

Date: March 28, 2018

Attendees:

Jennifer Black, CHCA Board of Directors

Kevin Jesuino, CHCA Programs and Engagement Coordinator

Graham Gerylo, City of Calgary "Taking Care of Business" Lead for Green Line

Dylan Jones, City of Calgary Engage Resource Unit,

Ali Zaidi, City of Calgary Main Streets

Graham:

The City is making an effort to mitigate impacts to businesses from Green Line Construction

Kevin:

- The CHCA is working on creating a community hub, community art, placemaking – art by and for the community.

Jennifer:

- Working with businesses on creating a BIA for Centre Street to improve the street and support businesses. A key driver was Green Line and Main Streets and ensuring that businesses are supported and have a voice.

Graham:

- Don't know full impact of construction, but it could be years. Businesses and residents will be impacted.
- Businesses probably don't understand actual magnitude, trying to prepare businesses for what's to come.
- Parking will be a concern, Centre Street parking and parking lots may be impacted. Will be helpful if community were supportive of parking expanding into residential areas to ensure that the businesses that residents love can thrive.
- Residents depend on local businesses, especially those with mobility concerns or without access to a vehicle. Supporting businesses is in the interest of the community.

- Don't know if City will be able to help financially, cover losses of businesses.
- Looking to tailor tactics to different business owners.
- Construction can also bring business – quick food and coffee shops cater well to workers.
- Other businesses should consider what they can offer to construction workers.
- Traffic on side streets, parking, and dust will all be issues.
- May need to implement traffic calming to manage traffic on side streets if Centre Street is closed.
- Issues-based engagement will be undertaken by City. Examples of successes in other places were buying chalk sandwich boards for every business.
- Will have a City representative assigned to get to know every business, bring humanity to project so everyone knows who to contact, help businesses to survive.
- Full Green Line Phase I construction will be 2020-2026; Centre Street construction will be somewhere within that timeframe.
- Project is only at 30% design, at this point don't know how much of roadway will be dug up, for how long. Contractor will be informing that decision.
- Having a BIA in place will provide a partner for the City and help to leverage budgets.

Jennifer:

- Starting conversation in the community around expanding parking into residential areas. Not sure how much support there will be.
- Community would be in support of traffic calming.
- Businesses are concerned that rents will go up once street improves, they will no longer be able to operate there.

Graham:

- The BIA and the City will talk to landowners about keeping rents low post-construction, to thank businesses who stayed put and paid rent through construction.
- The City is focused on investing in the businesses that are currently there.

Ali

- Main Streets will work with businesses liaison so as not to saturate engagement.

Graham

- Between May and the end of the year, will talk to businesses about their fear, concerns, hopes – by December there will be more clarity and the business program will be rolling out.