



High Speed Transit

Transportation Master Plan

The Transportation Master Plan (TMP), approved by City Council in 1999, establishes the framework for how the City of Edmonton will address future transportation needs. This document reaffirms the need to have a high speed transit service as an integral part of City's public transit system and outlines the role of public transit in three core service objectives:

1. Meeting the basic mobility needs of people who have no other travel alternative: basic service at reasonable cost.
2. Offering a viable and competitive alternative to private automobile transportation during peak periods of travel, in high demand corridors.
3. Expanding the carrying capacity of the transportation system.

The TMP also established two key priorities for the transit in the initial ten-year period of its implementation.

- Construction of South LRT from University to Heritage Station
- Completion of necessary studies to define proposed technology, alignments, approximate costs and required right-of-way for high speed transit routes to serve the West, North and Southeast sections of the City.

Rationale for High Speed Transit

Conventional bus transit is subject to significant deterioration as congestion and automobile traffic volumes increase. Expansions or improvements to the existing bus system are limited by the available road space. Consideration of various high speed transit modes, and the corridors for which they would be suitable, is driven by the need to provide a degree of segregation of transit vehicles from general traffic, and the need for significant improvements to transit capacity and quality of service.



Four Pillars of Urban Sustainability

Urban Form

High Speed Transit (HST) supports *Plan Edmonton* and Smart Choices objectives, which call for intensification of development around transportation corridors and employment areas, as well as planning for and protection of transportation corridors required to implement the TMP.

Transit, including HST is a key component of the Transportation Master Plan. It contributes to managing congestion, providing a wider range of travel options, mitigating community impacts and addressing environmental impacts of the transportation system.

HST brings potential to provide better service to citizens dependent on transit, but also to attract new riders who regularly use private vehicles. Without HST, the competitiveness of public transit relative to the private automobile will suffer and the objectives established in the TMP will be more difficult to achieve.

High Speed Transit Planning Study

In October 2002, City Council provided direction to proceed with the High Speed Transit Planning Study according to the project scope document.

On April 27, 2004 the High Speed Transit Planning Study final report was presented and approved by City Council. A number of amendments to recommendations were approved during Council review. The attached diagram shows the staged HST network as approved by City Council for further study.

Further information and reading:

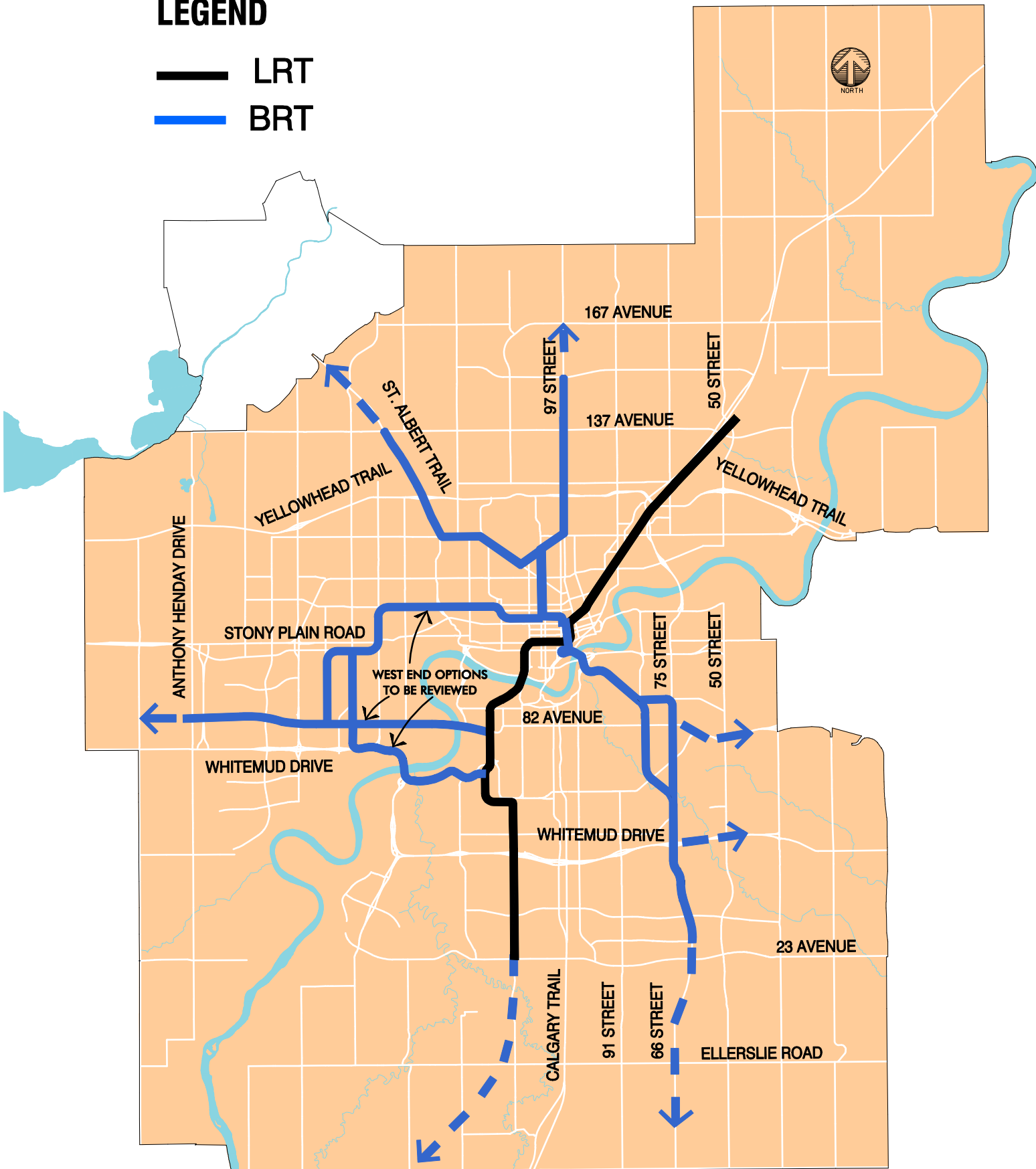
Council Report: Strategic Review for High Speed Transit to the West North/Northwest and Southeast

www.edmonton.ca/OcctopusDocs/Public/Complete/Reports/CC/Elected-1995/2004-04-27/2004TS8643.doc

STAGED HIGH SPEED TRANSIT NETWORK

LEGEND

-  LRT
-  BRT



AS APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL APRIL 27, 2004