November 3, 2026

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

To Mayor Knack and City Council:

Re: 7.2 Business Friendly Construction Policy - Infrastructure Committee on November 4, 2026

The Edmonton Downtown Business Association (EDBA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Business Friendly Construction Policy work plan. We would also like to acknowledge City Council for unanimously supporting the development of this initiative and Administration for bringing forward a clear framework, engagement plan, and project charter.

EDBA supports the overall direction of the report, the proposed timeline, and the commitment to meaningful engagement with businesses, Business Improvement Areas, commercial property owners, industry partners, and other stakeholders. We also support continued investment in city-building infrastructure and welcome the development of a Business Friendly Construction Policy.

This work is important because construction impacts are real.

Downtown Edmonton is experiencing the effects of multiple and overlapping construction projects. While these investments are important, they have also affected access, mobility, visitation, deliveries, and day-to-day business operations. Businesses are experiencing disruptions, and some have struggled to remain viable and profitable during extended construction periods.

The ultimate measure of success will not be the policy document itself. Businesses experience the reality of construction on the ground, while customers, visitors, and employees experience downtown through the lens of construction. Those experiences can influence whether people choose to visit downtown, how often they return, and what they tell others about their experience.

We encourage Administration to use the engagement process to identify practical ways to improve the construction experience for businesses, customers, employees, residents, and visitors. The policy is important, but the procedures, guidelines, standards, communications practices, relationship management approaches, and mitigation measures that emerge from the policy may ultimately have the greatest impact on the ground.

One area that deserves particular attention is relationship management. EDBA has seen firsthand the value of having dedicated points of contact on complex construction files. The City's current approach through the Downtown Integration Manager has demonstrated the importance of direct communication, coordination, responsiveness, and practical problem-solving when construction impacts arise. Strong relationships often resolve issues more effectively than policy alone.

EDBA will actively participate in the engagement process and encourage downtown businesses to provide practical feedback based on their direct experience. Our objective is not simply to inform policy, but to help identify practical improvements that can be implemented on future projects.

The timing of this work is particularly important. Downtown continues to experience major construction activity through projects such as the Valley Line West LRT. Looking ahead, we will also see work associated with downtown alley renewals, the 103A Avenue Streetscape project, and the accelerated rehabilitation of the High Level Bridge. Planning and design work will also be underway for future Jasper Avenue renewal involving underground LRT infrastructure, the Library Parkade renewal, and future cross-river bridge replacements. Construction will remain a defining part of downtown's future for years to come.

Success will require the City, utility partners, businesses, and stakeholders to work together in applying a business-friendly lens to how construction projects are planned, communicated, managed, and delivered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James L. Robinson
Executive Director
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