



**Calgary**

Jyoti Gondek, Mayor

March 19, 2024

The Hon. Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
Department of Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5  
[chrystia.freeland@fin.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@fin.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Freeland,

I am writing to you on behalf of The City of Calgary on the Blue Line Northeast (NE) Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension project, a 1 km extension of the LRT to 88 Avenue NE from Saddletowne Station, which is a critical stage for future connections of the LRT to the Calgary International Airport. This will be the first extension to the northeast line in over a decade and will provide service to high-density northeast communities that have expanded far beyond the terminus making transit less attractive. In anticipation of the federal budget this spring, I urge the Government of Canada to demonstrate its commitment to our shared commitments to foster a more livable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable future by allocating \$53.5 million of the \$160 million total estimated cost for the Blue Line NE extension.

This investment will not only match the funding commitments from the Government of Alberta and The City of Calgary, bringing this project closer to being fully funded but also signifying a tangible step towards our joint aspirations of aligning public transit and housing initiatives.

The Blue Line NE extension is a pivotal transit project that serves as a catalyst for sustainable urban development, economic growth, and environmental stewardship in Northeast Calgary. Once built, an estimated 3,500 passengers will be served daily. By extending the LRT to this rapidly developing area, it encourages transit-oriented development, which in turn typically results in increased housing affordability, which The City's Housing Strategy supports. Further, this connects residents to major employment centers, notably the Calgary International Airport, and will foster job growth and economic resilience in an equity-deserving area where the market

for transit is very strong. Simultaneously, the extension is a key step towards establishing the Airport Transit Connection, an essential infrastructure initiative designed to link the airport with Calgary's core, thereby boosting tourism, improving city accessibility, and supporting climate action goals.

We are at a critical juncture where federal support can significantly impact Calgary's future and its residents' well-being and help to further Calgary's reputation as a world-class tourism destination. I look forward to your positive response and am eager to collaborate closely with the federal government to bring this transformative project to fruition.

Attached is an overview of projected cash flows for the project.

Thank you for considering this vital investment in Calgary's infrastructure and the future of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jyoti Gondek', written in a cursive style.

Jyoti Gondek  
Mayor, The City of Calgary

cc: Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities  
Hon. Soraya Martinez Ferrada, Minister of Tourism  
Hon. Pablo Martinez, Minister of Transport  
David Duckworth, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Calgary