bus transit services will be accommodated through the new dedicated transit lanes on Terwillegar Drive and additional transit upgrades as part of Stages 2 and 3. Additional active mode upgrades will improve access and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

**Construction Timing** - To align with the new Provincial funding, the construction of the south portion of Stage 1, between Anthony Henday Drive and Rabbit Hill Road, has been scheduled for approximately 2021/22.

**Transit** - *Dedicated* transit lanes have replaced the previously planned *segregated* transit lanes. This reduces cost and design complexity while allowing for reliable and fast transit service.

**Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge** - After analyzing public input from previous engagement, upcoming public engagement will provide opportunities to refine the bridge concept.

# Figure 1 - Staging



#### **Next Steps**

 Fall 2020 Stage 1 North: Utility relocation and site preparation
 Stage 1 South: Detailed design to begin
 Stage 2: Preliminary design to begin (Whitemud Drive / Terwillegar Drive interchange, Rainbow Valley Bridges)
 Pedestrian/cyclist bridge: Planning and engagement begins
 Stage 3: Preparations to begin planning and design (Anthony Henday Drive / Terwillegar Drive Interchange)

Spring 2021 Stage 1 North: Anticipated start of construction

More information on public opportunities to learn about the construction details for Stage 1 will be shared this fall. More information on public opportunities to learn about the plans for Stage 2 will be shared in the coming months.

Regular project updates will be shared at <u>edmonton.ca/terwillegardrivestudy</u>. Please visit the website to sign up to receive regular project updates.