



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Release

Survey reveals, of decided SW Calgary residents, 2 to 1 are opposed to the SW Transitway & Bus Rapid Transit (SW BRT) Project

March 2, 2016, Calgary, AB – *ready to engage!* was created in November 2015 with the goal of ensuring that all residents and stakeholders could have their say on the SW Transitway and Bus Rapid Transit (SW BRT) project.

In a recent survey commissioned by *ready to engage!*, 2 to 1 of SW Calgary residents responded that they are opposed to the SW BRT project.

Since The City of Calgary has not yet assessed public opinion on this project, *ready to engage!* commissioned a short telephone survey in SW communities along the SW BRT line to address this gap (survey methodology/results are available at: www.readytoengage.ca).

"While the results of this survey have confirmed that meaningful public engagement and clear public support is important in ensuring that a project is accepted by residents, no household or organization in the country would start a project of this magnitude without knowing what the true costs are, what the new project scope is or how long it will really take," says Rick Donkers, Spokesperson for *ready to engage!*, "The City is moving full speed ahead with a project based on a budget and a plan that are six years old, both of which have not been updated since the project was re-launched this past fall."

With a recession looming in Calgary and Alberta, the economic landscape has changed since the project was approved in 2011. The project was passed before the Province approved the SW Ring Road and before 4-car Light Rail Transit (LRT) service was introduced by the City.

"This is not a \$40 million project. Taxpayers would like to know what the true project costs are. Where are the costs for the buses, utility relocation and the 90th Avenue underpass?," says Donkers, "Where is the cost/benefit analysis? If one was done, what are the results?"

SW residents have been asking for a transparent and collaborative process since the project was re-launched by the City in September 2015 following an announcement by the Province of GreenTRIP funding.

"Calgarians work better together," says Donkers, "We all want the best for our city and all we're asking for is to have a say in a project that will forever impact our communities."

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We are ***ready to engage!***, a coalition of concerned citizens spanning 14 SW Calgary communities whose mandate is to give a voice to residents and other stakeholders who have had none to date. We are in support of well planned, efficient and cost-effective public transit improvements for all Calgarians.

For more information please contact:

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