



Chinatown

華埠促進會 BIA

Business Improvement Area
Suite 208, 328 Centre Street SE, Calgary, AB, T2G 4X6



June 12, 2020

Submitted by E-Mail to Office of the City Clerk publicsubmissions@calgary.ca

The City of Calgary
800 MacLeod Trail South
P.O. Box 2100, Station
Calgary Alberta, T2P 2M5

Attention: **His Worship Mayor Nenshi,
Ward 7 Councillor Druh Farrell,
Ward 4 Councillor Sean Chu and
Other Member of City Council
City Manager David Duckworth
General Manager – Green Line – Michael Thompson**

Re; Green Line LRT – Stage 1 Updated Alignment – Chinatown Perspective

The Green Line LRT is a significant investment for Calgary and especially Calgarians who require a comprehensive transit network as an equalizer to live, work and play in this great city. Transit and the LRT are equally important to the Chinatown visitors, residents, property owners and businesses in this unique 110-year cultural enclave of Calgary. It has always been our intention to support the eventual wise and responsible Green Line LRT decision by City Council at June 15th Council Meeting.

It is important though that Council know that Chinatown BIA has worked diligently over the past few months with The City (Council members and the Green Line Project Team); neighbouring Community Associations (CA) and Business Improvement Areas (BIA) of Eau Claire, Crescent Heights, Tuxedo Park, Northern Hills, and Mount Pleasant; and with several local condominium developers, owners and residents. We have also consulted regularly with NAIOP and BOMA and support their recommendations to City Council.

All in all, they all support transit and the Green Line LRT initiative. However, there is no common agreement on alignment, approach, timing, and suggested amendments particularly for the Segment 2 alignment from Eau Claire to 16th Avenue North. Consequently, this only re-emphasizes the community's expectation that the Green Line team and Council be very mindful and diligent on Segment 2 functional studies and include the communities throughout the process. As this component of Segment 2 is the most significant and costly component of the Stage 1, The City cannot afford to make a mistake.

We have heard from the Chinatown community and they are very concerned and adamant that Green Line LRT must

- benefit the transit commuters to Chinatown – all modes of transit, BRT and LRT;
- treat equally and not impair all other types of modes of transportation (i.e. private commuter vehicles, commercial vehicle, bicycles, etc.) especially from North-Central Calgary where most of our visits come from and Chinatown workforce live;
- not erode the vital traffic, supply chain, business, cultural and customer interactions between Chinatown and Crescent Heights;

- not create traffic conflict or congestion on Centre Street particularly through the Centre Street Bridge to 4th Avenue South (downtown). We are especially concerned that transit and other vehicle crossover will compromise traffic safety and pedestrian safety at the 2nd and 3rd Avenue / Centre Street intersections;
- not consider aligning the LRT on Centre Street Bridge into Chinatown or create a parallel bridge for pedestrian / bike path. This would divide and be disastrous for this community;
- fully compliment the Tomorrow's Chinatown initiative; and
- financially support the properties and businesses in Chinatown, especially along Centre Street, during Green Line LRT construction and post-implementation. This must also include urban realm, streetscape and traffic corridor improvements and safety measures.

Finally, while we support Stage 1 of the Green Line LRT, we once again urge City Council to direct Administration to evaluate a Centre Street / Crescent Heights 'shallow tunnel' alignment as this would remove many of the conflicts between 16th Avenue North and Chinatown. Secondly, we ask that the additional costs be funded through savings in Segment 1 and 2A plus additional infrastructure funding. The investment would save Chinatown and along Tomorrow's Chinatown to proceed to the fullest.

Sincerely,



Grace Su,
Chinatown BIA Chair



Terry Wong,
Chinatown BIA Executive Director

