

February 2nd, 2015

Honourable Wayne Drysdale, MLA-Grand Prairie-Wapiti, Minister of Transportation
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RE: WEST CALGARY RING ROAD (WCRR) – VALUE ENGINEERING, CONTEXT SENSITIVE DESIGN & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We respectfully request the Minister of Transportation authorize or instruct his department to continue to work with the Discovery Ridge Ring Road Committee to further value engineer the WCRR design to achieve a more fiscally prudent, safer and context sensitive design solution¹; and ensure this new outcome is reflected in the relevant P3 Contract(s). We believe the information and design solution we have provided are compelling based on the following:

- *Reduces significantly, the overall cost of the remaining segments of the ring road through a value engineering re-design process, which is especially critical during the current economic conditions;*
- *The traffic numbers projected by Alberta Transportation do not support the number of lanes in the present design. Specifically, 118,000 vehicles per day in 2050 can be adequately carried by three lanes in each direction, not eight lanes in each direction as envisaged by the Department. Therefore, the proposed solution does not impact the roadway performance or the projected capacity requirements²;*
- *A roadway cross-section utilizing a concrete barrier between the opposing lanes is safer in a congested urban environment than a wide landscaped median, and this has been proven on Calgary's Deerfoot Trail;*
- *Reducing the overall width of the roadway in accordance with the above will result in savings in the roadway construction costs; and will shorten each of the overpass structures by more than 50%. Total cost savings could exceed \$500 million;*
- *This process will maintain the project timelines while demonstrating true and meaningful community engagement by further extending upon the hard work his department has accomplished and the time they have taken with our community representatives;*
- *Meets progressive, sustainable development principles through decisions today that do not adversely affect the future generations;*
- *Creates a more context sensitive and safer road design that also has the following benefits;*
 - *requires and disturbs less land, earth moving/hauling and ultimately costs less;*
 - *conserves greater land for other utilities, open space and environmental mitigation measures;*
 - *achieves enhanced sound attenuation with no additional cost;*
 - *minimizes the visual impact more effectively with no additional cost;*
 - *reduces light pollution and light standards as hazards while offering cost savings; and*
 - *accommodates alternative modes of transportation and healthy lifestyles.*

We thank you in advance for your support and commitment towards building a more cost-effective, safer and context sensitive Ring Road; one that will be more broadly embraced by the surrounding communities, Calgarians and Albertans alike. We strongly believe that when the proposed solution is properly executed, it will serve to create greater community value and trust in the Provincial government. We look forward to working with your department on these innovative refinements.

Regards,
DRCA Board

¹ Please see attached plans and cross sections that illustrate the feasibility and merits of the proposed "value engineered" design solution.

² Please see attached comparable road way statistics that illustrate the long term operational capacity of the proposed WCRR roadway.