



# Meeting Minutes

Monday January 30, 2023

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

Meeting No. 23.01

Prepared by Mag Leung

## Members Present:

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

## ETS & City of Edmonton Staff:

Councillor Erin Rutherford, ETSAB Council Advisor  
Marc Lachance, ETS Staff Liaison  
Mag Leung, ETS P&S Admin

## External Liaison:

Steve Bradshaw (President, ATU 569) - Regret

## External Presenters:

Marco Melfi  
Bryan Whited  
Dallas Karhut  
Erik Backstrom

## Materials & Attachments:

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

<p><b>Land acknowledgement - S. Tang</b></p> <p><b>CALL TO ORDER 5:33 PM</b></p>
<p><b>AGENDA REVIEW DECISION</b></p>
<p><i>MOVED: by J. Jackman to approve the January 30, 2023 agenda.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>CARRIED</u></b></p>
<p><b>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING DECISION</b></p>
<p><i>MOVED: by S. Tang to approve the December 19, 2022 minutes.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>CARRIED</u></b></p>

<p><b>Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy &amp; Mass Transit Implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation</b> - M. Melfi, B. Whited, D. Karhut, E. Backstrom</li> </ul>
<p>Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy &amp; Mass Transit Implementation presentation was on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to the Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy (OSPRS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase 1 was done in August 2022 - feedback from the engagement includes: improving connectivity for residents, improving/adding to existing open spaces, considering the integration of development of publicly owned land that the city has in the neighborhood, prioritizing pedestrians and considering Mass Transit on Whyte Ave</li> <li>○ Phase 2 of 3 will be this year</li> <li>○ Project Initiation &amp; Area Analysis - Analyzes the input along with a policy and technical review</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Intro to Mass Transit Implementation</li> </ul>

- Building out of Feb 2022 report
  - Refining Alignments
  - Evaluating Configurations
  - Adding Detail
  - Staging Plan
- Three major Bus Mass Transit Routes
  - Ambleside to University via Terwillegar Dr (in construction)
  - Castle Downs to Century Park
  - West Edmonton Mall to Bonnie Doon
- Mass Transit round 2 Engagement
  - Focused on trade-offs and priorities
  - 5 Important corridors
    - Calgary Trail / Gateway Boulevard
    - 87 Avenue near West Edmonton
    - 97 Street south of 118 Avenue
    - 97 Street north of Yellowhead Trail
    - Whyte Avenue
  - 4 Workshops (saving Whyte for last)
- Design Ideas
  - Strategy Area 1: Gateway Blvd
    - Recommend future use of publicly-owned lands
    - Identify ways to improve public spaces & connections between neighborhoods
  - Strategy Area 2: Whyte Avenue
    - Guide street design to prioritize pedestrians
    - Guide the renewal and activation of alleyways
- Upcoming OSPRS Phase 2 Engagement - will launch in February. Communication will go out through updated project webpage, E-newsletters to stakeholders, Postcards to residents, social media promotions. There will be Engagement Activities & Gathering Input such as Interactive Story Map, Engaged Edmonton Survey, Online Learn & Share Session, and In-person Drop-in Session

Q&A

How do businesses along 104 St to 109 St feel about losing parking space in front of their businesses, how does this affect their businesses? M. Melf mentioned they are getting ready for conversations with the individual businesses. They have a Community advisory committee which includes business associations, Old Strathcona Business Association, community leagues, Edmonton Fringe Festival, the farmers market, and Paths for People representative. Reaction was positive.

Dedicated lanes for public transit- will this be on the median or curbside, how does that interact with the existing infrastructure or the development to Whyte Ave? Introducing ideas to the public and waiting to receive feedback. Will be looking at all the different options.

**New Business/Updates:**

**Land Acknowledgement rotation**

- Land Acknowledgement will be rotated amongst all board members and will be by order of seniority.
- Copy of land acknowledgement is saved in the google drive.

**Work plan / Annual Report / Board member one on ones**

- Members on the board had a chance to meet with G. General for their one-on-one meetings to share their thoughts and experiences since being with the board for the past 6 months.
- G. General will be working with M. Leung, M. Lachance, S. Tang on the Work plan and Annual Report in February, due in March

**New member recruitment**

- Office of the City Clerks have been working on member recruitment
- G. General and S. Tang have received the list of candidates, they will be going through to shortlist.
- Interviews will be held with Councilors from the committee and final offers will be made in the next couple months.

**Transit Camp 2023 Event hosted by ward Papastew Councilor, March 18, 2023 - ETSAB Attendance & Participation**

- G. General received an invite from Clr. Michael Janz. He is organizing the Transit Camp 2023 event held at the University of Alberta on Saturday March 18th. This is a free public event
- G. General encouraged board members to attend and will be sending out a reminder email closer to the date
- M. Leung to add this item to the February agenda to finalize any items prior to the event

**Transit Safety CBC Interview**

- Board was approached by a CBC producer for their radio show - Interactive.
- S. Tang will be interviewed on the topic of Transit Safety

<b>Sub Committee Updates</b>	
<b>Youth Safety and Security</b>	<b>G. General</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation has been confirmed for March 21, 2023, M. Peters-Jones will be presenting</li> </ul>	
<b>Budget</b>	<b>J. Jackman</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1 report was completed and sent to Council</li> <li>• Phase 2 report, sub committee will be reviewing the budget that was released</li> <li>• Would like to make a presentation in spring to Council</li> <li>• B. Turner expressed that he was interested in the carbon budget and was hoping that the sub committee will have input to this.</li> <li>• Sub committee will also be looking into the Disability services and how the budget impacts Edmonton Transit</li> </ul>	
<b>Mobility and Accessibility in Edmonton Winters</b>	<b>S. Tang</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Tang created a google form and would like board members to fill out the form to help gather and keep track of info from their transit trips. This is to help collect data to see how sidewalks and pathways are currently looking around the city.</li> <li>• S. Tang will be emailing board members with instructions on how to record.</li> </ul>	

<b>External Updates</b>	
<b>ATU 569</b>	<b>S. Bradshaw</b>
Not available to present	

M. Lachance updated on the following:

- ETS Ridership has continued to recover to approximately 78% of 2019 levels as of December 2022.
- 2023-2026 Budget Update - On December 16, budget deliberations for the operating, capital and utility budgets concluded. The following key transit items were approved by Council:
  - Capital Budget - LRV replacement, New Transit Garage, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes B1 & B2 Planning, Transit Priority Measures
  - Operating Budget - On Demand Transit Service Permanent Funding, Transit - off peak & On Demand Service Growth, Public Washroom Strategy, Maintenance of Active Air and Surface Purification Systems
- Mid-Winter Service Adjustments - Starting February 5, mid-winter service changes will be in effect. These changes are part of the regular service adjustments ETS makes five times a year based on transit rider feedback and seasonal changes in ridership.
- Arc Fare Payment System Update - The roll-out of the Arc electronic fare payment system is underway as more standard adult fare riders opt for Arc cards for a more convenient way of paying their transit fare.

#### Q&A

Arc fare payment system was rolled out with students, what is the plan for the data gathered from Arc fare payment system? Project that will be working on that will be ongoing

Valley line LRT safety issue in regards to the collision, is there any plan on enhancing safety for road users? Awareness campaign has been started and will continue to bring awareness to the Valley line LRT tracks. There are line signals/traffic signals that moves with the flow of traffic.

Concerns of cleanliness/odors of LRT station- what is the ventilation system set up in the LRT stations? M. Lachance to follow up

#### **Councillor Emerging Issues Update**

**E. Rutherford**

Clr Rutherford discussed the following budget items related to transit that were not funded:

- Decision from Council for Regional Transit Commission was not funded because they could not justify the additional cost and potential loss of service to Edmonton.
- Adding toll gates to the LRT station was not funded. This was an unfunded profile and Council did not amend to bring forward
- Security monitoring in the entrances to the tunnels of the LRT was not funded

Permanent funding for On Demand was important for Council to make sure there was no gap in service and Citizens can continue to rely on. There will be more funding for transit safety.

Some items that Clr. Rutherford will be looking into this year Code of conduct with transit passengers bylaw, DATS

#### Q&A

What does the next step of Regional transit look like without funding? City Manager Andre Corbould has been having conversations with other City managers in other Municipalities in the region to figure out how to move forward.

Carbon budget: what will it take for Council to take this seriously? Council has taken environmental action more seriously, there was zero funding for any kind of environmental initiative. Council invested in the bike plan to address community carbon goals. Council funded service package that were unfunded related to climate such as planting more trees, how to achieve energy transition strategy, district energy investment in light rail vehicles in continuing electrified transit system.

What is stopping from expanding hydrogen bus system? Storage space is at capacity, will need to build new Transit garage

#### **Accessibility Advisory Committee - AAC**

**Z. Jabeen**

- Z. Jabeen attended her first AAC meeting on Jan 9th
- Z. Jabeen mentioned that the Accessibility Advisory Committee currently does not discuss transit in their meetings and that their board members have no personal transit experience. AAC does not have any DATS representation at their meetings either.
- AAC recommended that Jason will be their liaison and should attend ETSAB meetings

<b>Monthly Branch Update with Carrie</b>	<b>G. General</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• G. General meeting with Carrie they discussed the budget and how it impacts ETS.</li><li>• G. General mentioned that the board will be working on their upcoming Annual report, work plan and membership recruitment</li></ul>	

<b>Topics of the Night</b>	<b>S. Tang</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation Old Strathcona and Mass Transit implementation, action: take part in their survey in the near future</li><li>• Budget Sub committee continuing to work on report to be presented to Council</li><li>• Mobility and accessibility sub committee, beginning to collect data</li></ul>	

**Motion to Adjourn 7:40pm**

**CHAIR SIGN-OFF**  36498317B79842A...