



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 Starling. As this community is growing rapidly and has many new residents that did not live here during the election, 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:

- 86.5% of the 97 projects listed are on or ahead of schedule.
- 99% of the 97 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 Ray Gibbon Drive

As many of you have been asking about this, I thought I would provide a recent update from the province as this road is under their jurisdiction and responsibility.

MLA Trevor Horne is aware of the concerns and is advocating for these much needed upgrades. They are awaiting City of St. Albert's Transportation Master Plan report while also doing traffic modelling to determine what the impact and cost improvements the upgrade will carry. Please get in touch with Mr. Horne to voice your concerns or to find out more information at sprucegrove.stalbert@assembly.ab.ca or 780.962.6606.

Starling Community League

While Starling does not yet have a community league, my hope is that you will very soon. There are currently 157 community leagues within Edmonton that enhance the quality of life in the neighbourhoods they represent. Community leagues are registered and supported by the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL), which provide amazing services and guidance to newly formed leagues. Community leagues do all sorts of things based on their specific community needs. One of the most visible things community leagues do is fundraise and work with the City to install new park amenities like playground equipment, spray parks, and basketball and tennis courts. They also lead local crime prevention initiatives and host events such as community league day and neighborhood clean-ups. Each community league is run by a board of elected community members, and everyone in Edmonton is eligible to become a member of their local league. Also, community league membership comes with great benefits like access to free skating on Edmonton's league-operated outdoor rinks, discounts on rentals at many league facilities, and discounts on annual and multi-admission passes at City-operated recreation centres.

Check out <http://efcl.org/> to learn more about community leagues and how you can start one in your neighbourhood. Also, please contact my office to let us know if you are interested in forming a Starling league, as I can then collect all interested names and contact information to share with interested individuals. We'd like to see at least ten people interested in forming the league to ensure the work is spread out and manageable for volunteers.

Community Conversation

Approximately every three months I hold a community conversation to talk about various issues and to provide updates on current issues in the Ward. We are currently planning for June so please call our office to find out when and where the next Community Conversation will be held.

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