



Meeting Minutes

Monday August 29, 2022

5:30pm - 7:30pm Remote/Virtual Meeting

Meeting No. 22.08

Prepared by Yasmine Koufahi

Members Present:

Giselle General (Chair), Serena Tang (Vice Chair), Michelle Peters-Jones (Vice Chair), Bob Turner, Emily Batty, Joshua Jackman, Madeleine Stout, Mudasser Seraj, Bob Turner, Zohra Jabeen

Regrets:

William Agbakoba

ETS & City of Edmonton Staff:

Sarah Feldman, ETS Staff Liaison

Yasmine Koufahi, ETS Staff Liaison

External Liaison:

Erin Rutherford, City Councilor

Steve Bradshaw (President, ATU 569)

Materials & Attachments:

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [ETS Branch Highlights Report](#)

Land acknowledgement - G. General, with call to order	
CALL TO ORDER 5:33 PM	
AGENDA REVIEW DECISION	
<i>MOVED: by S. Tang to approve the August 29, 2022 agenda.</i>	<u>CARRIED</u>
MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING DECISION	
<i>MOVED: by B. Turner to approve the June 27, 2022 minutes.</i>	<u>CARRIED</u>
<i>MOVED: by B. Turner to approve the July 25, 2022 minutes.</i>	<u>CARRIED</u>

New Business/Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Updates Process Change Proposal - S. Tang
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top four committees based on the poll conducted with ETSAB Members were presented, these were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CUTA Transit Boards Members Committee ○ Edmonton Police Commission (EPS) ○ Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton Committee ○ City of Edmonton Youth Council • S. Tang recommended that ETSAB only choose one committee liaison to replace the Edmonton Arts Council liaison • It was pointed out that the CUTA Transit Boards Members Committee is interesting as it has a strong connection to transit - however it is not a "committee" with members as it

- Given ETSAB interests in the past, S. Tang proposed to have an external liaison with the Edmonton Police Commission as safety and security on ETS continues to be top of mind.
- S. Tang will reach out to the Police Commission if they are available and circle back to ETSAB to see if someone is interested in stepping into this role to become a liaison between ETSAB and EPS.

Q&A followed including discussion around:

- Clr. Rutherford flags that appointed commissioners are currently doing more work than usual and that in the context of the Police Commission, they may be hesitant to participate in ETSAB with fewer commissioners and high demand from budget work.
- B. Turner mentioned strong interest in the Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee and wanted to know why it was ruled out. S. Tang stated the intention was to present a short list with only the top four selected committees.
- B. Turner asks what is the downside to having more external liaison committees? S. Tang responds that this is something that could be considered after the Annual Retreat.

MOTION TO TABLE

MOVED: by B. Turner to table the external liaison committee discussion to Annual Retreat.

CARRIED

• **Annual Retreat - G. General**

- Annual Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2022, 10am - 3pm
- Good progress is being made on the agenda - G. General, S. Tang, M. Peters-Jones and City staff are coordinating the work with the external facilitator.
- Updates will be sent later on during the week from G. General.
- G. General requested that ETSAB members confirm if they will be attending in-person or virtually and provide any dietary considerations that should be passed on to the caterers.

• **CBC Radio Interview - G. General**

- CBC Radio reached out to G. General for perspectives on the Rediscover ETS campaign.
- Moving forward, G. General would like Vice Chairs to take on future media opportunities as well in support of learning and future succession.

• **Resident Email Re: Bus Routes - G. General**

- Downtown resident who works in the North side beyond Anthony Henday Dr. (near Edmonton Remand Centre) where there is a lack of bus service reached out to G. General for assistance with advocating for better service in the north.
- The email was forwarded to Clr. Rutherford who flagged that the area lacks accessibility and that a solution is being worked on to potentially improve service in the area.

Q&A followed including discussion around:

- J. Jackman raised service issues in the north side and low ridership demand while noting that On Demand service may have improved transit accessibility in some areas, but would like a follow up on this issue.
- G. General flags barriers to travelling to the Remand Centre via transit such as lack of sidewalks. Resident is part of the Accessibility Advisory Committee and has been active on social media about their transit struggles.
- S. Bradshaw commented on service pockets with low service, however ETS has a fixed number of service hours and that an increased budget is required for service pockets.
- M. Jones-Peters commends members' responsiveness to the resident.
- S. Feldman (ETS liaison) flags that transit service in the north side is on ETS' radar and that ETS is working on an On Demand solution to address issues with limited service in the north.

• **Governance Review of Advisory Committees - G. General**

- Members of Agencies, Boards and Commissions were asked to complete a survey from the City of Edmonton about governance procedures.
- Staff from the Office of the City Clerk will be attending board and committee meetings in September for feedback on governance - someone will be attending the ETSAB September meeting.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Transit Update Report will be presented to the Executive Committee on September 7, 2022. ETS liaison will share the report once with ETSAB once ready. Edmonton Metropolitan Transit Services Commission released their Board report package on August 29, 2022 which has similar content to the ETS Regional Update Report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations Topics Brainstorm - G. General
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members who have interesting topics for presentations can email G. General for consideration to set up a presentation for ETSAB members. Previously, University of Alberta, various City staff and advocacy organizations have presented to ESTAB.

Sub Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety and Security Report Approval 	M.Peters-Jones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety and Security report has been updated based on previous feedback from members. <p>Q&A followed including discussion around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some grammatical edits to be implemented. Members stated they are content with the report and agreed that it can be approved. <p>-----</p> <p>MOTION TO APPROVE</p> <p><i>MOVED: by M.Peters-Jones to approve the report on Youth Perceptions of Safety on ETS.</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>Following the motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. General requested that ETS inform members on the next steps to get the report to the correct Council committee. 	
<p><u>CARRIED</u></p>	

External Updates	
ATU 569	S. Bradshaw
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATU has a number of upcoming events, including the annual retirement banquet and annual strategic planning retreat to set the 3-5 year plan. ATU is currently in negotiations for DATS and On Demand service. In the fall, there will be negotiations with Red Deer and St. Albert. Next year, ATU will go into negotiations with the City of Edmonton. <p><u>Regional Transit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. Bradshaw cited concerns with Regional Transit due to various reasons such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second largest partner, Strathcona County, in the Regional Transit agreement has opted out which limits the budget for regional transit. Edmonton already has a regional system with buses travelling to and from all regional municipalities, in addition to the current development of a comprehensive regional fare system that will include all municipalities. Regional Commission was originally predicting that there will be operational efficiencies, however the Commission is now asking for more funding from participating municipalities for operational costs. Municipalities will give up direct control of their transit system without direct 	

municipalities.

- The City is currently restricted with its budget and participation in the regional transit system is anticipated to increase costs for the City.
- Funding the regional transit plan might result in a loss of funding for other viable projects and initiatives.
- Council will be considering approving Phase I of the regional transit plan without knowing what phase 2 looks like.
- One question arises as to whether Edmontonians are expected to fund service hours that will go into the regional system (to other local municipalities).

Q&A followed including discussion around:

- G. General would like a presentation on ATU or unions in general for a future ETSAB meeting, including ATU history and how it operates. ETS liaison will flag this to add to a list of future presentations.

ETS Branch Highlights Report

S. Feldman

The Branch Highlights report was presented by S. Feldman:

- Rediscover ETS Street Team Update: The Street Team is wrapping up this week - they are doing outreach for students at transit centres.
- Fall Bus Service Adjustments: September is the biggest service change. Millgate Transit Centre will be decommissioned by the end of September and routes will be re-routed to Davies Transit Centre. Route 73 will replace route 510X - this is just a new route number. Three new school special routes as ETS learns about school travel patterns. Capital and Metro Lines will return to regular school frequency. On Demand Transit will be evolved to serve more areas - such as connecting Blackburne and Westview Village.
- Valley Line Southeast LRT Update: ETS is waiting on a new timeline for Valley Line and will share an update with ETSAB once available.
- Hydrogen Bus Pilot: Hydrogen bus is in ETS' garage and ETS is getting ready to put it into service. It will be wrapped with a new design and will be showcased at the Edmonton Electric Expo on September 24-25, 2022.
- Regional Commission Phase One Plan: Opening day of Regional Commission proposes 11 new routes; some regional routes that will be transferred to the Commission (e.g. Fort Saskatchewan commuter route will be transferred from Fort Saskatchewan to the Commission), three new proposed routes operate entirely within Edmonton city boundaries and mimic some ETS express routes but offer more off-peak service. The plan also proposes to transfer the ETS airport route to the commission and will be combined with Leduc transit route 1 for higher efficiencies. The report also discusses how operating costs for the routes will be shared between municipalities.
- ETS Support to Heritage Festival: Heritage Festival Service returned after the pandemic. Park and Ride service was at a round trip cost of \$6 to help move lines faster for people leaving Hawrelak Park. Park & Ride service was offered at 10 locations throughout the city. The number of individuals transported was 58,100 this year, lower than 125,000 pre-pandemic - this is a reflection of people coming back to festivals and transit.
- Smart Fare Update: Testing is ongoing to move towards the next phase of Arc with adult riders. User accounts are being tested to ensure funds are flowing smoothly to correct accounts. In 2023, ETS will be rolling out Arc to other user groups.

Q&A followed including discussion around:

- ETS liaison is to circulate upcoming Council reports to ETSAB members to review.
- B. Turner flagged implementation delays with Arc and asked to provide a Smart Fare update on what is being done to address the issues that are causing delays in the launch of Smart Fare/ARC.
- E. Batty asked if VLSE considered operating the LRT line from downtown to Avonmore (before the concrete pillars) and if not, why? ETS liaison noted that this will be looked into for the next report, however suspects that it might not be possible due to LRT garage location.
- G. General noted Arc vending machines created confusion among riders as they are operational yet cannot be used and would like ETS to address this issue. ETS liaison stated the vending machines were turned on for testing but ETS has now placed signs clarifying that the vending machines cannot be used.
- G. General also flagged that some route maps make it look like VLSE stations are open and have also created confusion for riders. ETS liaison mentioned the issue was addressed and the maps have been updated.
- M. Seraj responded to the Smart Fare update, emphasizing that ETS is taking necessary steps and it is being developed gradually which will ensure smoother implementation.

- Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw came back on August 22, 2022. This bylaw is now included in a package for public spaces bylaws which combines three separate bylaws governing different public spaces.
ETS liaison added that the bylaws are being combined to ensure consistency between infractions and fine amounts across all public spaces. Additionally, the Transit Fare Fines Repayment Options report may get postponed to align with the public spaces bylaw.
- Clr. Rutherford offered to provide an overview to ETSAB members on how there are different committees and the decision-making process.
- November 28-29 are the public hearing dates for the City's budget where members of the public can ask questions or advocate for certain budget items/projects - there will be some transit-related items.

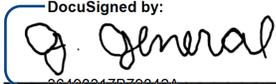
Q&A followed including discussion around:

- ETSAB members commented on timeliness of public spaces bylaw and the importance of it.
- G. General expressed interest in learning about the different Council committees and will reach out to Clr. Rutherford for more details to potentially provide an overview of Council committees at the Annual Retreat.
- Clr. Rutherford offered to organize a date in October for ETSAB's biannual luncheon with Councillors. ETS to follow-up on this with ETSAB Chair and Vice Chairs with Clr. Rutherford.

Edmonton Arts Council - EAC	S. Tang
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates 	
Accessibility Advisory Committee - AAC	M. Peter Jones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates 	
Monthly Branch Update with Carrie	G. General
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrie Hotton-MacDonald will present at the Annual Retreat. 	

Topics of the Night	S. Tang
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last meeting before the Annual Retreat • Annual Retreat dietary restrictions • Approval of Youth Perceptions of Safety report • ETSAB-Councillors luncheon 	

Motion to Adjourn: 7:27pm

CHAIR SIGN-OFF  36498317679642A...