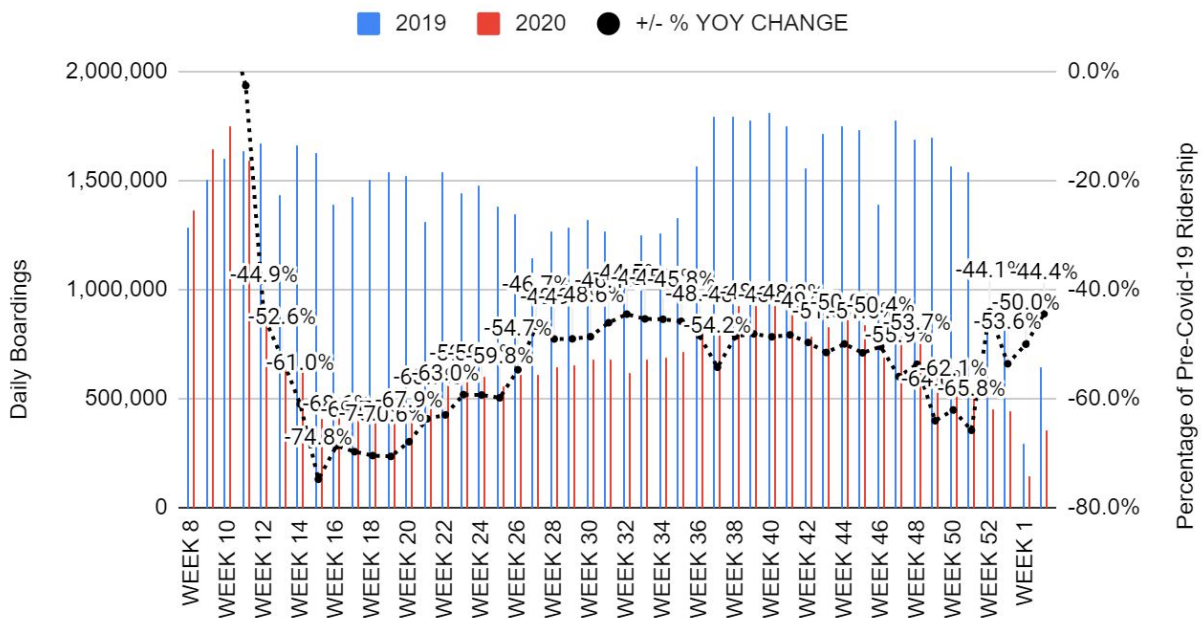


# ETS Branch Highlights Report

Date: January 25 2021

## 1. RIDERSHIP

**BUS BOARDINGS +/- % VS LAST YEAR**



## 2. ETS UPDATES

### ETS Ridership During December Covid Restrictions

As expected, the public health restrictions on gathering and other activities reduced ETS ridership to between 30 - 40% year-over-year. This is a range that had not been observed since the initial months of the pandemic. Much of this is likely attributed to the emphasis on working remotely for those who had returned to their traditional work locations, school closures, and the holiday break which usually sees reduced ridership. Since the start of 2021, there has been an increase in ridership to levels that were seen for much of the latter part of 2020.

### Update on Edmonton's New City Plan

On December 7th, Edmonton City Council hit a major milestone and approved The City Plan. This is a comprehensive replacement of The Ways planning documents and the City of Edmonton's

new strategic direction. Thousands of Edmontonians participated in the development of this plan. This plan builds upon the vision of [ConnectEdmonton](#).

Many of The City Plan's principles and priorities are already being actualized through initiatives such as the bus network redesign and the regional transit commission. Additional information can be found at [edmonton.ca/thecityplan](http://edmonton.ca/thecityplan).

### **City of Edmonton Budget Updates**

In early December, Edmonton City Council passed operating and capital budgets. Council voted on a 2021 budget that included a 0% tax levy increase. This was achieved through a number of financial strategies, including an Operating Budget Reduction exercise.

For ETS, there are a number of items that impact operations including a freeze of the planned cash fare increase until after May 1. ETS' other non-cash fare products will increase February 1, in alignment with a schedule adopted by Edmonton City Council in late 2019. A proposed reduction in ETS service hours was reinstated by City Council in the budget. Also, they approved precursor bus service related to Valley Line Southeast that will be in place following the launch of the new Bus Network Redesign on April 25.

### **Outbreaker Solutions' Push-Plates and new Antimicrobial Seats for LRT**

ETS is collaborating with Outbreaker Solutions, a local biotechnology company, to pilot innovative germ-killing push-plates that are being installed on entrance and exit swing doors at some transit centres and LRT stations. Push-plate installations will be phased in and began last week at Bay/Enterprise Square LRT Station. The push-plates will further enhance safety on transit for passengers and staff. The push-plates are flat, made of highly compressed salt and are safe to touch. They look and feel just like a ceramic tile. The push-plates can be used to manually push open a door.

The push-plates are effective in killing the majority of germs, including viruses, bacteria and fungi in just a few seconds, due to the salt crystals piercing the membrane walls of the germs, effectively neutralizing them.

Based on results from the push-plates at Bay/Enterprise Square LRT Station, along with citizen feedback, it is anticipated that push-plates will be installed at nine other transit facilities over the next month. This pilot project will last six months, at no cost to taxpayers.

In addition to the many COVID-19 safety enhancements already implemented on transit, new antimicrobial seats will be installed on nearly two thirds of the LRT fleet from late-January until March. These seats have an antimicrobial additive in the plastic that can reduce up to 99.9 percent of microbes within two hours. This additive is a one-time application incorporated into the plastic and is not a coating. It will not need to be replaced and should last the entire life of the seat. ETS is considering using this additive for any further seat replacement on buses and LRT.

### **A Special Christmas for a Fan of Public Transit**

Ending the year on a high note, a team made up of ETS and Fleet and Facility staff went above and beyond to make the past Christmas Eve a bit more special for a boy with autism who has a deep appreciation for public transit. After noticing a Facebook post from someone looking for some

ETS souvenirs for her autistic nephew, an ETS Operator brought a request to his colleagues. On Christmas Eve, the boy and his family got a in-house charter tour on an ETS bus complete with a Santa Claus played by a Fleet and Facilities Bus Cleaner.

**3. ETSAB INFORMATION REQUESTS**

None.

**4. ETS COUNCIL REPORT TRACKING - 2020-21**

SIRE	Report Title	Meeting Date	Committee
7813	Transit Fare Fines	March 1, 2021	CC
6778	Update on the Bus Network Redesign	April 19, 2021	UPC
COxxxx	DATS Program Service Enhancements Update	June 2021	TBD
8198	Bus Network and On-Demand Service Implementation Update	August 11, 2021	CPSC
COxxxx	Transit Safety and Security Annual Update	October 2021	TBD

\*Not an ETS lead report

AC = Audit Committee

CC = City Council

CPSC = Community and Public Services Committee

Exec = Executive Committee

IRCD = Inter-municipal and Regional Development Committee

UPC = Urban Planning Committee