



Calgary

Jyoti Gondek, Mayor

June 13, 2024

The Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors
127 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Dreeshen,

Re: Phase 1 of the Green Line LRT

Further to your letter dated May 8, 2024, with respect to Phase 1 of the Green Line LRT, I wanted to thank both you and Rob Anderson from Premier's Office for making yourselves available to discuss its contents with Darshpreet Bhatti, Carla Male, and me on May 21, 2024. As I shared during the meeting, Calgary City Council is committed to working closely with the Province and have seen that same spirit of collaboration realized through our shared investment in the Culture & Entertainment District and the Event Centre.

Like the Province, the Calgary City Council wants to ensure that we invest strategically in long-term city-shaping projects that support the growth needs of both Calgary and the province, and the Green Line is a perfect example. The Green Line team has been transparent that the project faces cost pressures like all major infrastructure projects across North America due to inflation, supply-chain disruptions, market conditions, and key labour and skills shortages. We share your concerns about the increased costs, and also highlight that this type of pressure is not unexpected given that Green Line funding was committed back in 2015 and 2017.

Working on a trilateral solution to these pressures must be the path forward. During our meeting on May 21, 2024, you provided helpful clarity that should scope changes be needed to address cost pressures, the full \$1.53B in funding would remain available. Having this type of clarification available in writing will allow Council to make decisions accordingly.

With your Ministry's current support of scope options being considered by Green Line around the 4 Street Station area, thank you for confirming that there is no impediment or constraint on Green Line's ability to move forward.

It is also imperative that we approach the federal government with a unified message that the Green Line is a critical piece of infrastructure that holds great economic benefit for both Calgary and Alberta. We must demonstrate that our existing trilateral funding model should prevail when we examine the additional funds needed for this project.

For that reason, I would respectfully ask that you reconsider your May 8, 2024 statement that no further funds would be available for the Green Line. With your Alberta Rail Study Master Plan currently in progress with a completion date of summer 2025, the City looks forward to working collaboratively with the Province on advancing this work. As you articulated, this is a key priority for your government and the integration between your investments in Green Line, the Event Centre and future rail projects is critical. The success of the Alberta Rail Study Master Plan is directly linked to the success of the Green Line, as market confidence is critical for the delivery of the economic and public benefit that both projects offer.

Uncertainty due to delays or cancelling of a supported funding agreement sends a damaging message to contractors and investors, which would in turn impact Alberta's economy and result in a loss of top-tier talent and construction companies to other jurisdictions. I know that is a signal neither the city nor province would ever want to deliver.

Council will receive further updates from the Green Line Board next week, and I would appreciate scheduling a follow up meeting with you to ensure we remain aligned during this critical decision-making period.

Thank you again for a productive meeting on May 21, 2024, and your continued support and investment in the Green Line LRT.

Sincerely,



Jyoti Gondek
Mayor, The City of Calgary

CC: Calgary City Council
David Duckworth, Chief Administrative Officer, The City of Calgary
Darshpreet Bhatti, CEO – Greenline, The City of Calgary