

Edmonton Transit System (ETS)



OCTOBER 28, 2013

1. ETS News

ETS Every Day Way to Real Time Information

Customers on ETS Routes 111 and 128 have had the opportunity to experience smart bus technology on-board during their daily travels for the past month.

Starting this month, the second Smart Bus phase for these two routes goes into operation. Digital way-side signs have been installed at University and West Edmonton Mall transit centres. These Departures Boards will display the current date and time followed by real-time departures for routes 111 and 128 and scheduled times for all other routes operating from these two transit centres.

The next phase for implementation will be a suite of real-time information tools under the 'ETS Live' umbrella. The ETS Live Bus Finder desktop and mobile websites are nearing completion. It allows ETS riders to find their bus in real-time for enabled routes 111 and 128, and look up scheduled information and maps for all other routes.

New Location for Kingsway TC

Kingsway Transit Centre is being relocated as part of the Metro Line (North LRT to NAIT) project.

The new location is on the south side of 111 Avenue adjacent to the new Kingsway/Royal Alex LRT Station. This new location will enable better integration of bus and LRT service. Buses will enter and exit the transit centre through a new intersection with signals at 111 Avenue and 105 Street.

The transit centre and LRT station are still under construction. The new LRT line is scheduled to go into service in spring 2014.

Kingsway/Royal Alex Station will serve residents in surrounding neighbourhoods; hospital patients, staff and visitors; customers and merchants of Kingsway Mall; businesses along Kingsway Avenue; Victoria School students and staff; and Centre for Education staff. For more information please see the new transit centre map at http://edmonton.ca/transportation/ets/lrt_projects/north-lrt-to-nait-maps.aspx.

Low Floor Bus Anniversary

ETS is celebrating 20 years of low floor accessible bus service in Edmonton and 35 years of LRT service on Thursday, October 3, 2013.

The celebration starts at 12:30 p.m. and goes until 3:30 p.m. A short welcome program in the City Room of City Hall includes comments from Mayor Stephen Mandel and the new General Manager of Transportation Services, Dorian Wandzura.

Inside City hall, we have displays, presentations and demonstrations. Outside by the plaza we have a parade of vehicles on display in front of City hall depicting the evolution of Edmonton's public transit service over the years.

Please join us to celebrate these milestones.

Take ETS to River City Round Up

This year's edition of River City Round Up runs from Thursday, October 31 to Sunday, November 10.

Whether events are downtown or at Northlands, LRT is a quick and easy way to get to this 10-day city-wide celebration of Edmonton's agricultural and western heritage.

Mark your calendars and get ready to rustle up some fun. Visit

www.rivercityroundup.com for a full list of events happening around Edmonton.

You'll notice many of our operators in western duds in support of the events. Why don't you join us?

ETS Helps Kids Stay Safe on Halloween

ETS buses are a safe place to go if kids need assistance on Halloween night.

All ETS buses (and LRT) are equipped with two-way radios, so emergency assistance is just a phone call away. Uniformed ETS employees are highly visible and we encourage them to promote themselves as someone you can turn to in an emergency.

LRT Fall Service Disruptions

ETS is performing a series of system upgrades and testing in preparation for start of service to NAIT in 2014. In an effort to reduce the effect on commuters, the majority of the work will be concentrated on weekends until February 2014.

Most of the work will be located in two areas; the Health Sciences/Jubilee area at the tail tract and just north of Churchill Station at the junction for the track leading to NAIT. Some of these tests will require a shutdown of larger areas.

We will be working on overhead power lines and testing signal systems. The disruptions will consist of sections of single tracking or targeted shut-downs requiring bus replacement service.

On some Sunday mornings until February, LRT will be replaced by buses for a portion of the line. Some weekend shutdowns are also tentatively scheduled. Plans can change depending on how the tests progress. We will endeavour to provide as much

advance notice as possible will make every effort to limit disruptions to the least busy times.

Thank you for your patience as ETS prepares for the start of service on Metro Line (North LRT to NAIT).

Web Trip Tools Now use 'Capital Line

As part of our recent September service changes, you'll notice that the current LRT line has been renamed Capital Line (LRT) in preparation for the opening of the Metro Line (North LRT to NAIT) in the spring of 2014. When you use our ETS trip tools for your travel planning, you'll also see that they reflect this change.

2. DATS News

Smart Bus Project Update

The ETS Live® Departures Boards (also known as wayside signs) installed at the U of A and West Edmonton Mall Transit Centres has begun providing real-time departing customer information on route 128 and 111 on October 15, 2013. Scheduled departure times are also displayed for all other routes operating from these two transit centers. The information on the display board is updated frequently through a wireless communication network. The Departure board will reduce the uncertainty of bus arrival times making customers more comfortable in using ETS. Real time departure information will have a positive impact on the customers' perception of transit services. A purchase order has been issued to Trapeze to procure nine SMART Bus Systems for the new Xcelsior buses. With these nine additional SMART buses, ETS will be able to provide the SMART bus service to customers on Route 7 and 57 effective of February 2014 sign-up. The installation of this hardware is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

Web based real time information system, known as ETS Live Bus Finder, will also be available to customers in the near future. This tool will allow Edmonton Transit customers to track the two SMART Bus routes information live using a real-time map and up-to-the minute estimated departure times. 311 and ETS staff will test this tool in the weeks before it is rolled out to ETS Customers.

3. SEPTEMBER Statistics

Transit Ridership Information for SEPTEMBER 2013	
Ridership	Total Year to Date
2012	59,023,220
2013	62,574,018
Change from 2012 to 2013	3,550,799
Percentage Change	6.02

4. Council did not meet so there are no reports.