



TELEGRAPH

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Demolition Progresses

Demolition of the old Hawaii Pizza building and the Trail Aligning building began in mid-September. While many area stakeholders have urged the City to just “tear down the entire block” demolition is not a quick and simple process. The City must first own the buildings and obtain vacant possession. After a previous owner or lessee has left, permits are to be obtained and a request for demolition proposals is tendered out. After the contract has been awarded, the contractor must assess the building(s) to ensure a safe and proper demolition. Hazardous materials must be properly removed (asbestos and contaminants) followed by site preparation and fencing before demolition can begin.



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Demolition work moves ahead in the Fort Road area.

In Edmonton’s booming economy, contractors in all industries, including demolition companies, are extremely busy and the City of Edmonton must compete with all other businesses and corporations in the Capital Region for the same construction resources. In fact, for some demolition projects, the City has received no bids in response to calls for tenders.

“The boom is excellent for Edmonton – it encourages growth and revitalization and is pivotal for this project’s future market viability, but it also brings some challenges with getting the work done quickly,” says

Rick Daviss, Fort Road Project Manager. He goes on to say, “We really have made good progress so far. It is the strong economic conditions and City Council support that have allowed this project to receive funding to revitalize the area. While demolition has made some progress, we hope to have more buildings down before the end of the year.” ■



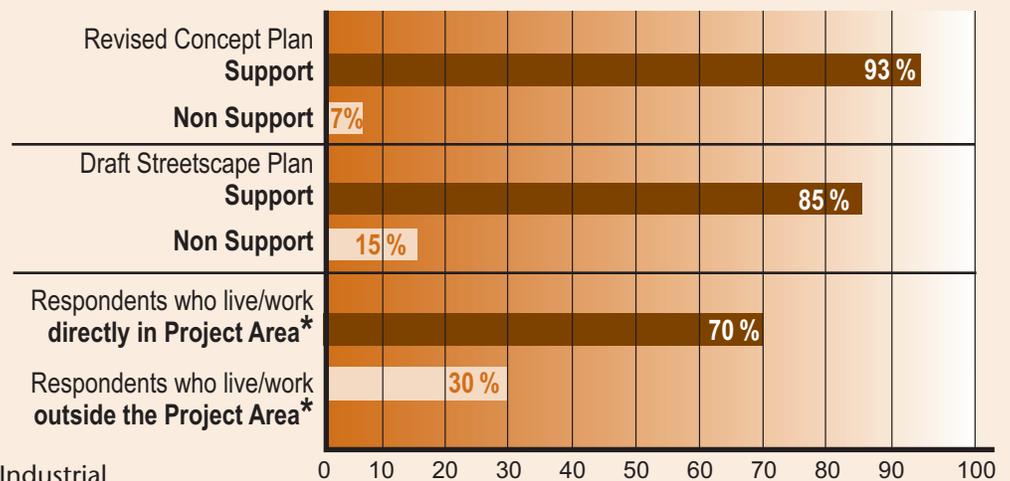
Summer Open House Well Received

The revised concept June 14 Open House was well attended despite stiff competition from an Edmonton Oilers/Carolina Hurricanes Stanley Cup Playoff game the same evening. Over 120 community and business stakeholders came out to see and comment on the refinements made to the Concept Plan.

Of those responding to a questionnaire about the urban design, a strong majority supported the Urban Design Concept Plan and the Streetscape Plan. The revised plan of Fort Road, confirming the retention of 129 Avenue as it currently stands, was also well received.

Questionnaire Feedback Overview

46 out of 122 attendees completed the questionnaire. The results identified are not statistically valid and only represent the view of those attending the open house.



* Belvedere/Balwin/Kennedale Industrial

Revised Concept Plan Feedback:

Support For: improved roadways, transit oriented development, proposed Spartan Park ball diamond relocation, housing, more access nodes, more green/park space, historical aspect, proposed architecture.

Suggestions by attendees: put in overhead walkway from LRT, fine tune major intersections for better traffic flow, take into account increased traffic from Yellowhead Trail and other major roads, consider lower percentage of affordable housing, put in a sound wall for the railroad, increase parking spaces, find space for playground and band shell, extend widening of Fort Road to 132 Ave.

Streetscape Plan Feedback:

Support For: parks/greenspace, benches/storefronts, traffic controls at 64 Street, pedestrian friendly areas, shopping, use of trees/shrubs for beautification, walkability, "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" principles.

Suggestions by attendees: angle parking, encourage appeal similar to Whyte Avenue, bigger park area, left turn onto Fort Road at 129 Avenue, lights at 64 Street crosswalk, pedway over Fort Road, historically appropriate street furniture, increase public gathering areas and green space, put in traffic lights at 134 Avenue and 66 Street, clean up north side of Fort Road, too many trees shown, install noise barriers, examine turning traffic on 66 Street and Fort Road during peak hours, mitigate traffic noise and traffic congestion.

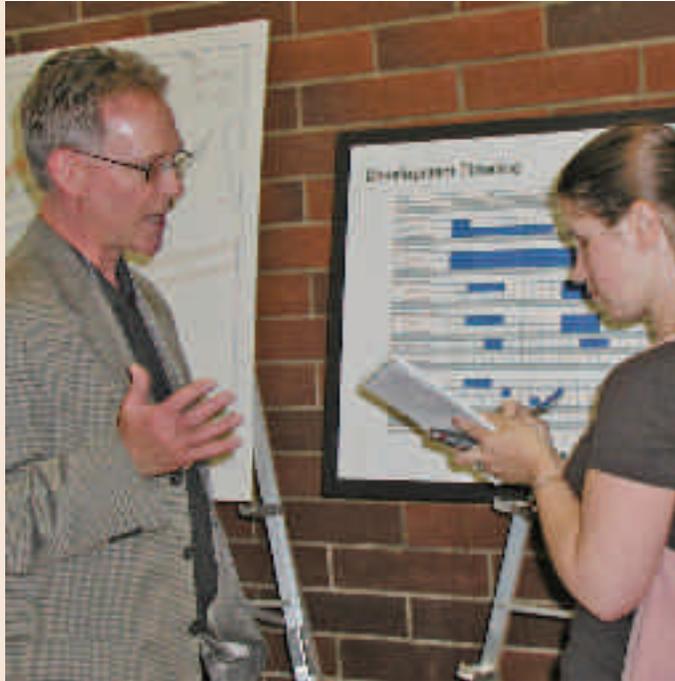


Key Observations at Open House:

Overall, area stakeholders continue to be supportive of the Fort Road Old Town revitalization project.

Open House attendees were appreciative the City of Edmonton had listened to their concerns when they saw the proposed modifications to 129 Avenue removed from the revised concept plan. Access and traffic flow along 129 Avenue will remain as it currently stands.

Community stakeholders also spoke directly with City staff about the proposed 20% affordable housing units for working individuals and families. These units will be targeted for occupancy to individuals and families who are regularly employed, earn 80% or less than Edmonton's median income (currently \$21,400 per year for single person households, \$25,120 per year for lone-parent families and \$56,400 per year for couple families) and paying more than 30% of that income on monthly cash rent.



Project Update



General Project Recap

Where We're at Now

- Demolition of city owned and vacant buildings in project area underway
- Preliminary Streetscape Plan Complete
- Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) Amendments / Design Guidelines in Preparation
- Proposed relocation for the baseball from Spartan Park consultation with Montrose Community League and residents in the Santa Rosa neighbourhood underway
- Property acquisition complete
- Affordable Housing Implementation Strategy Being Developed

What's On the Horizon

- Completion of contract plans by December 2006
- Investigation into sustainable developmental elements for project underway
- Finalizing Plan Amendment application by year end
- Public Hearing Spring 2007
- Council to Receive ARP amendment in Spring 2007
- Completion of all building demolitions and site contamination clean up by Spring 2007
- Relocation/installation of all utilities (water, power, sewer, Shaw cable, natural gas, traffic signals) during Summer 2007
- Road Construction (Fort Road and internal roads) during 2008



North Edmonton captured in time capsule

The “Together 2000” group, formed from representatives of the Spartan Men’s Club, Fort Trail Businessmen Association and former students of North Edmonton Public School and St. Francis Catholic School created a time capsule and monument to mark the Millennium in 2000.

The monument is created out of “Manitoba Tyndall Stone,” and truly represents the passion members have for North Edmonton.

Key participants who built and created the monument and time capsule:

- Wallace D. (Wally) Shaw - Master Mason
- Joseph (Joe) Soroko - H.O.D. Carrier & Master Lifter
- Bill Johnston - H.O.D. Carrier & Master Lifter
- Anne and Steven P. Eleniak - Time Capsule Initiator and Wrapper
- Joyce Novitsky, Janet Bowie, Donna Johnston, Anne Eleniak, Louise Rockett, Buddy Noon and Peter E. Seiersen – self titled “Getting-In-the- Way Supervisors”

The Time Capsule and monument was unveiled September 22, 2000 at Spartan Park with a commitment to open the time capsule in the summer of 2025.



The plaque reads:

When the North West Mounted Police established a post at Fort Saskatchewan in 1874, a trail later known as the Fort Road was opened between this post and Fort Edmonton. During the 1880’s, homesteaders began to settle along the road. When the Canadian Northern Railway came through in 1905, a community known as Dwyer grew up around this site.

When the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was extended just south of this area in 1909, Dwyer grew even more rapidly. In 1910, it was incorporated as the Village of North Edmonton. Being intersected by two intercontinental rail lines, North Edmonton became home to several major industries, including the Burns and Swifts meat packing plants. It was also a vibrant social community, featuring several schools, churches, retail outlets, a hospital, a railway station and the Transit Hotel across the road. Though annexed by Edmonton in 1912, the district continues to maintain strong community bonds and distinct identity.

This plaque is dedicated to the pioneers of North Edmonton whose hard work and perseverance resulted in the development of this neighbourhood.

The monument is still located on the west side of Spartan Park and will remain there during the 66 street and Fort Road widening construction. The “Together 2000 Monument” will eventually be relocated to a place of honour as part of the Fort Road Redevelopment.

Community Corner



Youth and community pitch in to clean up North Edmonton

Renewed commitment and pride in the community was apparent over the summer as community leagues, businesses and youth groups all pitched in for different initiatives to spruce up the Fort Road area.

Teenagers were taking part in the clean up movement with the North East Teen Centre working with the ICI Paint Centre and Belvedere Crime Council on "Graffiti Patrol." The eLMNt (element) - a network of youth groups from various north east Edmonton churches came together for The Wave, an annual service project in north east Edmonton on August 26. The Wave allows youth to make positive impacts through helping their communities. Their second annual project enabled 38 youth and 14 leaders to paint, build, and clean up yards in the community including: the Teen Centre, Kara-Lot, two of their churches (Emmanuel Reformed Church and North Edmonton Christian Fellowship), Kids Kottage, Mustard Seed Church and Emmanuel Home. For more information on The eLMNt, please contact Tricia Velthuisen at 479-4526 or ministry@telus.net.

“Every effort to take pride and keep our community clean counts.”



Community Corner Cont'd.

The City of Edmonton's Capital City Clean Up Program also brought two of its innovative programs to the Fort Road area. The Fort Road Business Association, Cap An' Cork, Belvedere Community League and Liquidation World conducted various "clean sweeps" in the spring and summer. The Girl Guides partnered with 7-Eleven convenience stores through the "Business Supporting Community Program" to pick up litter weekly in a one-block radius around seven northeast stores. The City of Edmonton provided additional litter receptacles around each 7-Eleven to help keep the area neat and tidy. "Every effort to take pride and keep our community clean counts and goes a long way to making us all proud of our homes and businesses. A clean community is also important for revitalization and very welcoming to anyone walking, shopping or driving in the area," says Deanna Fuhlendorf, Executive Director Fort Road Business Association. For more information on Capital City Clean-Up call 496-8252 or visit edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup.



Community Corner continued

Annual Breakfast brings many delights

The July 27 Annual Fort Road Breakfast saw a huge turnout in its 8th year. Clear blue skies, warm sunshine, hot pancakes, perogies, smokies, coffee, live entertainment and displays welcomed everyone for just \$2.00 each.



Community Feedback

Did you learn more about the Fort Road Old Town Redevelopment Project? Did you find the information helpful? Please call, write, fax or Email us with any questions, feedback, concerns or story submissions.

Please contact:

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The Fort Road Old Town Telegraph will be posted on the City of Edmonton's web page: www.edmonton.ca/fortroadoldtown

*Your City Cares...
We would like to hear from you!*

