



Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes “FINAL”

Monday, August 28, 2017

5:30PM –8:00PM

Heritage Room, City Hall

Meeting No. 17.08

Prepared by Christy McKenzie

Members Present:

Izak Roux (Chair), Bob Macklon, Charles Kelly, Isabell Hubert, Jorge Arango, Stewart Smith, Mariah Samji, Vlad Slavov (Vice-Chair), Sean Lee

Regrets:

J. Philip Reid, Kristina Peter, Brian Curry, Mark Tetterington (President, ATU 569)

Guests:

Jacqueline Tessier, Principal, Twenty/20 Communications

Tammy Gartner, Twenty/20 Communications

Kevin Bamber, Director of Transit, City of St. Albert

ETS & City of Edmonton Staff:

Erin Toop, M.A.Sc., P.Eng, General Supervisor, COE Policy Development

Satya Gadidasu, P.Eng., Senior Project Engineer, COE Integrated Infrastructure Services

Marc Lachance, ETS Staff Liaison, ETS Business Integration, City Ops

Christy McKenzie, Administrative Assistant, ETSAB and ETS Technical Services, City Ops

Materials & Attachments:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft Minutes from July 31st, 2017
- Copy of DRAFT Terms of Reference – Gondolas/Cable Cars
- ETS Branch Highlights Report

1. CALL TO ORDER	
Call to order at 5:30PM	

2. AGENDA REVIEW	DECISION
MOVED: by C. Kelly & seconded by B. Macklon to approve this Aug 28 th , 2017 agenda.	
<u>CARRIED</u>	

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES	DECISION
MOVED: by I. Hubert & seconded by M. Samji to approve the July 31 st , 2017 minutes, with the following changes: Replace wording under item 7 with the following for additional clarification as provided by Marc:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for formal tracking of information requests from the ETSAB. - Track both when the request was made, and when the information was provided back with easily accessible path to the information. - Christy recommended using a google sheet for tracking information requests. - Marc suggested providing the responses in the Branch Highlights Report, linked to the tracking sheet. - Information requests that need to be tracked to be confirmed by the Board at monthly meetings. 	
<u>CARRIED</u>	

4. PRESENTATIONS	INFORMATION
Edmonton Centre LRT Study	E. Toop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erin provided an overview of the status of a phased study in preparation for an Edmonton Centre LRT line, and addressed questions submitted in advance by the Board. The project background, route selection, and public engagement completed to date were presented. • The approach to the project aligns with other LRT studies that are at various stages of completion. The west Valley Line LRT is in the preliminary design phase, with the east Valley Line LRT currently under construction, and an additional east LRT route also identified as a potential future route. • The concept was based on an identified need for a more seamless connection between major destinations. A map of the study area was presented. The study will determine an LRT corridor that aligns with eight stated requirements and provides estimated budget, including land acquisition requirements for stops and facilities. • This new LRT route will connect with Valley Line LRT in the Bonnie Doon area and Downtown. Route, stop locations and track alignment are to be determined. • This route will feature a low-floor LRT that operates at street level (curb height like bus stops) in a dedicated lane. This type of system uses traffic signals to interact with traffic and operates at street speed limits. • The public engagement elements are being conducted by Twenty/20 Communications at selected points throughout the duration of the study. • The study has five phases, with the following planned delivery schedule: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July 2017 - Corridor/Route Options. This phase of the study includes background and policy review, sustainable urban integration analysis, identification of early start activities, and environmental and technical studies related to river crossing. 2. December 2017 - Corridor/Route Selection is due for Council approval. 3. April 2018 - Concept Design 4. June/July 2018 - Concept Selection 5. December 2018 - Concept Design Refinement and deliverables due for Council approval. • Erin addressed specific questions submitted in advance by the Board. It was confirmed that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop locations will be identified in the Concept Design phase of the study. 2. The electronic payment system is expected to accommodate future system expansion. 3. The signaling will be different from the Metro line in that it will not be a railway signaling system, but rather be integrated with street level traffic. • Question and answer period followed, and included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions around priority rankings identified last year for the City's 2009 LRT network plan. It was confirmed that the Capital line extension south, Metro line extension north, and Valley line extension west were identified as priorities over the Centre LRT line, which ranked fourth. • Discussion around options for crossing the river, including consideration to exclude crossing the river. It was confirmed that analysis using the travel model will be run to compare the various scenarios. • Members inquired about Strathcona County's position in regards to LRT expansion. It was noted that a meeting with the representatives was held recently and it was confirmed that at this time LRT service expansion into the County is not included in the long range transit plan. • Ridership demand impact on justification for LRT versus BRT was discussed. Erin noted this can be analyzed in the travel modelling, but the vision is to offer riders a seamless commute (without having to transfer to an alternate mode) and to be sustainable thirty years into the future. • Members noted that time to implement should be factored in to the design consideration, so that service can be available as soon as possible. It was confirmed that the purpose of the study is to use a similar framework to help determine cost that was used for Valley Line LRT routes. • It was confirmed that the Concept Design phase in 2018 will include metrics and public engagement around station locations, with consideration around impact to existing community cultures that revolve around festivals and related high pedestrian traffic (Whyte Ave). • The effect on the study of federal funding applications, international examples that are 	

working well, staged implementation (use of existing street cars on high level bridge), future technology advances (AV, building train routes without tracks), and other considerations were also brought forward for discussion.

Regional Transit Services Commission (RTSC) MOU – Council Report Overview	M. Lachance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc presented an overview of the MOU for the proposed Regional Transit Services Commission that will be brought forward on September 11 (St. Albert) & September 12 (Edmonton Community and Public Services Committee) meetings of Council. Kevin Bamber, Director of Transit at City of St. Albert was present as well, and is involved in the Task Force for the development of the MOU. • A brief review of past regional transit discussions between 2008 and 2016 was provided for background. • A June 2016 report recommended a three stage implementation plan for the RTSC. The first stage was a Joint City Manager’s Regional Commuter Service Task Force (ending September 2017), establishing the new entity and transitioning to a full commission (November 2017 to December 2019), and Service Operations from January 2019 and onward. The MOU being presented for approval in September marks the conclusion of the first stage. • An overview of the memorandum of understanding was provided. Sections one and two contain standard clauses to indicate purpose of agreement, term and acknowledgement of signatories as being municipalities. Sections three to eight enumerate the main terms of the Agreement, and sections nine and ten complete the necessary legal clarifications. • Some excerpts from the text were highlighted, including the expectation that other municipalities in the Metro Edmonton Region may be included in the MOU in the near future, the vision for the Commission, revenue principles, governance structure, and a transition plan leading to a provincial regulation to create the Commission. • Question and answer period followed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion around the weighted voting structure proposed in the MOU. It was confirmed that the model adjusts to adapt to changes based on participation in the RTSC. • Discussion around how this model compares with the <u>Metrolinx</u> (ON). Marc confirmed that the features of this model and others were considered and discussed some of the comparative features. • Members inquired about whether each municipality in the region has a Transit Union. It was noted that Strathcona County is not unionized, but St. Albert and Edmonton have the same Union representation. It was noted that other municipalities may not have the same representation, and this would be a transitional issue. • The possible outcomes to be determined for the RTSC role after the Board is established and more municipalities are involved, include contracting service to City of Edmonton to provide, contract driver services out and commission own infrastructure, or commission operates independently (owns assets and provides services). • The operational model for the RTSC is to be determined after the Board is established. A number of possible operational approaches were discussed. 	

5. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL	DECISION
DRAFT Gondola/Cable Car Sub-Committee Terms of Reference	V. Slavov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope of the TOR was presented for comments. Member suggested change in point two to from “whether” to “how gondolas and cable cars can be effectively integrated”. • A September sub-committee meeting will be organized by Vlad and invite sent to all members. • Relevant past research notes from the Board archived files were requested from ETS Administration to be provided to the sub-committee for reference. 	
<p>MOVED: by V. Slavov & seconded by M. Samji to approve the Terms of Reference for the Gondola/Cable Car Sub-Committee, with change in point two from “whether” to “how gondolas and cable cars can be effectively integrated”.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>CARRIED</u></p>	

6. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES		INFORMATION
Transit Innovation		I. Roux
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean and Izzy volunteered to organize and lead the September informal meeting of the Board. 		
Automated Vehicles		V. Slavov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charlie confirmed that the research activities of the sub-committee have been assigned to members, and the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6. 		
Standing Work Plan Activities Review		V. Slavov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board activities in addition to the sub-committee outputs were reviewed to schedule actions, if applicable. The recruitment process and posting from January was requested from ETS Admin by members assigned to review this and provide input. 		

7. NEW BUSINESS		INFORMATION
Upcoming UPC meeting – September 6, 2017 ETSAB Tourism & Transit Report		I. Roux
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Izak encouraged members to try to attend the 1:30 pm presentation of the ETSAB report on Tourism and Transit to the Urban Planning Committee at City Hall on September 6. Sean confirmed he will be available to co-present, and extend the invite to other external guests. 		

8. INFORMATION SECTION		INFORMATION
ATU Update		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates available. 		
DATS Advisory Group Update		B. Macklon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAG does not meet during the summer months. Updates were not applicable. 		
ETS Branch Highlights Report		M. Lachance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The August Branch Highlights report was presented. It was confirmed that the link to the tracking sheet for ETSAB requests for information will be sent out to members following the meeting. Question and answer period followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board requested clarification regarding the Ride Transit Program. It was confirmed that this is the name selected for the LITP (low income transit pass) program. Social agencies and the provincial government have been provided with information about the program to relay to citizens. The AISH pass program has been transitioned to be included in the Ride Transit Program. The approved applications for Leisure Access Program passes automatically approve citizens to qualify for the Ride Transit pass. Effect from viewpoint of ETS Operations of the permanent removal of the bus lane from Jasper Ave was requested to be added to the Branch Highlights and request for information tracking sheet. 		

9. TOPIC OF THE NIGHT		DECISION
		V. Slavov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both presentations were selected to be highlighted as the topics of the night. 		

10. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING		DECISION
<p>MOVED: by M. Samji & seconded by B. Macklon on September 25th, 2017 to approve these August 28th, 2017 minutes.</p>		CARRIED