



Hello! My name is Andrew Knack and I am very fortunate to be serving as the City Councillor for Ward 1 which includes the community of Britannia Youngstown. Although I have had the opportunity to connect with the community a number of times, I thought it would be a good time to visit and to share updates to some inquiries I have received from residents in the community. As you may have additional questions or comments not covered here, please feel free to contact me using the information on the back page.

Project management within the City of Edmonton

Most of you are aware of the challenges the City has faced in managing a few of its projects. We've reviewed our staffing, reporting, and process procedures here at the City and I thought I'd review some of these changes with you:

Staffing: Although it was discussed at the August 2015 Audit Committee meeting, there wasn't a lot of coverage about personnel changes within the leadership positions of the Transportation Department, which have had the most issues on some fairly high profile projects (Metro Line, Groat Road Bridge and Walterdale Bridge). In that August meeting, our General Manager of City Operations, Dorian Wandzura who started with the City in September 2013, told the Audit Committee that since he became GM, 70% of the personnel in those leadership positions within the previous Transportation Department have changed for a number of reasons.

Reporting: Another critical change is something that should have been the case back in 2009/10 when the Metro Line contract was approved and work started: written reporting. The audit showed that far too much of the critical reporting was verbal and therefore was rarely making it to the previous GM of Transportation let alone the City Manager or City Council. This was changed back in late 2013 which is why Council started getting regular updates on the progress on the Metro Line. Administration wasn't the only group to change reporting. City Council made a change so that we would have quarterly updates on all Capital projects that are \$20 million and more, along with a few critical projects that fall below that \$20 million mark. Since this report comes to Council at our regular meetings, everyone can see it, including the media.

Process: We have made some further changes to better streamline our project management. Using our existing staffing resources we have reorganized our project management into one single department (Integrated Infrastructure Services) rather than having each department responsible for their own project management. Many years ago the City used to have a Chief Engineer and this new department is the modern day equivalent of that. This new department should provide greater oversight to our Capital projects.

Outcomes in 2015: Many of you have asked if these changes have made a difference. Although I'd encourage you to refer to the full report available on the City of Edmonton's website, let me provide you with a brief summary on Capital projects within the City:

- 88% of the 92 projects listed are on or ahead of schedule.
- 96.7% of the 92 projects listed are on or under budget.

No matter how many personnel, process, or reporting changes are made, it is unlikely we will be perfect on every single project. The purpose of those changes is to minimize the opportunity for mistakes to be made and if they are made, to ensure everyone, including the public, is made well aware of any issues and what is being done to resolve them.

Jasper Place Area Redevelopment Plan

Creating the plan was a two-and-a-half year endeavor that required balancing community input with existing City policy and technical studies. Community input was an essential component of the Jasper Place Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) process, and directly informed the guiding principles and specific policies in the Plan. The final product is a vision that helps give Council and Administration clear direction when making decisions on future land use and City investment in the Jasper Place area. The ARP also provides current and future residents, businesses, and landowners clarity about what types of change and investments may be expected for their neighbourhoods. The plan will encourage and allow for the following types of housing:

Small scale housing: To allow incremental change over time in established residential areas to provide additional small scale, ground-oriented housing choices.

Active edge housing: To support a safe neighbourhood by focusing a variety of ground-oriented housing opportunities around parks and open spaces to increase overlook in these areas, and to create strong neighbourhood frontages along key community corridors and across from multi-family housing.

Transit oriented housing: To encourage a range of ground-oriented housing options in proximity to services and transit.

Multi-family housing: To provide a range of housing options along main community corridors and on large sites.

Commercial: To encourage more pedestrian friendly commercial nodes that support a walkable neighbourhood.

Check out http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/PDF/jasper-place-arp_adopted-plan.pdf to see what housing options are encouraged for your specific property, as well as your community.

For more information contact at Michaela Cochran at 780-944-5396 or michaela.cochran@edmonton.ca

Community Conversation

Approximately every three months I hold a community conversation to talk about various topics in Edmonton. The next Community Conversation is **Thursday, March 24th** 6:30-9:00 p.m.(doors open at 6:00) at the Boys and Girls-Big Brothers Big Sisters West Club, 16030-104 Avenue.

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