

## ***ETS Branch Highlights Report***

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Date: September 26, 2022

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### **1. RIDERSHIP**

Ridership calculations are currently under review. The information is temporarily unavailable for this month.

### **2. ETS UPDATES**

#### **Regional Transit Phase One Update**

Phase one of the transit service plan for regional transit operations was presented to City Council on September 7. With a target to begin in the spring of 2023, the plan proposes new regional routes in Edmonton, as an overlay onto existing local service provided by ETS:

- Regional Express 1 - Stony Plain/Spruce Grove to NAIT, Government Centre, Kingsway
- Rapid 1 - St. Albert Exchange, Nakî Transit Centre, Kingsway, Government Centre
- Regional Express 2 - Nakî Transit Centre, NAIT, Government Centre
- Regional Express 4 - St. Albert Exchange, Nakî Transit Centre, Westmount, University of Alberta
- Crosstown Express 1 - Clareview, Northgate, Nakî Transit Centre, West Edmonton Mall (referred to as an overlay route by the Commission)
- Regional Express 3 - Eaux Claire, Northgate, Government Centre (referred to as an overlay route by the Commission)
- Rapid 2 - Lewis Farms, West Edmonton Mall, University of Alberta, Government Centre (referred to as an overlay route by the Commission)
- Fort Saskatchewan Express - Fort Saskatchewan, Clareview
- Beaumont Express - Edmonton International Airport, Beaumont, Mill Woods
- Leduc / Airport Express - Leduc, Edmonton International Airport, Century Park
- Devon Express - Devon, Lewis Farms

The plan was discussed by Council in September, recognizing that regional transit provides an opportunity to enhance transit service for Edmontonians and surrounding municipality residents, supporting the achievement of climate change goals and addressing equity gaps by adding more off-peak service hours and improving crosstown connections. The new routes will require direct funding for the new service hours. It is estimated the City's contribution will be \$7.2 million plus indirect costs. Council approved a motion directing ETS to bring forward an unfunded service

package to be considered during the fall budget process. Should Council decide to fund this phase one plan, ETS will be delivering some of the regional service through a service contract.

### **Fall Outreach**

Between August 31 and September 9, ETS outreach staff were stationed at selected transit centres and post-secondary open house events to help students and riders navigate the transit system and new fall bus schedules. Outreach staff distributed transit-related collateral, provided trip planning support to riders and answered general transit-related questions. The outreach initiative was appreciated by many riders as they were able to conveniently get trip planning resources and engage with staff to learn about the new transit changes.

### **Electric & Hydrogen Vehicle (EV) Expo**

The City of Edmonton hosted its first ever EV Expo on September 24-25, to provide Edmontonians the opportunity to learn about the variety of options and advantages of zero emission vehicles. ETS and Strathcona County participated in the event by showcasing battery electric buses and offering a sneak peak of Alberta’s two new hydrogen buses. ETS arranged to have the hydrogen buses wrapped to illustrate the link between the two municipalities leading the hydrogen bus initiative. The hydrogen buses are expected to become operational in 2023.



### **Rail Safety Week**

Each year, over 2,000 people in North America are seriously injured or killed when they engage in unsafe behaviour around railways. From September 19-25, Rail Safety Week reminds people of the importance of always being safe around trains, tracks and rail crossings. Digital campaign posters in LRT stations and transit centres helped to promote making safe decisions around railways.



## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

To help recognize the significance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the City has formed a partnership with iHuman Youth Society to wrap a bus in Indigenous artwork. The Indigenous bus wrap features submissions from young artists nestled within a sweetgrass braid. Sweetgrass symbolizes healing, peace, spirituality and strength.

ETS' partnership with young local artists demonstrates our commitment to strengthening and building relationships with Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous bus will be in circulation year-round following September 30.

In addition, orange ribbons will be attached to ETS' fleet to demonstrate our commitment to this day. All City employees will also be encouraged to wear Orange shirts on September 30.



### 3. ETSAB INFORMATION REQUESTS

#### **Smart Fare Update**

Testing on Arc is ongoing, and we continue to make progress in preparing Arc for the remaining fare groups, in phases. The City's priority remains focused on getting Arc rolled out to the standard Adult fare group across the seven participating regions as soon as possible. An opportunity to analyze the project more closely to see if there may have been ways to avoid the delays will come at a future date.

Pilot testing for the Standard Adult fare group began in January 2022. We are grateful to the participants who provided valuable feedback over the course of the pilot. We continue to learn, adjust and make system improvements before we formally open Arc to the next fare group. The City anticipates Arc will be rolled out to other fare groups, such as riders who use senior, student or youth passes, or those eligible for low income passes in 2023.

#### **Valley Line Southeast Update**

Operating the Valley Line Southeast between Downtown and Avonmore is not possible because the trains require access to a maintenance facility. The maintenance facility is located near Whitemud Drive, south of the cracked piers that need to be strengthened, so access would not be possible. For clarity, piers need to be strengthened in two different locations along the LRT route - near 98 Avenue, and at Davies station. TransEd is currently finalizing their Root Cause Analysis for the cracked piers, and are determining design options to strengthen the piers. TransEd will be providing another public update in the next couple of weeks. A timeline for the repairs and service commencement is not known at this time. An update will be provided to the public when more information becomes available.

#### 4. ETS COUNCIL REPORT TRACKING - 2022-2023

Report #	Report Title	Meeting Date*	Committee*
<b>Upcoming reports being led by ETS:</b>			
CO01444	Extension of Sole Source Transit Agreement	Sep 28, 2022	Exec
CO01320	On Demand Transit - Service Delivery Model	Oct 14, 2022	Exec
CO00576	Transit Fare Fines - Repayment Options	Oct 26, 2022	Exec
CO01192	Ride Transit and Leisure Access Programs	Oct 26, 2022	Exec
CO01450	Transit Network Equity Analysis	Nov 22, 2022	UPC
CO01337	Edmonton Transit Services in Newer Developing/Developed Communities	Feb 1, 2023	UPC
<b>Other upcoming reports of interest:</b>			
OCM01136	Amendments to Bylaw 8353 Conduct of Transit Passengers	Fall 2022	CPSC
FCS01246	Revenue Source for Transit - Potential, Risk and Implementation and Intergovernmental Advocacy	Q1 2023	Exec

\*Subject to change

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