



Hi everyone! 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 Meadowlark. Although I had the opportunity to meet with residents while previously serving on the community league board, as well as door knocking and attending community events/meetings, I thought it would be a good time to visit and provide answers to some frequently asked questions. As you may have additional questions or comments not covered here, please feel free to contact me using the information below.

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 Transportation, 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 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.

Update on the Closing of the Jasper Place Leisure Centre

Project: *Jasper Place Fitness & Leisure Centre Renewal*

Scope: The Jasper Place Leisure Centre Renewal Phase I addresses maintenance and lifecycle deficiencies which include upgrades to the pool systems to meet pool code, replacement of windows and ceiling in the natatorium, upgrades to pool deck lighting, structural and waterproofing repairs and a retrofit to the aquatic change rooms and viewing areas.

Project Schedule:

Design: Fall 2016 – Summer 2016

Construction: Fall 2016 – Fall 2017

Project: *Jasper Place Bowl Grandstand Replacement*

Scope: The Jasper Place Bowl Grandstand Replacement supports extending the overall lifespan and improving the physical condition, demand capacity and functionality of the artificial turf facility. The scope of the project includes the replacement of the existing 2,000 seat grandstand, public washrooms, concession, storage and administrative spaces, an increase in dressing rooms from 2 to 4 and the addition of a spotters box.

Project Schedule:

Design: Winter 2016 – Summer 2016

Construction: Fall 2016 – Spring 2018

For more information on this project and to view concept designs, please visit:

<http://edmonton.ca/johnnybright>

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.