Shifting Thinking – Confronting Challenges Ahead

National Executive Forum on Public Property
City of Edmonton Presentation
Key Questions

- What are the key shifts affecting our service delivery?
- How will the shifts contribute or impede future success?
- What are future challenges?
Key Shifts

- Economic Downturn
- Acknowledgement of the Infrastructure Deficit
- Increased Focus on the Environment
Edmonton Context

- Economic Downturn
  - Budget constraints following a period of significant growth

- Infrastructure Deficit Acknowledged
  - Inventory of Assets
  - Condition Assessments

- Environmental Focus
  - Council Priority
Shifts To or Away from Success

Economic Downturn

Contribute to Success
- Limited resources force prioritization
- Re-thinking service delivery options
- Long-term planning

Impede Success
- Can lead to short term versus long term decisions
Shifts To or Away from Success

Infrastructure Deficit Acknowledged

Contribute to Success
- Focus attention on problem
- Raises priority
- Understanding that the deficit increases with inaction

Impede Success
- Magnitude of the problem is overwhelming
- Continued absence of effective tools and funding mechanisms
Shifts To or Away from Success

Environment Focus

Contribute to Success
- Understanding of impacts of not dealing with environmental issues
- Raises priority
- Promotes innovation

Impede Success
- Treatment as a stand alone issue versus a way of business
- Upfront investment for longer term payoff
What are Future Challenges/Opportunities?

- Increasing revenue streams
  - Leveraging core competencies
  - Private Sector approaches

- Expansion of Public Transit and Increasing Density
  - LRT Fast Tracking
  - Transit Oriented Development
What are Future Challenges/Opportunities?

- Underutilized Downtown Airport
  - Creation of a sustainable community
    - Environmental, Economic & Social Sustainability
- Planned schools no longer needed
  - Surplus reserve lands utilized for civic purposes
  - Opportunities for non-profits or housing
  - Revenue potential
Edmonton’s Future

- Economic recovery
- City Council’s strong Vision for the Future – The Way Ahead
- More challenges but more opportunities as well.