



Members Present:

Emily Batty (Chair), Mudasser Seraj (Rafi) Vice Chair), Joshua Jackman, Zohra Jabeen, Eugene Masahkwe, Maria Owczarek, Lexi McFarlane, Ken Kirk, Shalene Williams, Rebecca Hardie, Councilor Erin Rutherford

Regrets:

Bailey Gerrits, Steve Bradshaw (President, ATU 569)

City of Edmonton Staff:

Tammy Smith, Admin Assistant Transit Planning, Ridership and Revenue.

Marc Lachance, ETS Staff Liaison Transit Planning, Ridership and Revenue

Materials & Attachments:

- Land Acknowledgement
- Meeting Agenda and ETS Branch Highlights Report
- DRAFT Meeting Minutes - February , 2025

CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM	
Land acknowledgement	R. Hardie
Agenda Review DECISION	
<i>Moved: by J. Jackman seconded by Z. Jabeen to approve the March, 2025 agenda as presented.</i>	
CARRIED	
Meeting Minutes Review DECISION	
<i>Moved: by, L. McFarlane seconded by R. Hardie to approve the February 24, 2025 minutes as presented.</i>	
CARRIED	

Presentations:	Y. Subramonian P. Sch mold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Y. Subramonian and P. Sch mold presented on the city's accessibility policy, highlighting its implementation through corporate accessibility plans. ● They emphasized the importance of accessibility for the one in four Canadians with disabilities and the policy's alignment with the Accessible Canada Act. The presentation also covered the "curb cut effect," where accessibility features benefit everyone 	

- The city is currently updating the policy, incorporating feedback from a recent public survey. The updated policy will be presented to the Community and Public Services Committee on May 12th. Implementation of the 2025-2029 corporate accessibility plan is anticipated to begin in Q3 of the current year.
- Proposed actions for improving infrastructure accessibility include adding and upgrading benches, reducing sidewalk maintenance backlogs, installing curb ramps, improving snow clearing, and standardizing accessibility best practices.
- Ongoing audits of city infrastructure will assess current accessibility levels.
- Paul Schmold detailed improvements to the Dedicated Accessible Transportation Service (DATS), focusing on new booking and scheduling processes to ensure timely appointments. Technical integration with contractors will allow for real-time vehicle deployment and potential same-day service expansion. The DATS fleet will be reviewed to enhance accessibility and comfort.
- Proposed ETS actions include an ARC card exemption program, accessibility audits of transit facilities, fleet accessibility reviews incorporating user feedback, and upgrades to the ETS trip planner. Improvements will also be made to bus stop signage, curb painting, bus stop button locations, and LRT door accessibility.
- Further work will focus on digital signage, stop announcements, and exploring hearing loop technology.
- City-wide accessibility training will be implemented, along with ETS-specific disability awareness training for frontline staff. A travel training center will be considered in future transit garages, and service dog awareness initiatives will be rolled out.
- L. McFarlane raised concerns about winter-related accessibility barriers at bus stops, particularly snow removal practices. Paul Schmold acknowledged these concerns, highlighting existing city initiatives to improve snow clearing and 311 prioritization for accessibility issues.
- E. Batty inquired about the standards for benches, particularly regarding designs that may hinder accessibility for some individuals.
- A discussion regarding pet policies on ETS buses ensued, focusing on balancing the needs of individuals with service animals and those with allergies or phobias.
- The current policy requires contained pets in carriers.
- Clarification was sought on DATS same-day booking capabilities. While same-day requests are accepted, advanced booking guarantees trip accommodation. The system considers the capacity and needs of different users when scheduling trips.

New Business/Updates:

a) Councilor Emerging Issues Update

Councillor E. Rutherford

- Counselor Rutherford discussed options for LRT safety enhancements, focusing on converting transit commissioners into transit peace officers. Concerns were raised regarding potential impacts on naloxone administration and overall safety perceptions
- **Commissioner vs. Transit Peace Officer Roles and Responsibilities:** A discussion on the differences between transit commissioners and peace officers highlighted the differing levels of authority and enforcement capabilities Transit peace officers have broader enforcement powers and can issue tickets, while commissioners primarily report incidents.
- **LRT Safety Enhancement Budget and Outcomes:** The potential budget impact of transitioning from
- commissioners to transit peace officers was explored, with a projected increase in personnel but a maintained budget of approximately \$5 million. The conversation centered around achieving optimal safety outcomes with existing resources.

b) Annual Report

E. Batty

- **Annual Report Update:** E. Batty presented the annual report to the council, highlighting three main goals: providing council with information on transit issues, ensuring timely follow-up on key issues, and improving board processes. Four subcommittees were approved: Fair funding gap, ARC card review, Bus stop mapping and navigation, and Pet-friendly transit. They plan to prioritize the first two subcommittees.
- Presented to the council earlier this month. Sub groups were approved.
- **New Board Member Onboarding:** The new board member's term begins May 1st, and they may be able to attend the April meeting depending on the timing of their appointment.
- **April Meeting Rescheduling:** The April meeting, initially scheduled for April 28th (National Day of Mourning and federal election day), was rescheduled to April 22 after discussion regarding scheduling conflicts and the new member's onboarding.

Board Elections:

M. Lachance

- a. Chair nominations**
- b. Vice-chair nominations**

- **Chair and Vice-Chair Elections:** An election was held for the chair and vice-chair positions. E. Batty was nominated and accepted the nomination for chair . E. Masakhwe , K. Kirk, and J. Jackman were also nominated for chair. R. Hardy was nominated and accepted the nomination for vice-chair. L. McFarlane was also nominated for vice-chair . After a two-round voting process , E. Batty was elected chair and R. Hardy was elected vice-chair.

Working groups sub committees rapid responses:

E. Batty

- **Subcommittee Sign-Up:** A signup sheet will be circulated for the subcommittees, with members encouraged to select two. The fair funding gap and ARC card review subcommittees will be prioritized, with initial meetings to select subcommittee leaders. While target completion dates were mentioned (fair funding gap: March-October; ARC card: March-September), they emphasized flexibility.

External Updates:

M. Lachance

A. ATU 569:

- nothing to report

S. Bradshaw

B. Branch Highlights Report:

M. Lachance

- Ridership and Rider Engagement. M. Lachance provided updates on February ridership (down from January due to weather) and rider engagement initiatives, including open houses, career-focused garage tours, and a travel training program. They also highlighted participation in a Mitchell Art Gallery tour and the launch of the annual service plan and route report cards. M. Lachance reported on DATS's 50th anniversary celebration (rescheduled to May 5th), research on youth and post-secondary transit usage, and the successful implementation of their online booking system resulting in decreased wait times and increased online bookings.

C. Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Update:

J. Jackman

- J. Jackman highlighted a presentation on accessibility from the AAC. They also shared information about curb painting research, emphasizing the visibility of yellow paint for visually impaired individuals, and corporate guidelines for service dogs.

D. ETS Branch Manager/Chair

E. Batty

- Nothing to report

Motion to Adjourn

CHAIR SIGN-OFF _____