

**PROJECT CREDITS**

The Spur Line is a project part of the Housing Transportation Food Nexus, a University of Calgary research project in partnership with Sustainable Calgary Society.

**Project Lead**

Professor Dr. Noel Gerard Keough

**Research Assistants**

Lucia Blanco, MLArch Candidate 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Alfred Gomez, MLArch Candidate 3<sup>rd</sup> year

**Consultant**

Iuliana Morar, MLArch, Northern Land Studio

## THE SPUR LINE

With the advent of truck-based goods transport, many of the rail spurlines in Calgary have not been in use for many decades. Much of this property lies dormant and ignored. This infrastructure provides a significant opportunity for the city of Calgary to meet its land use and transportation policy objectives of revitalization of industrial lands, intensified mixed-use development in the inner city, economic diversification and promotion of active transportation modes.

For all these reasons, the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, City of Calgary Liveable Streets and Sustainable Calgary Society have begun to investigate the opportunities for conversion and re-purposing of the M-M-F Spur Line.

This exploratory study examines the entire MMF Spurline from its departure from the CP mainline adjacent to the Science Centre, through to the Franklin Industrial District. The purpose is to produce design material that we hope will create interest and excitement among a diverse group of stakeholders in the potential of the Spurline.

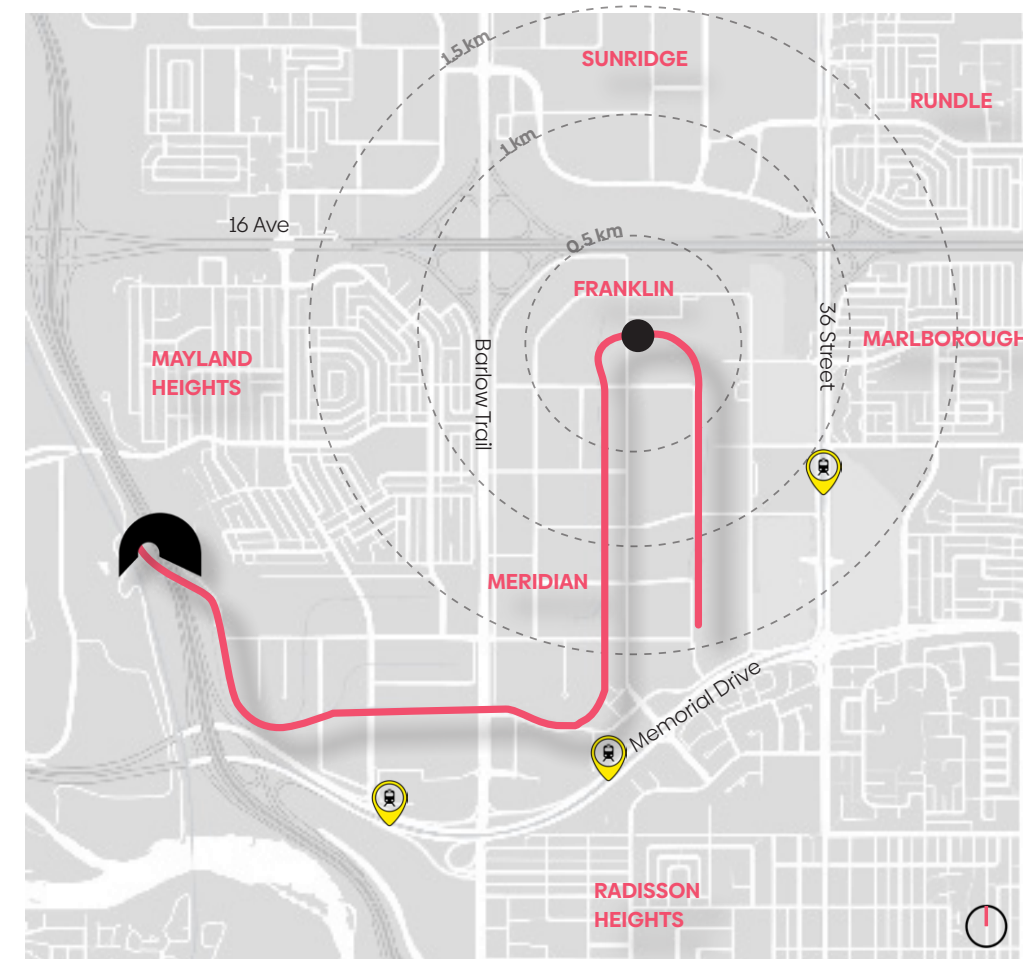
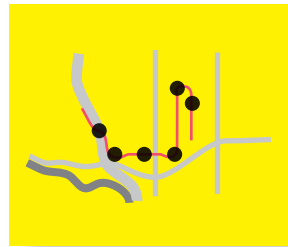


Fig. Spur Line map and walksheds



## EXISTING CONDITIONS



Node 1: the Gateway



Node 2: the Alex



Node 3: the Bend



Node 4: Parkland (!)



Node 5: the Bluff



Node 6: the tunnel

LEGEND

- Parks and Open Space
- Residential
- Industrial
- Commercial
- Institutional

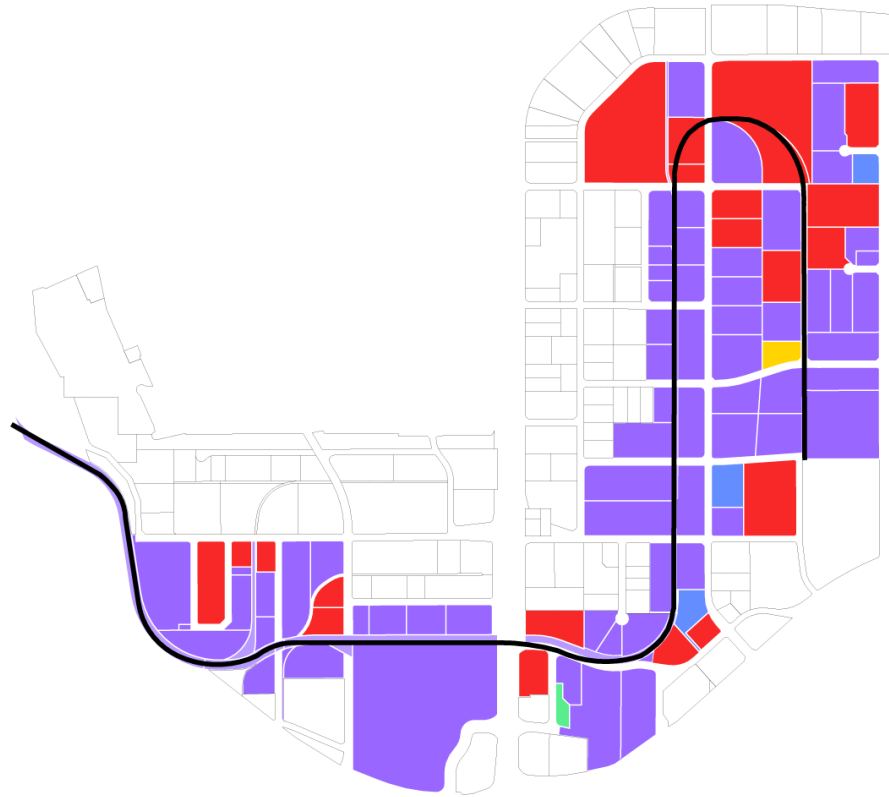


Fig. Conceptual landuse map along the Spur Line

In the context of fast urbanization, evidence of global warming and a better understanding of urban planning, single-use zoning are no longer an option. Leading to urban sprawl, neighbourhood segmentation and longer commuting times, single-use zoning must be re-imagined for vibrant multi-use environments, where residents can live, work, shop and recreate within a walking distance.

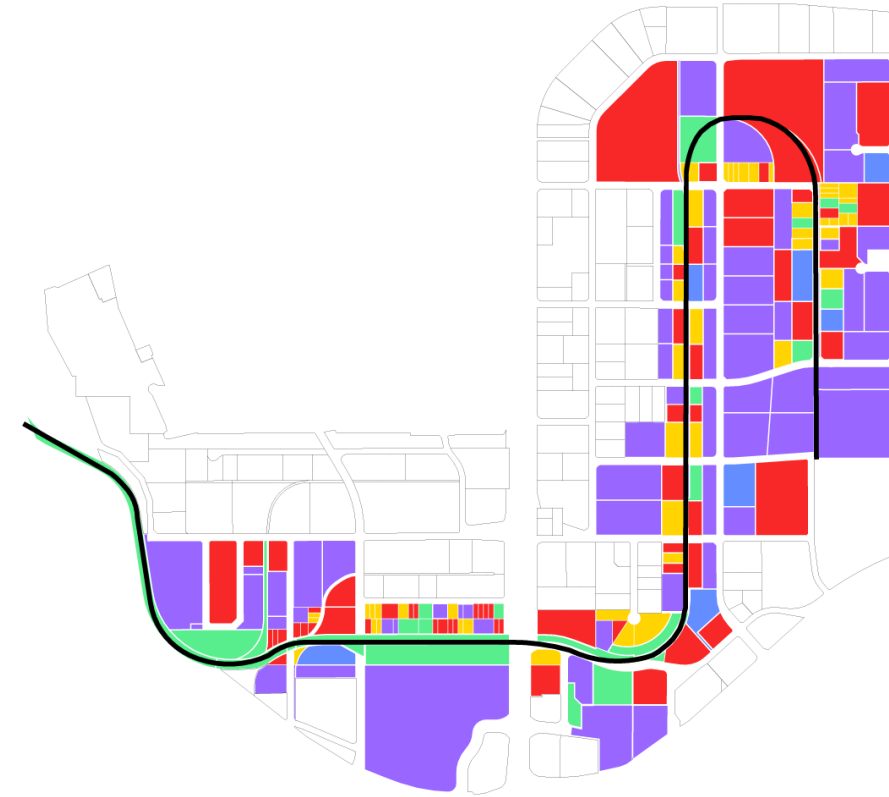
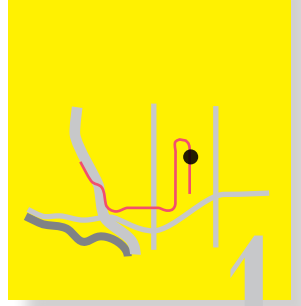


Fig. Conceptual vision for a mixed-use landuse map along the Spur Line

Acting as an agent of change, the Spur Line becomes a multi-modal active transportation corridor, bridging the multi-cultural SE Calgary community to the rest of the City. With multi-family housing, triple-use buildings, ample green spaces and vibrant public realms lining the Spur Line, the area increases density, widens diversity, facilitates active living all while improving connectivity across the Deerfoot divide.

# Gateway



"To strengthen shared identities, we need more opportunities for meaningful interaction across ethnic lines where we work, learn, recreate, and live."

Robert Putnam

Passing through the hearth of the multi-cultural neighbourhood of NE Calgary, development along the Spur Line has the opportunity to be a common ground for diversity. By using cultural identifiers, a sense of belonging can be achieved, stirring feelings of inclusiveness and acceptance.

## CULTURAL IDENTIFIERS



Nipa Hut pavilion (Philippines)



Multi-pupose seating and use of color (China)



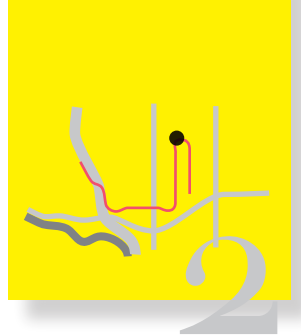
A multi-purpose, informal seating creates a sense of inclusiveness, allowing people to use the surface as they like.

Food and particularly street food is a powerful catalyst that brings people together.

Color and patterns are among the most powerful cultural identifiers for urban design.

# Confluence

A realm needs not to perform a function, but rather to accommodate multiple temporary-lived urban flows.



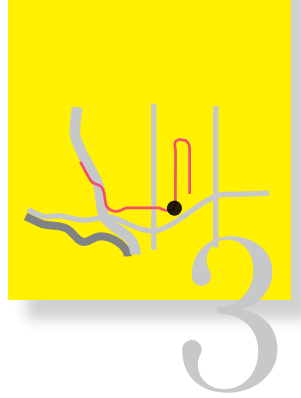
"All great planning comes down to the granular approach of how a building meets the street, how a street feels, how you feel walking in the city, and how it feels to be in public spaces and use public spaces that are inviting. Great public space is why you stay in the city."

Amanda Burden  
NYC Planning Commissioner (2003-2012)



Fig. Portland State University

# The bend

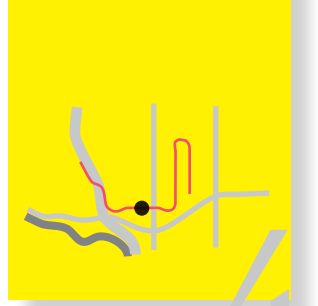


"Placemaking is the nexus between sustainability and livability: by making our communities more livable, and more about places(that) boost broader sustainability goals such as smart growth, walkability, public transportation, local food, and bikes, yet brings it home for people in tangible, positive ways."

Phil Myrick, Project for Public Spaces



# The bluff



Transforming existing industrial buildings into Live-Work-Shop environments increases landuse density

Magnificent views over the City and the mountains are an untapped opportunity for developers.

The bluff offers opportunities for recreational uses, providing outdoor spaces to residents and visitors alike

Along the Spur Line, there are a breadth of opportunities to transform the current singular landuse from Industrial into a vibrant live-work-shop environment.

Upper floors are usually reserved for living quarters  
Middle floors can become office space, accommodate light industrial or become shared workspaces

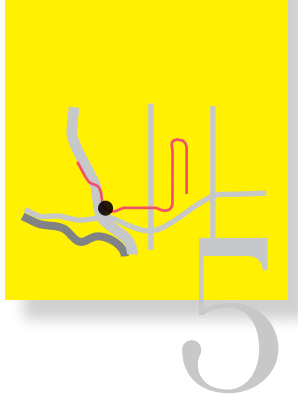


Fig. Live-Work-Shop building

Coffee shops, bakeries and other retail supports the neighbourhood residents



# Parkland



"Urban residents living near natural environments tend to know more of their neighbours, feel a stronger sense of belonging to the community, and have a more positive view of their neighbourhood."

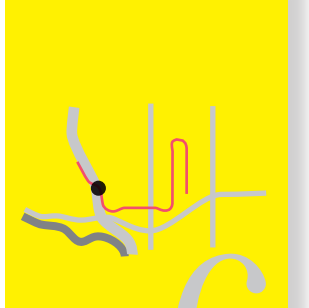
Canadian Parks Council



Fig.  
Park am Gleisdreieck –  
Flaschenhals by Atelier LOIDL

Transforming past industrial sites into public realms bring a strong sense of place anchored in the history of the site.

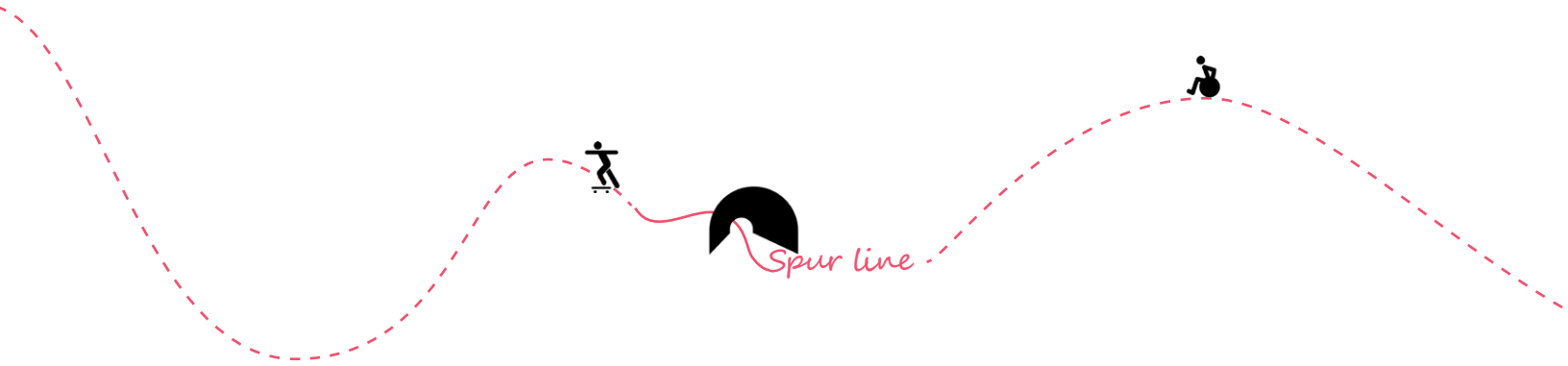
# Spark



Bridging across the Deerfoot divide, the tunnel at Sparks Science Centre is an important gateway linking the fast-growing, multi-cultural NE Calgary communities to the Downtown.

Connecting to the Nose Creek pathway system and the Science Centre, the tunnel is a critical connectivity link for the Spur Line in supporting a city-wide micro-mobility and active transportation corridor.





CALGARY  
**AUGUST 2020**