

Alberta commits \$1.53 billion to Calgary Green Line LRT

BY JOC NEWS SERVICE JULY 19, 2017

CALGARY — The Province of Alberta will invest \$1.53 billion over eight years for Calgary's new Green Line Light Rail Transit (LRT), announced Premier Rachel Notley.



The funding is one-third of the project's total cost.

The Calgary Green Line will serve more than 60,000 Calgarians by connecting communities from 16th Avenue North through the downtown core to Shepard in the southeast.

"The Green Line project is about connecting Albertans – to work, to recreation and to home to spend time with their loved ones," said Notley in a statement. "This important investment will also create much-needed local jobs,

support the quality of life in the city of Calgary and help to protect our environment now and in the future."

In the 10 years leading up to opening day, Stage 1 of Green Line construction is estimated to create more than 12,000 direct jobs and over 8,000 supporting jobs, such as engineering, planning and administration.

The project will also support new, transit-oriented developments like Quarry Park in the south.

The province will provide one-third of the total project cost with the funds coming from the Climate Leadership Plan.

"As the largest public infrastructure project in our history, the Green Line will transform our city," said Naheed Nenshi, mayor of Calgary. "I'm proud of the work we've all done to get here today and I'm thrilled to have the Government of Alberta on board."

Revenue from the Climate Leadership Plan, including the carbon levy, will be reinvested to grow and diversify Alberta's economy and rebated to Albertans. Support for green infrastructure projects, like transit, are included.

The City of Calgary estimates that when Stage 1 of the Green Line is completed in 2026, it will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

Once the full Green Line LRT is completed, the project is estimated to reduce GHG emissions by 55,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually by 2048, growing to 67,000 tonnes annually in 2076.

More than 400 long-term jobs are expected to be created for the operations and maintenance of Stage 1 of the Green Line.

The province has already committed more than \$345 million to Calgary LRT projects, including nearly \$148 million for Green Line early works and nearly \$197 million for previously approved projects, including the 17th Avenue Southeast Transitway.

With the nearly \$148 million in provincial GreenTRIP support announced in December 2016 for Green Line early works, the total provincial contribution towards the Green Line is \$1.68 billion.

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