



Tuxedo Park Community Association

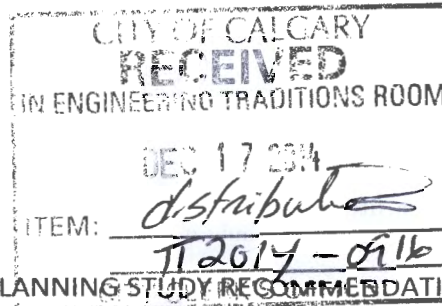
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December 17, 2014

SPC on Transportation and Transit



RE: NORTH CENTRAL LRT ROUTE PLANNING STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS, TT2014-0916

My name is Tammy Maloney. I'm the proud President of the Tuxedo Park Community Association. I'm here today to represent our community on behalf of our Planning and Development Committee.

I would firstly like to thank Jonathan Lea and his predecessor Jen Malzer for the amazing work they did to engage our community. Thanks also to Councillor Carra for introducing Jen to me. Because of this introduction our community was brought into the loop at the very beginning of the engagement process. Upon reading this report, we believe our community was heard.

Tuxedo Park is a small, but vibrant and diverse community that is bordered by Edmonton Trail on the east, 16th Ave on the south, 2nd Street NW to the west, and 32 Ave on the North. We are home to Italian, Russian and Mexican food markets and hidden gems like the Silver Inn, proud inventors of ginger beef! Centre Street runs right through our centre, creating a cohesion challenge for our community and increasing our stake in the plans for the North Central LRT.

Administration's first recommendation today is for council to approve the recommended alignment for the future North Central LRT on Centre Street North rather than Edmonton Trail. Tuxedo Park supports this recommendation. At our very well-attended AGM this year (close to 100 attendees!) we invited Jeff Binks from LRT on the Green to set up a booth and Jonathan Lea to present on the different route options. At the end of Jonathan's presentation we did an informal show of hands and it was significantly in favour of Centre Street.

In response to our community's passionate interest at our AGM, our development committee followed it up in the summer with a deeper dive into our community's values, vision and concerns with an LRT on Centre Street.

During this process we learned that our community is concerned about:

1. east-west cut through traffic
2. pedestrian safety
3. increased density
4. how an LRT will actually benefit both our community and our businesses

As pointed out by Marvin Quashnick in Thorncliffe-Greenview Community Association's letter of support, the evaluation of an LRT for inner city communities is more complex than that of the newer communities. Our sacrifices are great, while the benefits remain unclear.

In the areas where our community is strongly aligned with the community principles in the report, we are left with a question of HOW these principles are being taken into consideration moving forward.

We ask ourselves, HOW will an LRT contribute positively to our community's development and revitalization?

HOW will it contribute to the character and cohesion of our community? Centre Street already divides us, how will this unite us?

HOW will it contribute to complete streets including landscaping, urban form, pedestrian and cycling systems?

HOW will it improve our ability to attract quality businesses, not just inundate us with more customers for our fair share of liquor stores, massage parlours, payday loan and pawn shops?

In the non-tunnel option stops are slotted for only 16th Ave and 28th Ave, the bookends of our spread out commercial district. If a bus comparable to the number 3 no longer exists, HOW will an LRT help our businesses?

In a conversation with the owners of Silver Inn, Mr. Cheung said to me he wished us luck with our grand vision and dreams of an LRT positively benefitting our neighbourhood. Both he and his wife Theresa believe that even if the LRT came up this way in their lifetime, they doubt it will bring them any more business.

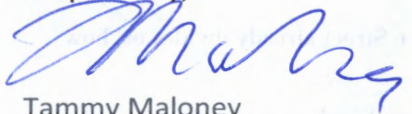
Are they right or is an LRT our opportunity to transform our commercial district along Centre Street and our residential community on both sides of Centre Street into a more cohesive, vibrant, thriving, walkable, pedestrian/bike-friendly, safe and fun neighbourhood? It remains to be seen.

To ensure Tuxedo Park not only sacrifices, but also benefits from an LRT we recommend the following are included within the scope of this project:

1. We support the NARROW option. The vision of a WIDE freeway running through our neighbourhood is terrifying, but it's unrealistic to think that car commuters are going to immediately convert to riding the LRT. We therefore recommend that a traffic study and neighbourhood traffic impact analysis are completed and plans are put in place to both divert traffic to other major arteries and to address increased east-west cut through traffic.
2. Tuxedo Park currently has no traffic calming measures in place. We dream of walking paths and vibrant public spaces throughout our neighbourhood. We therefore recommend that studies and plans to increase both pedestrian safety and neighbourhood walkability are included within the scope of the Centre Street Transitway project.
3. With the benefits of the LRT being unclear to both residents and business owners, we recommend that community associations, residents and businesses along Centre Street are educated in the specifics of how this will benefit our neighbourhoods. To ensure our neighbours and businesses are supportive over the length of this project, we will need this information.
4. With the establishment of the Next City Main Streets project, we recommend that the Centre Street corridor is prioritized highly as the project moves forward and that Jonathan's team continues to work closely with them. The economic research they are planning to perform will be required to improve Centre Street's chances of becoming a vibrant "Main Street" that unites our east and west sides. The impacts of the LRT must be included in their analysis.
5. Finally, it was stated within the report that transit oriented development (TOD) was better on Centre St, south of 24 Ave. We recommend that when the land use zoning is evaluated for TOD, that communities be engaged early in the process. This will help us represent our community's density concerns.

We'd like to reiterate our gratitude to Jonathan Lea and the entire team for their focus on engagement and the obvious hard work that has gone into this report. I'd also like to thank our fellow community associations, Highland Park CA and Thorncliffe-Greenview CA, for collaborating with us on this.

Respectfully,



Tammy Maloney

President, Tuxedo Park Community Association