



December 14, 2015

Ms. Julie Yepishina-Geller
Communications
Transit Projects – Transportation Infrastructure
The City of Calgary
800 Macleod Trail South
Calgary, AB T2G 2M3

Dear Ms. Yepishina-Geller,

RE: SW Transitway and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

I am in receipt of your response dated December 11, 2015.

While I appreciate the clarification of the comments that you made at the December 7, 2015 Lakeview Community Association meeting, I would like to highlight that this project was passed by Calgary City Council on February 7, 2011 prior to the amendments made to the *engage!* Policy on May 27, 2013 that you reference. The first step of the *engage!* Spectrum when this project was approved was 'Inform/Communicate'. This step clearly was not executed properly, as evidenced by the fact that none of the hundreds of residents and stakeholders in the affected communities that we have spoken to in the past month have heard of this project.

This fundamental misuse of the *engage!* Policy for the project also applies to The City of Calgary's Triple Bottom Line assessment which all projects have to undertake.

I would also like to point out that the link to the original '*engage!*' Policy is still live on The City's website which still shows the proper five level component public engagement spectrum. Moreover, the 2013 amended version of the *engage!* Policy has 'Inform/Communicate' as an overarching process that is common to the entire spectrum.

Also, when one visits the current *engage!* Policy web portal for the SW Transitway, the information on this site is incomplete and does not list 13 of the southwest communities directly affected by the project. Furthermore, there are no workshops listed and no relevant information listed on the following portal tabs for the SW Transitway: 'Timeline', 'Provide Your Input' and 'We're Listening'.

In your letter you state that "The engagement for SW Transitway is currently primarily at a 'Listen and Learn' level..... also added that there are some specific elements that could be open to the 'Consult' level of engagement". In reading this statement, I am confused as to how only specific project issues are at the 'Listen and Learn' and others could

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already be at the 'Consult' level when the public was only truly notified of the project in late October 2015. To this day, we still do not have over 95 per cent of the preliminary project information that we have requested one month ago nor is it posted on the project website. Consequently, it is not feasible to move the project beyond the first level of the *engage!* spectrum since the first level has barely commenced.

First and foremost, the true starting point must be adequate public debate by City Council. Absent this step, the public cannot be assured that Council has properly considered this project and all of its attendant consequences and risks. For example, Council has apparently signed off on approving a conceptual study but have they approved the feasibility/pre-FEED, the FEED, the Final Engineering & Design and the final project execution plan, none of which can be done without the Final Engineering & Design?

I look forward to receiving the documents outlined in our Deficiency List so that we can begin to become properly informed and the intended 'openness and transparency' common to all engage processes is more than words.

Sincerely,

Maurice Tims
Chair, *ready to engage!*

C: Councillor Brian Pincott, Ward 11, The City of Calgary
Mr. Jeff Fielding, City Manager & CAO
Mr. Malcolm (Mac) Logan, General Manager, Transportation Infrastructure

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