



**Calgary  
Construction  
Association**

**75**  
YEARS



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July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Councillor Shane Keating  
City of Calgary

## CALGARY GREEN LINE LRT PROJECT

Dear Councillor Keating,

The Calgary Construction Association (CCA) represents over 800 contractors, subcontractors, consultants, service providers and suppliers to the construction industry in Calgary and area. We are writing you regarding the Green Line LRT project.

Firstly, we would like to state that the CCA is very supportive of the Greenline project. We believe that this critical infrastructure is important and support the project being delivered using the right delivery model in a cost-effective manner that will fully engage the local construction community.

Previous representation made to Council that alluded to the CCA's support of the previous delivery strategy did not actually reflect our opinion. We were in fact very concerned with this decision and had not, as was indicated, been engaged by any representative from the City in any aspect leading up to such a decision.

We are however encouraged by recent direction of Council that the previous decision to bundle the project as a single Design Build Finance Contract is being reconsidered and now it is likely that the project will be split into multiple portions. The downtown portion, south leg portion, and the previously noted enabling works package including the maintenance facility would all be on their own, three very substantial packages.

We were indeed concerned at the prior decision to bundle the Green Line as a single DBF project as this had precluded a significant degree of local involvement thereby minimizing the opportunity at a time when we desperately need stimulus in the Calgary market.

One area that does remain a grave concern for the CCA is the projected budget for the project. It is unclear to us how the original budget was arrived at and, as the scope and scale of the project, particularly the tunnel and underground portion through downtown, continues to evolve, we are concerned that the fate of other similar projects that have experienced massive cost overruns and delays with similar scope is a significant risk to our community. From a cost and risk perspective, from highest to lowest, Below Grade would be the highest, followed by Above Grade, with At Grade being the lowest.

We agree with the proposal to proceed with the south leg portion, enabling works and maintenance facility, which are well within our experience and capabilities in this City, while taking time to further review the options for downtown itself and what may be feasible within the budget parameters already set for the project. Considering our budgetary concerns as noted above we are particularly encouraged at the suggestion of taking a second sober look at this alignment, in particular over Bow river and through the downtown core to ensure the right solution is chosen that meets the needs of all Calgarians in cost-effective manner.

We truly believe that we have a great opportunity for engagement and collaboration of all stakeholders to study, review and consider all alternatives in order to ensure that the best-informed decisions are made that will serve future generations of Calgarians well.

Rather than provide further comments of our members in this letter, we would ask for an in-person meeting to discuss this further. We represent a great wealth of local expertise in our industry and we are also passionate about building a better Calgary. In troubled economic times such as these, and with no quick end in sight, we believe that we need an unprecedented level of collaboration between us all in order make the best decisions for our great city.

We would welcome the opportunity to facilitate engagement between local industry expertise and the City of Calgary and explore opportunities for consultation around this project.

We look forward to taking the next steps together.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Black', written over a white background.

Wm (Bill) Black B.Sc., LEED AP  
President & COO  
Calgary Construction Association

C.C. Michael Thompson