

WEST LRT NEWSLETTER

The City of Calgary's West LRT progress report

November 2009

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WEST LRT
connecting calgarians

To keep current on the project
and its progress, please visit

westlrt.ca.

City Council approves new vertical alignment

On Oct. 5, 2009, City Council approved a change to the vertical alignment from 41st Street to 47th Street on the north side of 17th Avenue S.W. The LRT alignment is in a trench (below ground) with bridges at 42nd Street and 45th Street to maintain access to 17th Avenue for the adjacent communities. The 42nd Street and 45th Street intersections will operate as they do today, with the same turning movements.

Due to the alignment change, the 45 Street Station is now on the west side of 45th Street S.W. in front of the Alberta Motor Association building. The newly designed station is trenched, below ground and open to the air above.

Looking west at the 45 Street Station platform.



Looking north from 16th Street S.W. at the Sunalta Station.

Design-build team announced

On Oct. 29, 2009, Mayor Bronconnier announced SNC Lavalin is the design-build contractor for the West LRT. The joint venture team also includes Graham Infrastructure, Cana Construction Ltd. and Enmax Power Services Corporation. The project team will begin preparing the construction sites and lay down areas over the next few months with construction beginning in early 2010.

Mayor Bronconnier announcing the Design-Build contract award on Oct. 29, 2009.



Progress report – Current West LRT projects underway

There are a number of construction projects underway or completed in preparation for the West LRT construction. To find out more about these projects, please visit the website at westlrt.ca. Here are some highlights:

TELUS World of Science – Open for business!

The TELUS World of Science is open for business during building modifications and West LRT construction. The new parking lot and vehicle access on 11th Street S.W. takes you to the temporary visitor entrance on the west side of the building. Modifications to the south side of the building are underway and will be complete in December 2009. For more information on the TELUS World of Science, its exhibits and hours of operation, please visit their website at calgaryscience.ca.



Future east entrance – December 2009


Design-Build work begins


Geotechnical work is ongoing through November and December 2009, Monday to Friday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. This work involves drilling and digging to obtain soil composition data necessary for future construction. Please expect noise and a number of low impact lane closures during this time. Visit westlrt.ca for more information on traffic impacts.

West Calgary High School

Construction is underway on the new high school that will replace the existing Ernest Manning High School. The new school is located south of the future 69 Street Station. Ernest Manning High School will remain open and continue registering students, attending to their learning needs until The City completes construction of the new school. The existing school will not close until the new school is ready for occupancy by staff and students, currently scheduled for fall 2011.

Shaw Millennium Park

 The beach volleyball courts have a temporary new location to accommodate parking lot reconfigurations and West LRT construction. In spring 2010, Calgarians will have free access to two drop-in beach volleyball courts located in Bow River Park, just west of the Pumphouse Theatre. Four new permanent courts will open at Shaw Millennium Park once West LRT construction is complete.

 Access to Shaw Millennium Park from 11th Street S.W. is closed between the TELUS World of Science and Mewata Armoury until West LRT construction is complete. Access to the park is available from Ninth Avenue S.W.

Westside Recreation Centre

Working with the Westside Recreation Centre, The City is relocating the hard court and skateboard park south of the building between 69th Street S.W. and the playing fields. The City removed the facilities in October 2009 to prepare for West LRT construction. The new skateboard park and hard court will open for use in spring 2010.



For more information on the West LRT, visit westlrt.ca.

Transmission tower relocations

- AltaLink installed a new tower and raised their lines on the west side of Sarcee Trail.
- Enmax relocated two towers along Ninth Avenue S.W. and two towers on the east side of Sarcee Trail.
- These relocations are necessary to accommodate the West LRT alignment and the Sarcee Trail/17th Avenue S.W. interchange.

Shaganappi Golf Course

In partnership with Recreation, reconfigurations to the front nine is complete. Reconfigurations include new fairway alignments, relocating greens and tee boxes, and enhanced landscaping. All 27 holes will be open for the 2010 season.

West LRT Wins Mayor's Urban Design Award

At the Mayor's Urban Design Award (MUDA) held on Oct. 28, 2009, the West LRT project won the award for 'Approved or Adopted Urban Design Plans'. Sponsored by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, this event gives recognition to civil projects that show quality improvements to the built environment, successfully address multiple objectives and competing interests, and whose plan and implementation is supported by the community.

The awards are independently chosen by a jury, which was made up of Barry Johns (Architect, Edmonton), Gilles Saucier (Architect, Montreal), Bev Sandalack (Landscape Architect and Director of the Urban Design Programme, U of C), Ron Moppett (Painter, Calgary) and Andrew Wallace (Developer, responsible for University of Calgary's West Campus Lands).

Looking west at the 26 Street Station.



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Looking south on the underground Westbrook Station platform.

3D animation – New and improved!

The 3D animation of the West LRT alignment has been updated to include a number of West LRT features. You will now see the six LRT Station and plaza designs, the new vertical alignment west of 38th Street S.W. and a new perspective on the Westbrook, 45 Street and 69 Street Stations. The 3D animation focuses on the West LRT alignment and its general look and feel along the Bow Trail and 17th Avenue S.W. corridors. Please note, the animation is for conceptual purposes only. You can check it out at westlrt.ca.

Access Calgary and the West LRT

Throughout 2009, the West LRT project team consulted with The City's Advisory Committee on Accessibility, Access Design Subcommittee to ensure LRT stations were accessible to all citizens. Using universal design principles, the Alberta Building Code and The City's own standards, Calgary's West LRT stations feature a number of elements that provide patrons with safe and accessible public transportation. Here are some examples of accessible design elements that are part of the West LRT project:

- Platform edges feature wide, yellow, tactile strips to warn customers about the proximity of the train-way.
- Signage includes contrasting colours and large lettering.
- Platforms provide an appropriate walking surface for people who use canes due to reduced vision.

