October 30, 2026

Sara Nicols
Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services
City of Edmonton
14th Floor, Edmonton Tower
10111 - 104 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 0J4

Dear Sara:

Re: High Level Bridge Rehabilitation and Slope Stabilization Project

Thank you for connecting today on the planned closure of the High Level Bridge in 2027.

We recognize that public safety must remain the City's primary consideration. We also understand the need to advance the slope stabilization and bridge rehabilitation work.

We appreciate the City's efforts to combine these projects into a single construction season. While the impacts will be significant, reducing the need for multiple years of major disruption is an important objective and one we support.

The High Level Bridge is a critical connection for downtown. Its closure will have significant implications for access, mobility, and visitation.

For these reasons, EDBA respectfully requests that the City develops a **Business Access and Visitation Plan** in advance of the bridge closure.

In our view, the plan should include:

- A detailed review of detour routes and anticipated traffic impacts.
- Opportunities to optimize signal timing and traffic operations throughout the downtown and central river crossing network.
- Coordination with other planned downtown construction projects to minimize cumulative impacts.
- Measures to maintain customer, employee, delivery, and service access.
- Mobility and transit considerations affecting commuters travelling to and from downtown.
- Business-friendly construction practices, including advance notice of disruptions, coordinated project scheduling, clear wayfinding, and maintenance of access throughout construction.
- A proactive business communications strategy, including regular updates, stakeholder briefings, and opportunities for direct engagement.
- A proactive public communications campaign focused on maintaining access to downtown destinations, businesses, events, institutions, and services throughout construction.

As a next step, we would welcome an opportunity to meet with the project team to review the proposed detour strategy and better understand anticipated impacts on downtown businesses, employees, customers, residents, and visitors.

We also encourage the City to host stakeholder information sessions or open houses before traffic management plans are finalized.

While we understand the work is necessary, its success for the downtown business community will depend on how effectively the impacts to downtown access and visitation are managed and communicated. We look forward to working with the City to identify practical measures that maintain access, support visitation, and minimize disruption to downtown businesses throughout construction.

Thank you for your continued engagement.

Sincerely,



James L. Robinson
Executive Director
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