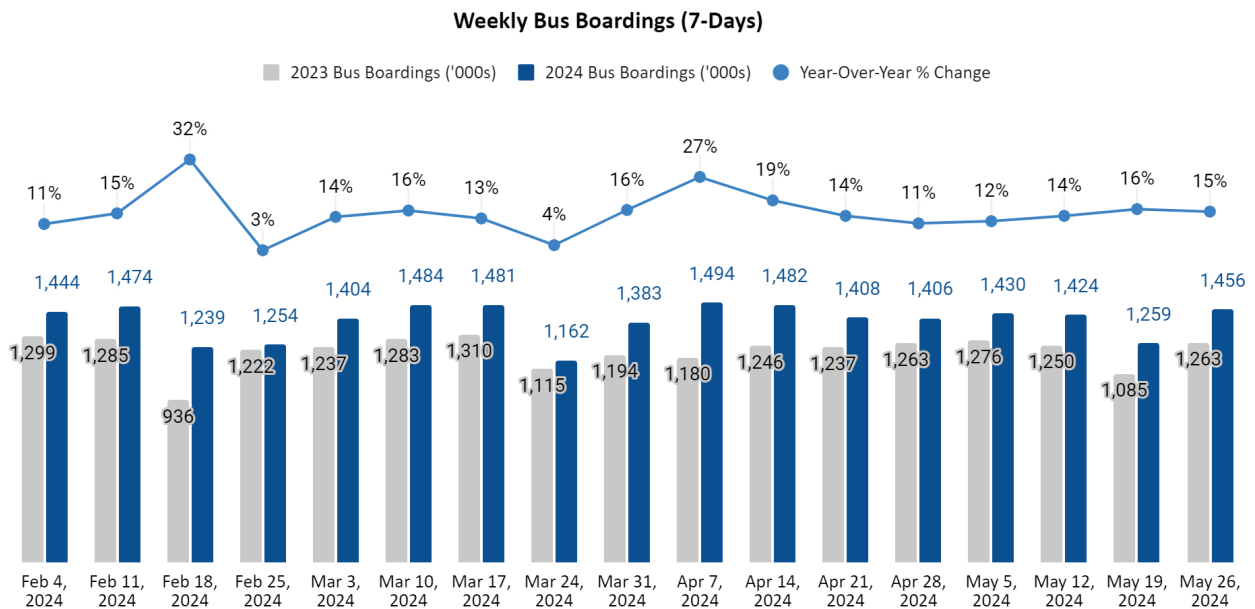


ETS Branch Highlights Report

Date: July 2, 2024

1. RIDERSHIP



Over 1.4 million bus boardings¹ per week were observed during May 2024, with the exception of the week of May 19-25 which saw 1.26 million boardings due to the Victoria Day statutory holiday. Overall, there were 6.29 million monthly bus boardings in May, representing a 14 per cent increase from 5.5 million in May 2023.

ETS' bus boardings continue to be one of the strongest post-pandemic recoveries across Canada. ETS is pleased to see more riders continuing to choose transit as a transportation option to connect to their destinations. Several rider enhancements have contributed to this growth, including the launch of Valley Line Southeast and Council investments implemented in late 2023 enabling ETS to grow the bus network for the first time since the 2015/16 budget. As a result, ETS added more off-peak and frequent service to enhance flexibility for riders.

¹ Bus boardings refer to the number of passenger entries onto a bus. A bus boarding is counted through Automated Passenger Counters (APC) each time a passenger boards a bus. Meanwhile, ridership refers to the total number of origin-to-destination trips, regardless of the number of transfers/boardings required to complete the trip. A conventional transit rider may board multiple vehicles (buses / LRT trains / On Demand Transit shuttle buses) to reach their final destination.

2. ETS UPDATES

Heritage Fleet and Exhibit at KDays

As part of ETS' partnership with Explore Edmonton to support KDays, two heritage buses and one modern articulated bus will be on display during the exposition. Event attendees will be able to step inside the heritage fleet and imagine what it was like to ride buses of the past. It will form part of the annual Memory Lane exhibit in the fair's Discovery Zone inside the Expo Centre. In addition to the buses, artifacts from ETS' past like badges, buttons and insignia will be on display as well as a display wall featuring old system maps and photographs. Visitors will be able to see how the city has grown and how ETS has also evolved. ETS would like to thank the Edmonton Radial Railway Society and the City of Edmonton Archives for their support.

Transit Reports and Statistics Webpage

ETS has launched a new Transit Reports and Statistics web page:
edmonton.ca/TransitReports.

The web page provides information on transit facts and figures, performance metrics on the City of Edmonton's Open Data portal, Annual Service Plans, route report cards and the Community Safety and Well-Being dashboard which also includes transit statistics. More information is expected to be added later this year, including a rider research report containing key highlights from ETS' rider research program.

2023-24 Youth/School Outreach Wrap Up

Each year, ETS collaborates with Edmonton school boards to conduct student outreach and education to support youth riders. The goal is to enable greater access to transit among youth by building their confidence and awareness of trip planning, safety on transit, fare programs and transit etiquette. Activities include participating in junior and senior high school open houses to engage with family members on various transit topics; the "ETS 101" travel training program for Grade 6 students which provides a classroom presentation on transit and an experiential ride-along on a chartered bus; and other school transit orientation activities upon request.

Throughout the 2023-24 school year, ETS visited many schools to talk to students and their families about transit:

- 36 junior and senior high school open house events
- 7 ETS 101 presentations delivered to grade 6 classes (328 students participated)
- 1 LRT safety presentation delivered to grade 1 students
- 1 "Welcome Back" school barbecue



Grade 6 students from Roberta MacAdams School in south Edmonton

Belle Rive Ismaili Centre

On June 15, ETS presented to Belle Rive Ismaili Centre youth about how to ride the bus. They learned how to wait for the bus, board and stay safe during a trip. Following the short presentation, they took a chartered bus for a short round trip ride to the Eaux Claires and Northgate Transit Centres

D.L. MacDonald High School Garage Tour

In partnership with Edmonton Public Schools, high school students at M.E. Lazerte and Queen Elizabeth were provided with a career-focused tour of the D.L. MacDonald LRT garage. Students in the mechanics and electronics programs went behind the scenes to see what it takes to keep the Capital and Metro Lines on track. They learned from staff about their experiences in pursuing a career with the City of Edmonton and the education they will need to prepare themselves.

June Service Adjustments

Five times a year, ETS implements service adjustments to make service more efficient and effective for riders. On June 30, ETS implemented regular summer service adjustments to various bus routes and On Demand Transit. Details about the more significant adjustments are outlined below:

School Special Routes

Due to the conclusion of the 2023/24 school year, starting July 2, all public and Catholic school routes and trips will be suspended until Fall 2024.

Most school special routes will operate on August 29 and 30 based on the previous school year schedule. Students are encouraged to use [trip planning tools](#) on those two days. School special service will be fully implemented on September 3 when fall service adjustments take effect.

Route 580 Cancellation

Effective June 28, The City of Fort Saskatchewan will discontinue operations of Route 580 in Edmonton. Instead, Strathcona County transit will operate service between Fort Saskatchewan and Sherwood Park starting July 2. For more information, please visit GoFortTransit.ca.

On Demand Transit

Starting June 30, additional On Demand Transit hub options will be added to the Hays Ridge/Graydon Hill/Glenridding Ravine/Keswick, Northwest Police Campus and Goodridge Corners areas.

In addition to Century Park and Leger, Heritage Valley Transit Centre will be another hub for riders in the areas of Hays Ridge, Keswick, Glenridding Ravine and Graydon Hill. These additions will help facilitate transfers to Route 727 and other high schools in the area.

Joining Eaux Claires, Castle Downs Transit Centre will be a new hub for riders in the areas of Northwest Police Campus, Goodridge Corners, Albany, Rapperswill, Canossa, Elsinore and Chambery neighbourhoods. These additions improve connections for riders in Northwest Edmonton to other conventional transit options.

Construction and Detours

Several construction projects will lead to transit detours over the summer. This includes construction in the CN Tower traffic loop, EPCOR work on 34 Street and construction on 57 Avenue in west Edmonton. More details are [available here](#).

Other Service Changes

- Several bus bays will be reassigned at Belvedere, Castle Downs, Century Park, Eaux Claires, Northgate, Stadium and Westmount Transit Centres.
 - Busier routes will now be closer to the bus shelters and better align with rider demand.
 - Updated Transit Centre maps can be found at edmonton.ca/TransitCentres
- Route 124 will change its routing from 153 Avenue and 97 Street to 155 Avenue and 100 Street through the interior of the Beaumaris neighbourhood. This change will decrease walking distances, making the route more accessible for riders in Beaumaris.
- Route 525 will also see a routing change due to traffic calming measures on 97 Street. Existing stops for Zettley and Pioneer Place will be maintained. Another stop will also be added on 96 Street & 76 Avenue SB.
- Route 905 will transition from a 30-foot bus to a 40-foot bus for all trips to increase service capacity and better service rider needs.

Transit service is also adjusted on holidays and during special events throughout the summer. For more information, please visit edmonton.ca/TransitServiceChanges.

Music in LRT stations

As of June 4, a new pilot between the City and the Winspear Centre will have symphony music playing in LRT stations throughout downtown. LRT riders will hear music recorded by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO) while they wait.

The recording playlist is wide-ranging, featuring classical composers like Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, familiar modern music of Broadway and Hollywood, and even local composers, like Edmonton's John Estacio.

This initiative is a part of the City's commitment to increase downtown vibrancy and establish a more welcoming and accessible downtown LRT stations. Music will be broadcast through the speakers at Government Centre, Corona, Bay/Enterprise Square, Central, Churchill and MacEwan LRT stations during operational hours, from 5 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Priority will be given to station and train announcements to ensure accessibility.

Quarterly Update on the Transit Safety Plan and the Downtown Core

On June 12, City Administration presented the Quarterly Update on the Transit Safety Plan and the Downtown Core - Verbal report. The presentation can be accessed from the [June 11/12, 2024 City Council agenda](#). The presentation included an update on 2023 rider research insights; update on the Safer Washroom plan; transit ridership; security incidents; Transit Community Safety Teams; Community Outreach Transit Teams; Alberta Transit System Cleanup Grant; and upcoming initiatives. The report was received for information.

Spring Capital Budget Adjustments 2024 - Transit Outcomes

On June 11, City Council approved the Spring 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustments for the 2023-2026 Capital Budget. The report and supporting documents can be accessed through the [June 11/12 City Council agenda](#). As a result, the following transit items were approved as recommended in Attachment 3 - Summary of Spring 2024 SCBA Recommendations to address risks with the aging fleet:

- Bus fleet and equipment rehabilitation and replacement funding of \$37.9 million, which will fund the renewal of approximately 38-40 buses.
- Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) fleet and equipment renewal funding of \$4.6 million to support the maintenance of the LRV fleet.

In addition, additional funding for the Capital Line South LRT extension from Century Park to Ellerslie Road was approved through Bylaw 20866 - To amend Revised Bylaw 19781, City of Edmonton Integrated Infrastructure Services Project, Capital Line South LRT: Century Park to Ellerslie Road. The bylaw increases the borrowing capacity from \$342.65 million to \$584.65 million which is required to address inflation, supply chain disruptions and labour availability challenges.

3. ETSAB INFORMATION REQUESTS

Valley Line Southeast - Timing of Pedestrian Crossings

Request: Who manages pedestrian crossing lights and timing? ETSAB expressed concerns with long wait times at crossings.

The traffic signals along the Valley Line Southeast LRT line are integrated with the train operations whereby the LRT is given priority through many of the intersections. This may result in extended delays to traffic or crossing pedestrians depending when the LRT arrives.

The City of Edmonton's LRT Expansion and Renewal Branch under the Integrated Infrastructure Services department and Traffic Operations section in the Parks and Roads Services Branch work closely with TransEd on any adjustments to the signal timings. A key consideration on any proposed changes is that they do not compromise the priority and schedule reliability of the LRT through the intersection. Some locations can accommodate changes more easily than others. To better assess this concern, it would be helpful to know the location in question and the time of day the concern is most prevalent so that City traffic engineers can look into the concern in detail.

Request: What kind of monitoring is being done on pedestrian crossings?

The City is regularly monitoring the intersections along the Valley Line Southeast and are making adjustments where required and possible based on feedback from the public and other stakeholders.

Valley Line Design Guidelines

Request: Copy of Valley Line LRT Design Guide

The LRT Sustainable Urban Integration Guidelines as well as the Valley Line LRT Design Guide has been shared with ETSAB. These guidelines informed the Valley Line Project Agreement which is [available here](#). [Valley Line LRT - Stage 1 Project Agreement - Schedule 5, Part 5: Facilities](#) includes specific design requirements for Valley Line Southeast facilities, including stop and station canopies, seating/benches, equipment, waste and recycling receptacles, doors and several other amenities.

4. ETS COUNCIL REPORT TRACKING - 2024

Report #	Report Title	Meeting Date*	Committee*
Upcoming reports being led by ETS:			
CO02481	Transit Service Needs to Meet Population Growth	August 13, 2024	UPC
CO02505	Ride Transit Program Funding Gap	August 28, 2024	Exec
CO02506	Implementation of Transit Revenue Actions	August 28, 2024	Exec
CO02262	Infrastructure Enhancement for City Transit Facilities	September 17, 2024	UPC
CO02352	Rider Experience for Paratransit Dedicated Accessible Transit Service	September 17, 2024	UPC
Other upcoming reports of interest:			
UPE02216	Mass Transit: Implementing for 1.25 Million People	August 27, 2024	UPC
FCS02093	Multi-Year Transit Funding Plan	TBD	Exec

Note: New reports will be added once a report number has been assigned.

*Subject to change

CC = City Council

CPSC = Community and Public Services Committee

Exec = Executive Committee

UPC = Urban Planning Committee