# YEG (Edmonton International Airport)

#### Departures Elevated Roadway and Ramp Rehabilitation

Aditi Jog (BEng, MSc, PMP, Prosci®) – Project Manager, Edmonton Airports Laura Talboys (BSc, MSc, P.Eng) – Associate, RJC Engineers

March 3, 2025

# Agenda

- History
- South Ramp Retaining Wall Distress
- Planning & Preparatory Works for Passenger and Traffic Accommodations
- Repair & Replacement Strategies
- Construction Manager
- New Design
- Construction
- Completion







#### History

- 1962: 394k passengers
- Original elevated roadway and ramp was 1961-62 construction
- Main terminal capacity 2.5M passengers annually
- Terminal and roadway expansion late 90s / early 2000s
- 1999: 3.8M passengers

- New south ramp during terminal expansion circa 2000
- Delegated design modular block retaining walls on each side
- Geotextile tie backs in backfill below road





#### South Ramp





Creative Thinking Practical Results









## South Ramp Retaining Wall Distress

- Notable distress observed starting 2016 on west retaining wall
- Subject matter experts engaged 2017-2021 for wall monitoring/survey
- WSP engaged for alternate traffic accommodation plan in 2019
- Rehabilitation project on 2020 Capital Plan
- Continuous monitoring through the pandemic
- RJC engaged in September 2022
  - Condition Assessment
  - Geotechnical Assessment (Tetra Tech)

#### **Condition Assessment Report**

- Accumulation of Factors
  - Concentrated wheel loads and centrifugal forces
  - Lack of drainage provisions
  - Swelling clay in the backfill
  - Saturated backfill
  - Coping beam rigidly connected to wall
  - Frost heave and thermal effects
  - Block deterioration
  - Snowplow impacts on curb and traffic barrier
  - Asphalt fatigue cracking







#### **Condition Assessment Report**

- Short Term Recommendations
  - Weight restrictions applied
  - Vehicle traffic limited to passenger vehicles
  - Traffic restricted to east half of ramp
  - Asphalt pavement on exit ramp sealed to minimize water ingress
  - Created a restricted area adjacent to the ramp

- Long Term Recommendations
  - Rehabilitate or repair west retaining wall
    OR
  - Complete ramp replacement



### Modular Block Wall Repair Strategies

- YEG: Maintain vehicle access
- Sheet pile retaining wall down center to close one side
  - New wall in front of the block wall
- External shoring and bracing
- Battered piles
- Movement on east wall





#### **Complete Ramp Replacement**

- New mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) retaining walls
  - Less costly
  - Minimal foundation work
  - Weather restrictions
- Elevated concrete structure
  - More expensive
  - Expedited construction with reduced weather impacts
  - Less settlement
  - Longer service life









- Weekly to twice weekly high precision surveys at 13 stations
- Walls eventually deemed to be not salvageable, consider full closure



EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

### **Considerations of Repair vs Replacement**

#### Repair

- Departures Level remains operational
- Delays replacement by 2-10 years
- Greater long-term cost
- Short term benefits
- Access challenges (pedestrian)

#### Replacement

- Improved design & enhanced quality
- Longevity of the structure
- Reduced overall timeline (1.5-2 years)
- Reduced overall cost
- Access challenges (pedestrian + vehicular)
- Option to widen ramp



#### **Proposed Replacement Timeline**



- Year 1
  - Departures level full closure (Feb 2024 Feb 2025)
  - New south ramp construction
  - Elevated roadway lanes rehabilitation
  - Departures level roadway OPEN
    Feb 2025
- Year 2
  - Curbs & sidewalks phased construction (Feb 2025 - Oct 2025)
  - Departures level roadway stays open



#### Schedule – Design Bid Build







### YEG Stakeholder Engagement

- Operations, Safety, Security
  - Emergency Response Services, Evacuation Plans
- Parking & Ground Transportation
  - Change traffic flows on Arrivals
  - Reconfigure Value Park lot
  - Parkade traffic flow
  - Relocate Priority Valet
  - Congestion at Exit Plaza
  - Reduced parking

- Terminal Operations & Passenger Experience
  - Airline check-in counters, baggage pick-up, customer service
- Facilities Maintenance & Asset Management
  - Increased infrastructure usage (elevators, escalators, revolving doors, HVAC, etc.)



#### **Preparatory Works**

- Information Gathering
  - o Traffic count
  - o Curb capacity
  - o Parking stalls
- Design alternate pick/drop areas, parking lots, signage & communications, etc.
- Execution: July 2023 Feb 2024













- Execution: July 2023 Feb 2024 Sept 2023
  - ~12,000 m<sup>2</sup> park & wait area
  - $\sim 4,000 \text{ m}^2 \text{ overflow lot (South)}$
  - Airport Road lane changes
  - Roadway & overhead sign updates











![](_page_20_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Execution: July 2023 Feb 2024 Sep 2023
  - North pedway restoration
  - Parkade Level 2 & 3 ACA (Accessible Canada Act) ramps
  - Signage & wayfinding

![](_page_21_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### **Construction Manager**

- RFP Issued June 27, 2023
- 30% Detailed Design
- Staged and Expedited Construction
   Fall 2023 to end of 2025
- Bid reviews & interviews

![](_page_22_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_6.jpeg)

#### **Project Constraints**

 Pedways to remain operational and pedestrian access to the terminal building interior via Departures Level to be maintained during construction

![](_page_23_Figure_2.jpeg)

DOOR

27

NORTH

EDWAY

DOOR 26

DEPARTURE ELEVATED S

SOUTH PEDMINA!

**ARRIVALS LEVEL - BELOV** 

YEG EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

#### **Project Constraints**

 Protected walkways for employees, passengers, and airport partners

![](_page_24_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_5.jpeg)

### **Project Constraints**

- Temporary construction access road
- Shoring in utility tunnel

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

![](_page_25_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### Schedule – CM Delivery Baseline

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Road Closure and Mobilization

- Wall surveys continue
- Emergency egress route from terminal through pedways maintained
- Emergency response plan with County of Leduc and YEG Fire Hall
- Condensed work area around south ramp
  - Public access on both sides
- +7M annual passengers
- Highly visible work area

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### **New Design**

- Cast-in-place concrete vs precast slab panels
- Designed to CSA S6:19 (bridge code)
- Moment frames for lateral
- Detailed to provide visual continuity with existing
  - Circular columns
  - Slab edges
- Waterproofed and grooved concrete topping
- Widened existing abutment for 2 full lanes
- Belled piles vs CFA piles
- Reduced carbon concrete

![](_page_30_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_0.jpeg)

- 875 m<sup>2</sup> useable space below ramp
  - Storage
  - Parking
  - Passenger experience
  - Employee area

![](_page_31_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_7.jpeg)

- New cast-in-place retaining wall
- Straight shaft piles
- TL-2 galvanized vehicle barrier
- Pile caps to cross over existing underground water, communications, and electrical lines

![](_page_32_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_0.jpeg)

- New sanitary line
  - Existing abandoned in place
  - Started Fall 2023 to allow for ramp construction
  - On hold over winter
  - Finished spring 2024
  - Added manholes
  - Use of existing manhole as short-term holding tank (pumped out multiple times per week)
- Existing water line upgrade
  - Added insulation

![](_page_33_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

### **Design Progression**

- Design packages expedited
- Concurrent with construction
- Design alternates considered
- Electrical design
- Elevated roadway rehabilitation packages

![](_page_35_Picture_8.jpeg)

#### Schedule – CM Delivery

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_2.jpeg)

Creative Thinking Practical Results

![](_page_36_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### Construction

![](_page_37_Picture_1.jpeg)

Equivalent to filling the cargo holds of 58 Boeing 737 MAX 9s with concrete!

![](_page_37_Picture_3.jpeg)

325,338 kg of Rebar More than the weight of **3 fully** 

loaded Boeing 737 MAX 9s!

![](_page_37_Picture_6.jpeg)

Of reinforced concrete poured. This would require 340 Boeing 737 MAX 9s to lift!

#### 91,000 Hours

Of work on the Roadway Rehab, or flying 1,905 times around the world!

![](_page_37_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_11.jpeg)

4,779 m<sup>2</sup> of Waterproofing Installed That's enough to cover the wings of **37** Boeing 737 MAX 9s!

![](_page_37_Picture_13.jpeg)

That's 98 Boeing 737 MAX 9s end to end!

3,000 Tonnes of Dirt Excavated for Manhole Repairs Enough to fill 46,875 carry-on bags!

![](_page_37_Picture_16.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_17.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_19.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### Schedule – Actual

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### **Schedule Evolution**

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Thank you!

![](_page_45_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_2.jpeg)