



June 24, 2026

Edmonton City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City of Edmonton
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2R7

To City Council:

**Re: Item 7.1 2027-2030 Capital Renewal Prioritization
Infrastructure Committee, June 24, 2026**

We appreciate the thoughtful approach to medium-term capital renewal planning. The report will start to give our business community greater certainty of the timing of various renewal investments. By working together, there is also the opportunity to leverage private sector investments for positive impacts for Downtown Edmonton.

The following are some initial considerations on key projects outlined in report Attachment 1:

Arterial Reconstruction, Jasper Avenue – 102 St to 109 St

- This section street is beyond its useful life and has a shabby appearance, not reflective of the role it plays as Edmonton's main street.
- With the large amount of other construction projects currently underway and high levels of commuter-frustration, it makes sense to consider this project after the Valley Line West LRT is operational.
- Understanding that this project may be delayed to the 2031 budget cycle, we would request an interim approach to tidy-up Jasper Avenue in the 2027 to 2031 budget cycle, including:



- Removal of the large green kiosks which detract from the visual appearance of Downtown. Traffic Signal infrastructure located within some of these kiosks would require new cabinets.
- Repainting of the green street light poles and signal poles to a pedestrian height, to show care and attention in the meantime.
- These require smaller scale levels of investment that demonstrate the importance of the street in the meantime before wholesale reconstruction.
- In planning for 2031, the EDDBA would also like to work with the City on a plan to leverage private investment into the properties on this specific section of Jasper Avenue. In particular, we would like to exploring incentivizing the conversion of vacant office buildings to residential uses.

Bridge Renewal Program

The outline of projects is in line with the May 25, 2026 update to the Infrastructure Committee. Our submission covered various requests, including:

- Maintaining access and minimizing economic disruption.
- Need for a coordinated Downtown access strategy.
- Futureproofing and planning for economic growth opportunities.
- Placemaking and city-building opportunities.

Neighbourhood Renewal Program

- **Downtown**
 - We note that Downtown is not noted in the 2027-2030 priorities for this program.
 - Action 2.1 of the Downtown Action Plan covers the following action:
Explore the development of a dedicated Downtown Capital Infrastructure Program to support the implementation of the master plan, leveraging both existing budgets and proposed required funding sources.
 - An update on the status of this action would be helpful, especially as the City heads into setting budgets for this upcoming budget cycle.



- **100A Street / Rice Howard Way: Jasper Ave to 102 Ave**
 - This key part of Downtown is experiencing tremendous investment with the renovations of Rice Howard Place (former Scotia Place), the Connect Tower (former Phipps-McKinnon), the ongoing presence of the Enbridge Centre (the first trophy/Class AA properties in Edmonton), and upcoming interim uses/redevelopment of the former BMO-site.
 - We appreciate the outline for additional assessment of Rice Howard Way to confirm the scope and rehabilitation approach. We look forward to engaging on this project, to complement the private investment that is being made there.

LRT Stations

- While Central LRT Station is noted for major/structural work in this upcoming budget cycle, station entrances at Central, Bay-Enterprise, and Corona Stations remain concerns for safety and accessibility.
- Action 4.1 of the Downtown Action Plan covers the following action:
Leverage CRL funding to upgrade transit infrastructure with improvements to LRT entrances.
- We note, however, that the CRL boundary does not include Central Station.
- An update on the plan for improving the entrances at this and the other Downtown stations would be helpful.

Citadel Theatre

- This property is the live-entertainment hub for Downtown and Edmonton overall. We are pleased to see that planning & design work is planned in this upcoming budget cycle for potential renewal work in the following budget cycle. We defer to the Citadel for an understanding if they have critical base building renewal work required prior to 2031.



Library Parkade

- The report indicates that the parkade is not scheduled for renewal work in this upcoming budget cycle.
- Current streetscape projects are significantly impacted access to the parkade.
- Consideration of future renewal after 2031 appears reasonable.
- We defer to the Library, The Citadel, The Winspear, and The Westin Hotel for an understanding if they are aware of any critical renewal work required prior to 2031.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this early feedback on the 2027 to 2030 capital renewal priorities. We look forward to continuing to engage with City Council and Administration on thoughtful planning and implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Robinson".

James L. Robinson

Executive Director

JR@edmontondowntown.com