Downtown Edmonton

Transportation Planning for an Integrated and Vibrant Downtown Community

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City of Edmonton – Transportation Planning
Outline

• Downtown Edmonton Background & Context
  • Policy Framework
    • Scale of Redevelopment
  • Transportation Planning & Design
    • Implementation Challenges
  • Coordination and Communication
    • Lessons Learned
Downtown Edmonton Background
Planning Policy Framework

• Maintain and optimize the use of the roadway system to Downtown Edmonton

• Enhance the viability of alternative modes of transportation

• Manage parking

• Excellence in street, park and open space design
Transportation Policy Framework

- Transportation and land use integration
- Public transportation as a cornerstone
- Encouragement of active transportation
- Manage the transportation system more effectively
Policy Framework: Transportation Planning & Vibrant Healthy Communities

Strategic goal – Health and Safety:
The transportation system supports healthy, active lifestyles

Encourage Active Modes
Reduce negative impacts of automobile dependence on personal health

Policy: Sustainable Downtown
Healthy Community and Sense of Place
Reduce Energy, Emissions, and Improve Air Quality

Policy: Well Designed Downtown
Well Designed Built and Urban Forms
Defined Street Framework

THE WAY WE MOVE
CAPITAL CITY DOWNTOWN PLAN

The Way We Move
The City of Victoria
Community Planning & Sustainability Division

Capital City Downtown Plan
Community Planning & Sustainability Division

The Way We Move
The City of Victoria
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Policy Framework – High Level Neighbourhood Planning

Figure 22: Roadway Network
Map shown is accurate but format is to be altered to be consistent with other maps for final draft.

Legend
- Downtown ARP Boundary
- Street Network
- Arterial Roads
- One-Way Direction

Legend
- Downtown ARP Boundary
- Bicycle Route
- Multi-use Trail
- River Valley Park
- Proposed Intersection Improvements
- Proposed Bicycle Station Area

Bicycle Network
Scale of Redevelopment – Downtown in 2013

- 32% of land was vacant or surface parking lots
- 20% of land was underdeveloped (2-storeys or less)
Scale of Development – Downtown by the Numbers

- 10 City Blocks of development on previously vacant/underutilized land
- 1.6 million sq. ft. office space
- 10,000 new office workers
- 4000 new residential units
- 50 % residential population increase
- 3 million visitors to new arena per year
- 4 New LRT stations
- 2 New LRT Lines
- $1.8 billion private investment
- $500 million public investment
Scale of Redevelopment – Arena District

• $605 Million Arena “Catalyst Project” + approximately $1.8 Billion in surrounding district under construction
Scale of Redevelopment – Beyond the Arena District

- Numerous additional proposals in addition to arena and district.
- Approx. $2 Billion in projects proposed or under construction

Source: http://www.montezcorp.com/assets/KR2.jpg
http://www.jasperhousecondos.com/gallery
http://www.infrastructure.alberta.ca/3655.htm
http://www.bingthomarchitects.com/project/centre-for-arts-and-culture/
http://instagram.com/p/pHuwoJCBKY
Planning & Design - Challenges/Opportunities

• Opportunities to implement strategic goals with redevelopment.
• How to accommodate new residents’ and visitors’ transportation needs?
• How to accommodate different modes within established rights-of-way?
• How to maintain transportation system operations during construction?
Metro Line (recently completed) and Valley Line (under construction) provide alternative transportation to southeast and northwest portion of Edmonton.

102 Avenue through downtown reduced to one lane eastbound.
Transportation Planning & Design

102 Avenue Today
- 4-5 Lane Cross Section
- Bus Service
- Capital Line LRT Station (underground)

102 Avenue Future
- 1 Lane Eastbound
- Protected bike lanes
- Bus Service Relocated one block north
- Valley Line LRT (at grade) with connection to Capital Line (underground)
Integrate transportation with proposed development.
Implementation Challenges

- How to manage transportation system during construction?

Legend:
- Construction proposed or underway on Downtown Properties
- Construction proposed or underway on Downtown Streets
Implementation Challenges

Construction Impacts on Transportation Infrastructure
Communication & Coordination

Downtown Implementation Strategy
“To coordinate, communicate, market, and effectively manage construction activity in Downtown and the Quarters.”

- Downtown Capital Construction Co-ordination Committee
- Downtown Communication /Marketing Committee
- Downtown Partners Working Group

Including Transportation Planning, Transportation Operations, LRT Design & Construction and Edmonton Transit
Communication & Coordination

Downtown Capital Construction Coordination Committee:

Internal experts to share information on Downtown construction and coordinate work in order to avoid inefficiencies, address issues, and take advantage of opportunities for coordination.
Communication & Coordination

Downtown Communication/Marketing Committee:

Effectively communicate City information related to Downtown construction, to mitigate public frustration with construction and congestion and to market Downtown as a vibrant, dynamic destination both now and in the future.
Lesson Learned (so far...)

• Integrated multidisciplinary team needed to effectively implement and manage change
• Continued engagement, communication, and coordination
• Providing guaranteed “clear routes” (Access Loop)
• Land use/development planning and transportation planning cannot proceed independently
• Still Learning!
Questions