

18 May 2021

Ad Hoc Citizens' Committee
c/o Mr. J. Gray and Mr. B. Lester

Sent via email

Thank you for your letter and proposal on a Green Line Alternative Option received May 7, 2021. The Green Line Board acknowledges receipt of the proposal and the spirit in which it was provided. We appreciate that your Committee supports the overall vision of Green Line and that your advocacy of an alternative alignment is based on concerns about the cost and risk of the approved alignment.

The Green Line Board was named in January 2021 and provided with a mandate and the delegated authority required to deliver Green Line on behalf of our funding partners and the citizens and taxpayers of Calgary. As you have heard at our Board meetings, we have been working diligently to understand the project, including all alignment options reviewed and considered prior to the Council approved alignment in June 2020. As you note in your letter, it is a significant challenge to strike the right balance between the cost of construction and maximizing ridership, economic benefits and stakeholder interests. That being said, the Board is committed to delivering Green Line within the approved Council direction and supports the analysis that lead to that decision.

The costs and risks of Green Line are of significant importance to the Board and, since our inception, we have been undertaking our own due diligence on these items. This has included bringing in independent cost and risk reviewers to provide the Board additional confidence in the processes, data and estimates completed by the project team. The underground alignment through the Beltline and Downtown does impact the complexity of the project and is a key driver in the Board increasing our risk estimates from a P80 to a P90.

We understand that the Council approved alignment, with an underground component, will not be supported by your Committee but given our common commitment to mitigating the overall costs and risk of the project, Ian Bourne, Chair, Budget and Risk Committee and I would be pleased to arrange a meeting with you both.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in Green Line and we look forward to our future discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Fairbairn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Don Fairbairn
Chair, Green Line Board