



ALBERTA
TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

September 3, 2024

AR 98986

Her Worship Jyoti Gondek
Mayor
City of Calgary
Office of the Mayor
PO Box 2100, Postal Station M
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5
themayor@calgary.ca

Dear Mayor Gondek:

I am writing to follow up on my letter of July 29, 2024, in which I confirmed the Province's funding commitment to the Green Line LRT project, subject to certain terms outlined in my letter. Subsequent to that letter, my department received the update to the approved 2021 Green Line Stage 1 LRT Project Business Case on August 15, 2024.

Department staff have reviewed the new business case and scope in detail, and I have serious concerns with the major reduction in the proposed benefits of the Green Line for Calgarians. For example, I note an approximate 40% reduction in the ridership while the total project cost has risen by about 14 per cent.

As the provincial government, we have an obligation to ensure taxpayer dollars for infrastructure are allocated efficiently and in a manner that will benefit the largest amount of Albertans possible. The Green Line is fast becoming a multi-billion dollar boondoggle that will serve very few Calgarians. This is unacceptable and our Government is unable to support or provide funding for this revised Green Line Stage 1 scope as presented in the City's most recent business case.

To be clear, we recognize your and the current Council's efforts to try and salvage the untenable position you've been placed in by the former Mayor and his utter failure to competently oversee the planning, design and implementation of a cost-effective transit plan that could have served hundreds of thousands of Calgarians in the City's southern and northern communities.

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And although we understand that hundreds of millions have already been spent on utility and other work for the current Green Line scope, throwing good money after bad is simply not an option for our Government.

In order to assist the City to address this issue, the Government of Alberta will undertake to promptly contract with a qualified and independent third party to provide the City and Province with alternative costed proposals for the Green Line alignment that integrate the red and blue lines along 7th Ave and run to the future Grand Central Station at Calgary's new Arena Entertainment District, and then continue above ground to, at least, the community of Shepard and hopefully beyond using the current budget included in your most recent Business Case.

The report will also examine a potential extension of an above-ground or elevated rail line from 7th Avenue to Eau Claire in order to bring some cost certainty to that portion of the line should it be pursued.

In addition, as we have also been informed by the City that there may be legal exposure with respect to the proposed Eau Claire portion of Green Line, which may have previously impacted alignment decisions, we request the City's legal counsel work with our legal counsel to better understand these legal implications, if there by any, so we can assess how best to address the situation in the best interests of Calgarians.

We expect both the City and the Board to provide my department with all requested documentation necessary to completing the above report and legal analysis. Once we have this needed analysis, we will work cooperatively with the City in determining next steps.

I look forward to discussing this matter further with you and to arrive at a final scope for the Green Line project that is beneficial to Calgarians.

Sincerely,



Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

cc: Rob Anderson, Executive Director, Office of the Premier