

Update: Public Transit

Initiative Title:	Public Transit
City Council Sponsor(s):	Councillor A. Knack / Councillor D. Loken
Supporting Department and Lead Staff:	Transportation Services, Charles Stolte, Edmonton Transit

BACKGROUND:

- Every day Edmontonians choose how to get where they need to go. Public Transit is one option and Edmonton Transit System (ETS) **is striving to become the preferred travel choice for citizens by offering choices to citizen's transportation options.** Like most North American cities, Edmonton is a vehicle-centric community for personal transportation needs. About two-thirds of citizens choose their motor vehicle for weekday travel and even more opt to use their personal vehicle on weekends. Travel distances, time, the weather and flexibility are all key reasons they rely so heavily on their vehicles. Many Edmontonians see their vehicle not just as a convenient mode of transportation, but as an expression of their individuality.
- In spite of this strong attraction to the motor vehicle, Edmontonians definitely see the benefits of a well-integrated public transportation system such as ETS. The vast majority of citizens see ETS as valuable to the city as a whole and many, particularly younger commuters, acknowledge the need to shift away from car travel to more sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and using public transit.
- It may be this growing sentiment amongst the public that has more and more Edmontonians using ETS. We have seen considerable growth in our ridership numbers; many are trying us for the first time, and those who use our services are using it more. **Our ability to provide customer-focused, safe, reliable and affordable public transit service helps us keep those riders.**

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- Citizens use more public transit and active modes of transportation
- The transportation system is integrated, safe and gives citizen choice to their mode of movement
- The expansion of LRT to all sectors of the City with a goal to increase transit ridership and transit mode split, and spur the development of compact, urban communities
- An efficient, effective, accessible and integrated regional bus network to service Edmonton and the Region with the collaboration of Regional Partners
- A comprehensive system of transit options for persons with mobility challenges
- A series of Park and Ride facilities located towards the extremities of LRT lines or at key transit centres where land cannot be used for more intensive transit oriented development
- An accessible, efficient and compact urban form through the Integration of land use planning and public transportation planning
- A safe, enjoyable and well-maintained public transportation system through the use of asset management best practices.

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ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC DIRECTION:

- Guided by City Council's direction on public transit, the City of Edmonton's Strategic Plan "The Ways" and the Comprehensive Transit Service Review, this document outlines a series of public transit desired outcomes and guides the overall initiatives for Public Transit over the next five years.

START-UP BUDGET REQUIREMENTS:

- This initiative is part of the funded Transportation Services budget. Approval of specific public transit initiatives are included as part of the capital budgeting process.

TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT PLAN:

- Ongoing.