



**Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes “FINAL”**

Monday, June 26, 2017

5:30PM –8:00PM

Heritage Room, City Hall

Meeting No. 17.06

Prepared by Christy McKenzie

Members Present:

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

Regrets:

Mark Tetterington (President, ATU 569), J. Philip Reid, Marc Lachance (ETS Staff Liaison)

Guests: Darrell Babiuk, Citizen/previously Chicago Transit Project Manager

ETS & City of Edmonton Staff:

Councillor Andrew Knack

Michael Strong, Planner, Nodes and Corridors, Sustainable Development, City Planning

Glenda Roberts, DATS Registrations Team Lead, ETS, City Operations

Georgina Fairbank, DATS Supervisor, ETS, City Operations

Justin Townell, Sr. Strategic Marketing Officer, ETS, City Operations

Christy McKenzie, ETSAB Recording Secretary & Administrative Assistant, ETS Technical Services, City Ops

Materials & Attachments:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft Minutes from May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Copy of DRAFT CR\_4733 Review of Agencies, Boards, Committees and Commissions Minutes
- ETS Branch Highlights Report
- DRAFT BRT Letter and ETS Day Map
- Copy of Pets on Transit – Citizen Letter (shared by Councillor McKeen with the Board)

<b>1. CALL TO ORDER</b>	
Call to order at 5:30PM	

<b>2. AGENDA REVIEW</b>	<b>DECISION</b>
<p><b>MOVED:</b> by V. Slavov &amp; seconded by C. Kelly to approve this June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 agenda, with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add to new business section – update on Transit Skills Competition, and Transit Strategy report to council – ETSAB will speak to the report.</li> <li>- DATS presentation (moved from ETS Branch Highlights to 2.c. - presentations)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	

<b>3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>DECISION</b>
<p><b>MOVED:</b> by M. Samji &amp; seconded by K. Peter to approve the May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	

<b>4. PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<b>Update on the City’s planning, re: Transit Oriented Development (TOD)</b>	<b>M. Strong</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael provided the Board with an overview of each of the City’s TOD projects with planning underway.</li> <li>• Planning for TOD is in progress with consideration of the City’s population growth and the City’s</li> </ul>	

integrated vision. LRT services are forecasted to expand from two lines (24 kms) to five lines (60 kms) by 2047, with 50 or more stations up from 18 existing stations, and doubled ridership.

- Recent restructuring in City Planning included renaming the TOD planning team from “Nodes & Corridors” to “Urban Places”. Team members are assigned to specific projects as resources allow. Project include: Century Park, 109 Street (88 Ave to 63 Ave), Stadium, Millwoods, McKernan-Belgravia, Blatchford, Coliseum, Whyte Ave, Norwood Boulevard (82 St to Kingsway Mall), 104 Avenue, Jasper Avenue, and 124 Street. A brief update on active projects was presented.
  - Council approved funding for first 250 units in Blatchford last week.
  - In early 2017 Brookfield development signed a cost-sharing agreement with the City for Commonwealth/Stadium road.
  - The southeast LRT line is under construction for completion by end of 2020.
  - Plans at Century Park transit center were set ten years ago for high density neighborhoods next to the LRT station. Part of this area built out, some did not and is currently proposed rezoned by the property owner to adjust to market demand.
  - An open house was hosted by TOD planners two weeks ago for public engagement with Coliseum area residents.
  - Planning for 101 Avenue remains in progress and aims to revive the Forest Heights and Ottewell neighborhoods by enhancing mobility options within the corridor, land use, and support for commercial area.
  - In 2015, Jasper Avenue was officially designated a Main Street by the City. From July 15 – October 31, 2017 citizens can test out proposed pedestrian-friendly improvements to Jasper Avenue by taking a walk between 109th and 115th streets. The section of Jasper Avenue from 109 Street to 124 Street is slated for full reconstruction beginning in 2019.
  - Michael presented the concept drawings for renewal of Whyte Ave with the Board.
- Challenges and opportunities were noted to include increased complexity and decreased certainty of outcomes with TOD, but funding opportunities are available and political interest is encouraging.
- Question and answer period followed, and included:
  - Performance metrics for the TOD approach were discussed. It was noted that there is a master plan for growth, but performance is difficult to quantify. Some statistics may be available, such as the number of residents before and after implementation.
  - TOD focus on LRT was noted to be shifting from an Area Redevelopment Plan focusing on an entire neighbourhood(s) to neighbourhood nodes and corridors focusing on high frequency destinations and transit use in general. The current central LRT study (downtown circulator) is an example.
  - Public engagement was discussed, including the challenges of gaining buy-in for and implementation of TOD from community sectors. Belgravia was noted as an example. It was confirmed that open houses are often used to help learn from and education the public regarding transit benefits but resistance is still common because of the general uncertainty of change and development.
  - During the preparation of station plans or designs, it is often common that a market study is prepared.

**Overview of ETS Operations - DATS Waivers and Exemptions**

**G. Fairbank & G. Roberts**

- Georgina and Glenda provided the Board with an overview of the status of processes and policies around customer waivers and exemptions while riding DATS. This included information around the historical practices for scooters and seat belts, current legislation requirements, changes to policy and processes that will be effective immediately and effective from January 1, 2018. The impact for clients and transition plans were presented, as well as timelines for phased implementation.
- Question and answer period followed.
  - Discussion around DATS level of involvement during the transition with support for purchases of pre-approved motorized vehicles (scooters). It was noted that they may work with suppliers to provide information to clients who are purchasing, so they are aware of DATS restrictions, and that the Red Cross has loaner vehicles available to potential riders who have non-compliant scooters and need to use DATS.
  - Safety standards for conventional transit vehicles in comparison with DATS standards were discussed.
  - The length of time DATS will extend their support with transition was requested, including questions around support for securing funding for compliant scooters. Clients will be

supported for the next six months, but new clients will NOT be accepted after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 with non-compliant equipment at registration.

- It was confirmed that DATS is for customers 16 years old and over only.
- No incidents or accidents have taken place at DATS to prompt these changes, but there have been incidents in other municipalities and these changes are a result of a review and realignment with current legislation.

<b>ETSAB Member report on UITP (Global Public Transport Summit) sessions</b>	<b>K. Peter, S. Lee, &amp; B. Curry</b>
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- Kristina provided an overview of the scope of the conference for the members: 2500 delegates from 84 countries attended. Amarjeet Sohi was one of the keynote presenters.
- Trade show exhibits included past and future modes of transportation. There was a strong global focus with Moscow Metro, RATP – Paris, and STM – Montreal among those featured. GIS/Analytics technology was highlighted as an exhibit of interest.
- Experience with the smart fare system in Montreal was shared. QR code linking visitors with Transit was emailed by Montreal tourism as part of the arrival package. OBUS transit pass created a seamless user experience and was provided free for the duration of the conference.
- Kristina attended sessions on Gender Balance Inequity, Paratransit, Autonomous Vehicles, First and Last Mile, and Network Changes and shared key points with the Board.
  - Gender Balance Inequity included statistics from multiple countries and how they are working to show benefits to inclusion and improve female representation by removing barriers to inclusion.
  - The paratransit session highlighted the trend of transitions from sole source providers to integration with conventional transit systems and how this was achieved successfully, and is resulting in increased ridership.
  - Auckland, New Zealand restructured their bus network on June 11, 2017. The Board was encouraged to check in on the progress of the implementation.
  - Ring and Ride program in Greater Manchester was highlighted from the First and Last mile session, which is similar to Dial-a-Bus program Edmonton Transit offered in the 90's.
- Brian shared key messages from the sessions he attended on Bike Sharing, Big Data and Operational Excellence, and Transit User Experience.
  - The User Experience session focussed on standard best practices for on time performance and other hard metrics ahead of “soft” metrics like user experience survey data.
  - Big Data and Operational Excellence focus was around translating data into useable information for increased efficiency.
  - Some jurisdictions are using bike share options year round in cold climates with all-weather treads, or even changing to winter tires in northern climates.
- Sean noted that the international perspective:
  - The User Experience as presented by the panel (Paris, Tokyo, and Saudi Arabia were represented) was a consistently positive experience, before expansion of the network.
  - The perspective internationally on AV's appeared to be “how do we do it” and “how fast is feasible”?
  - Electric vehicles were another strong theme, due to the stress on environmentally friendly options.
  - Japan and China presented the value of electronic payment plans for data analytics.
- Question and answer period followed.
  - Request for ETS presentation on take-aways from UITP.
  - Discussion around challenges with AVs and northern climates. It was noted that 20-30 kms per hour is maximum speed tested so far successfully. Members commented that BRT may be option as precursor to AV instead of LRT.

<b>5. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL</b>	<b>DECISION</b>
N/A	

<b>6. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<b>Transit Innovation</b>	<b>V. Slavov</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BRT Routing letter drafted by Kristina was discussed. Next meeting is TBD.</li> </ul>	
<b>Transit and Tourism</b>	<b>S. Lee</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean has officially received hand-over of documentation related to this sub-committee from Amy, and has prepared the google document version for comments from members.</li> </ul>	

<b>Automated Vehicles and Gondolas/Cable Cars</b>	<b>C. Kelly &amp; V. Slavov</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ad hoc attendance at any meeting throughout the duration of the two new committees was encouraged by Izak, as final approval of deliverables is required by the whole Board.</li> <li>Members who have signed up for each committee were invited by leads to discuss possible first meeting dates following this meeting.</li> </ul>	

<b>7. NEW BUSINESS</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<b>Update re: Report CR_4733 Review of Agencies, Boards, Committees and Commissions (ABCs)</b>	<b>V. Slavov</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vlad spoke on behalf of the Board at the special Council meeting to discuss the future of ETSAB and seven other long standing ABCs.</li> <li>Vlad reported that nearly all of the recommendations were amended by Council.</li> <li>Council voted to retain all eight long standing ABCs on a permanent basis, with the annual work reports possibly being replaced by a meeting of whole Board with all of Council annually.</li> <li>Vote was in favour of a Councillor being assigned to each ABC with a liaison role and to define the mandate and objectives.</li> <li>The Board response was that these changes are positive result of the special meeting of Council.</li> </ul>	
<b>Pets on Transit</b>	<b>I. Roux</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The members acknowledged receipt of letter to Councillor McKeen that was shared with the Board. Discussion was postponed due to time constraints to future meeting of the Transit Innovation sub-committee.</li> </ul>	
<b>Transit Strategy Report to Council</b>	<b>I. Roux</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The members discussed plans to sign up to speak to the report at the presentation to the Urban Planning Committee of Council on July 5<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<b>Transit Skills Competition 2017</b>	<b>V. Slavov</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two board members participated in the 2017 ETS Transit Skills Competition, and encouraged more participation from members in upcoming year, as it provides an opportunity to network with ETS staff and learn more about their day to day work.</li> </ul>	

<b>8. INFORMATION SECTION</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<b>ATU Update</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update was available.</li> </ul>	
<b>DATS Advisory Group Update</b>	<b>B. Macklon</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See presentation on waivers and exemptions above.</li> </ul>	
<b>ETS Branch Highlights Report</b>	<b>J. Townell</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The June Branch Highlights report was presented by Justin in Marc's absence.</li> <li>Question and answer period followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board requested more comprehensive reports going forward, including maintenance and ridership updates, similar to the DATS Citizen Portal that DAG has access to. The ETS online dashboard is a few months behind, therefore does not provide value for the Board.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>9. TOPIC OF THE NIGHT</b>	<b>DECISION</b>
	<b>V. Slavov</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation about the city's approach and plans for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in several key corridors and nodes such as Whyte Ave, Coliseum area and Mill Woods Town Centre.</li> <li>Three ETSAB members returned from the Global Public Transport Summit in Montréal and shared what they learned on a variety of transit topics. The connections and knowledge gained will greatly support the Board's work.</li> <li>Presentation on some policy changes at DATS regarding mandatory use of seat belts and clients</li> </ul>	

using scooters that are aimed at proactively improving safety.

10. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING	DECISION
<p><b>MOVED:</b> by B. Macklon &amp; seconded by B. Curry on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 to approve these June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes.</p>	<p><b><u>CARRIED</u></b></p>

**Next Meeting Information:**

Date: Monday, July 31, 2017  
Time: 5: 30PM – 8:00PM  
Location: Heritage Room, City Hall