

Edmonton Transit System (ETS)



FEBRUARY 27, 2014

1. ETS News

ETS Every Day Way to Get Transit Information

We're pleased to tell you that Smart Bus technology is being added to two new routes this month.

Starting on February 9, customers travelling on routes 7 (University-82 Avenue-Downtown-Jasper Place) and 57 (University-82 Avenue-Downtown) will be able to access real-time information about their buses using the ETS Live® suite tools. In January we added ETS Live® Email & Ride to the ETS Live® customer information tools currently available. This new technology augments the ETS Live® Bus Finder web service launched in November. Customers at University and West Edmonton Mall transit centres can also get real-time schedule information from the ETS Live® Departures Board installed on site.

As we go forward with Smart Bus technology, we'll be adding the technology to more routes.

Metro Line Construction Update

After five years of concentrated effort, construction for the Metro Line to NAIT is complete, and on time.

Rail has been installed throughout the Metro Line right-of-way, and ground down to meet the exact wheel profile of the light rail vehicles. The substations that power the line have been tested and powered up. The overhead lines will be energized shortly to enable the testing and commissioning process.

The roadwork is complete with the exception of some minor activities that will be finished when weather permits.

The majority of construction is finished at the Kingsway/Royal Alex Station, Kingsway/Royal Alex Transit Centre and the NAIT Station. Some interior work remains at MacEwan Station.

All stations and the transit centre have power and heat, and the mechanical and electrical systems are currently being tested.

Landscaping along the line continues and is expected to be finished in the spring.

The tunnel structure is complete and contractors are putting the finishing touches on the electrical and mechanical systems.

While construction is on time, the complexity of the new signal system required to manage the two LRT lines has created some delays.

Sharing track between Health Sciences/Jubilee Station and Churchill Station requires a sophisticated control system that allows controllers to manage speeds and distances between trains. This is particularly important if they are to run on a schedule of 2.5 minutes apart during peak times.

The control system installation/activation is taking longer than anticipated, but it needs to work perfectly from the moment it's activated.

ETS will be talking to residents in the neighbourhoods along the new line in the next couple of months about safety along the Metro Line. It won't be long before trains will be testing the track between Churchill Station and NAIT Station.

February Service Changes

There will be minor changes to ETS service starting Sunday, February 9.

Most of the changes are schedule related and have been designed to improve service efficiency.

Routes 7 and 57 now have Smart Bus Technology. Use the ETSLive® suite of tools to get real time information for your route at takeETS.com/ETSLive.

2013 Senior Passes

The 2013 ETS Annual Senior Citizen Pass is valid until March 31, 2014.

ETS will be mailing out renewal packages for annual passes in early March.

The new 2014 Annual Pass goes on sale Monday, March 3 at the ETS Customer Service Centre located on the main floor of City Hall. Cost for the Annual Pass is \$125 (the Low Income Annual Pass costs \$54).

Please note: to use a Senior fare, you need to be 65 years old. Customers under 65 years using these products could be subject to a fine of \$250.

School Holiday Service

Students will be out of school this month for Reading Week, February 18 to 21 and Teacher's Convention, February 27 and 28. We'll be adjusting service levels as a result.

During Reading Week, all pst secondary service will be cancelled.

For Teacher's Convention, school routes (numbered 600-999) will be cancelled except for University and NAIT.

Solar Powered Advertising Shelters

ETS is testing a new solar kit to power bus shelter advertising panels this winter.

Historically, illuminated advertising panels in bus shelters required a hard-wired electrical connection for power. With this new solar kit, the electrical connection is no longer needed.

The solar kit gives ETS the flexibility to move shelter locations quickly and easily, any time of the year, with minimal impact to the advertising. The one-time cost of the kit is significant change from the on-going power costs currently paid for traditionally lit shelter advertising.

Family Day Service

Monday, February 17 is Family Day, and ETS will be operating on modified Saturday schedules, with increased service in both a.m. and p.m. peak time periods. This increased peak service has been designed to address the travel requirements of customers working on Monday including those working in the industrial areas.

For travel details call Buslink at 780-496-1600, check www.takeETS.com, text 31100 or call 311. The ETS Customer Service Centre, including Lost & Found, will be closed on February 17.

Use an ETS Day Pass to travel with your family to family Day events. Up to four children (ages 12 and under) when accompanied by an adult, can use the Day Pass to ride ETS all day. Cost of the Day Pass is \$9.

2. DATS NEWS

Recertification Update

Following the introduction of the updated DATS application process in the fall of 2013, DATS is now beginning to recertify existing registrants.

Existing registrants began to receive letters notifying them of recertification in the first week of February. Once this contact is received, registrants are requested to complete the recertification documents within four weeks. Note that existing registrants are able to self-certify, that is, complete the forms themselves. While a health professional assessment is not initially needed, DATS may request one to be completed in the case that more information is required.

Once the recertification documents are received, they will be sent to a private medical organization, LifeMark. LifeMark will then contact the registrant to schedule and complete an in-person interview. Any updates to DATS eligibility will not take effect until spring.

Please note that DATS registrants will participate in recertification every five years.

Service Deployment Report

A major role for DATS Service Deployment is ensuring the vehicles are ready for the start of each operator's shift. Since the new business model in 2005, City of Edmonton Fleet Services had been providing some of the vehicle preparation service. DATS expanded its role to improve efficiencies and the management of vehicles and the garage. Starting in January, 2014, DATS operations technicians are now responsible for the complete vehicle preparation, not the operator. Operators are still required to do a lift operation and visual check at the start of their shift. Since the implementation of these changes in the Service Deployment role, DATS has seen an improvement in our 'on-time performance'.

DATS Stats – January, 2014

- DATS carried 82,923 trips in January with an average of 3,204 customers carried during the weekdays and 1,155 customers carried on the weekends.
- DATS continued to maintain a high overall on-time performance of 92.98 per cent in January. This is a slight increase from January 2013 (91.62 per cent).
- The trip accommodation rate continues to be high. In January, DATS achieved a 98.66 per cent accommodation rate.

3. November Statistics

Transit Ridership Information for November 2013	
Ridership	Total Year to Date
2012	75,014,565
2013	78,917,919
Change from 2012 to 2013	3,903,354
Percentage Change	5.20

December Statistics

Transit Ridership Information for December 2013	
Ridership	Total Year to Date
2012	82,754,242
2013	87,041,248
Change from 2012 to 2013	4,287,006
Percentage Change	5.18

4. Minutes from Council and Committees of Council

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – FEBRUARY 5, 2014

5.3 [Long Term Bus Fleet Strategy - Propulsion Technology Review](#)

Moved B. Anderson:

That the revised due date of March 5, 2014, be approved.

Transportation Svcs.

Due Date:

Mar. 5, 2014

In Favour:

Carried

A. Sohi, M. Walters, B. Anderson, B. Esslinger

6. **REPORTS**

6.1

ETS Smart Fare Collection Equipment - Review of Business Case by the Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board (Report and attachment)

Items 6.1 and 6.2 were dealt with together.

V. Hoy and A. Mannix, Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board; and C. Stolte, Transportation Services, answered the Committee's questions.

Moved B. Anderson:

That the February 5, 2014, Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board report CR_939, be received for information.

ETSAB

In Favour:

Carried

A. Sohi, M. Walters, B. Anderson, B. Esslinger, D. Iveson

6.2

Review of Fare Structure for Public Transit Services - Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board (Report and attachment)

Items 6.1 and 6.2 were dealt with together.

Moved B. Anderson:

That the February 5, 2014, Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board report CR_940, be received for information.

ETSAB

In Favour:

Carried

A. Sohi, M. Walters, B. Anderson, B. Esslinger, D. Iveson

6.5

Bus Facility at 137 Avenue LRT Station

C. Stolte, Transportation Services, made a presentation and answered the Committee's questions.

Moved B. Anderson:

That the February 5, 2014, Transportation Services report CR_652, be received for information.

Transportation Svcs.

In Favour:

Carried

A. Sohi, M. Walters, B. Anderson, B. Esslinger

8.1

South LRT Extension - Claim Defence Consultant Change Order

Moved M. Walters:

1. That a \$270,000 increase on the purchase order with Stantec Consulting Ltd., for the consulting services for the continued defence of the construction claim by Pentagon Structures Ltd., be approved.

2. That the February 5, 2014, Transportation Services report CR_884, remain private pursuant to sections 25 and 27 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Transportation Svcs.

In Favour:

Carried

A. Sohi, M. Walters, B. Anderson, B. Esslinger, D. Iveson