

# 5ETS Branch Highlights Report

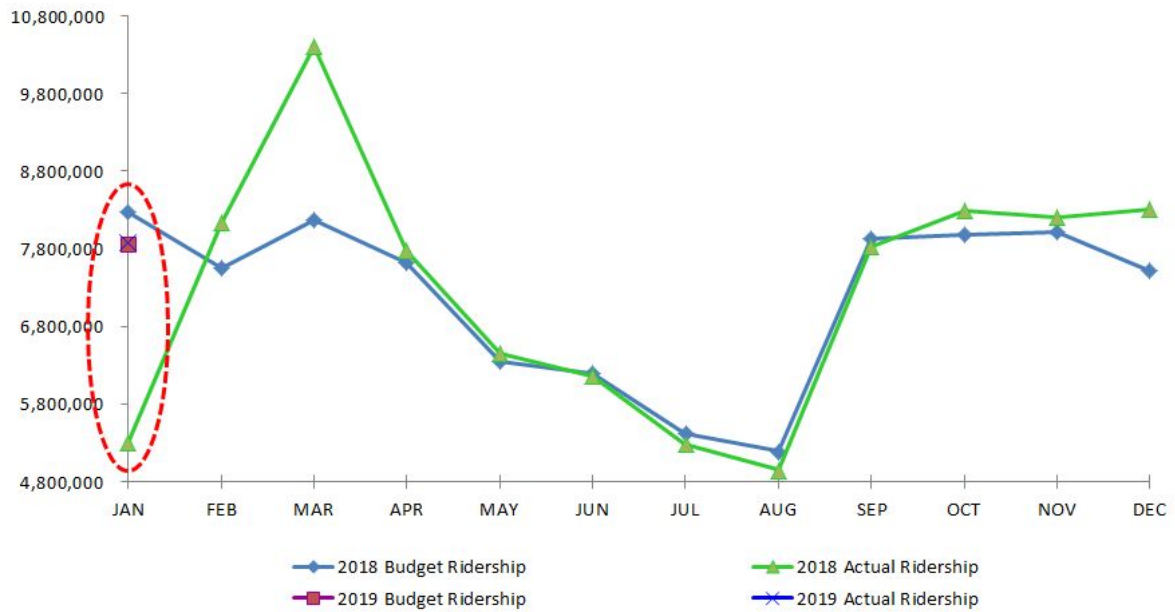
Date: March 25, 2019

## 1. RIDERSHIP

### Bus and LRT Ridership – January 2019

|                    | Month            | Year to Date     |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>2018 Actual</b> | <b>5,302,789</b> | <b>5,302,789</b> |
| <b>2019 Budget</b> | <b>7,859,920</b> | <b>7,859,920</b> |
| <b>2019 Actual</b> | <b>7,879,478</b> | <b>7,879,478</b> |

Monthly Ridership



## 2. ETS UPDATES

### **Transit Operator Appreciation Day March 18**

National Transit Operator Appreciation Day was celebrated on March 18. Transit Operators are on the front line of customer service, interacting with citizens and working safely 365 days a year, 7 days a week. Transit Operators often go above and beyond to help Edmontonians and enable Edmontonians to connect with places of work, leisure and business. The City recognizes and thanks all of the Transit Operators who work to keep Edmonton's transit system moving safely and efficiently.

On Transit Operator Appreciation Day, ETS launched the Transit Operator Respectful Workplace Campaign. ETS is excited to release a [new video](#) that highlights the important job of transit operators, and how a respectful workplace contributes to everyone's safety and benefit. This video captures the passion, spirit and dedication Transit Operators bring to the job each day.

### **Fare Policy Update**

On March 19, Administration brought forward a report to Council's Urban Planning Committee with an updated Fare Policy. The proposed Fare Policy outlined four principles:

1. *Balanced*: Fares will recover a portion of operating costs, recognizing both the individual and public benefits of transit.
2. *Equitable*: Fares will be consistent for trips of similar nature, reflect the cost of service and encourage ridership compared to the cost of transportation alternatives.
3. *Affordable*: Transit service will be affordable regardless of age, finances or other barriers.
4. *Rewarding*: Frequent use will be promoted through discounts for those who use transit as a primary means of transportation.

Committee referred the proposed Fare Policy back to Administration to return in the fall with more information on:

- Effects of fare price on ridership
- Targets on ridership increases
- Sliding scale for seniors
- Options to include peak hour fares
- Family pass option

### **Cold Weather Emergency Response Protocol Ends**

In collaboration with Homeward Trust, ETS and the City's Weather Emergency Response (WER) Committee have established procedures that are triggered when temperatures dip below -20C (with wind chill) and when shelters approach 90 per cent capacity. ETS supported the WER Committee plan by opening the Central LRT Station for 24 hours a day from February 5 to March 7. Regular operations resumed on March 8. Shelters were consistently promoted as the first and best option to connect individuals with specialized services and further resources during the cold weather response period.

## **Alberta Community Transit (ACT) Fund Application**

The Government of Alberta announced its commitment to invest roughly \$90 million in transit in Edmonton through the Alberta Community Transit (ACT). The funding will allow many critical transit projects in Edmonton to proceed including:

- Upgrading Terwillegar Drive to an expressway
- Upgrades at Stadium LRT Station
- Preliminary planning and design of a new transit garage
- Purchase of additional electric buses (ACT funding will accommodate the purchase of up to 28 electric buses, while previous PTIF funding will provide approximately 21 electric buses, for a total up to 50, which will be the single largest purchase of electric buses in Canadian history)
- Transit priority improvements to access Park & Ride facilities
- Preliminary planning and design for a new LRT Station at 40 Ave
- Preliminary planning and design for a new transit centre and Park & Ride facility at 50 St

This investment will also allow for the planning and design of a new transit garage in the 2019-2022 capital budget cycle, with anticipated construction beginning in the next capital budget cycle.

## **Emissions Reductions Alberta Award**

Emissions Reductions Alberta (ERA) announced that eCamion's charging system was selected through ERA's BEST Challenge. The City of Edmonton will partner with eCamion for a trial of this fast-charging technology to reduce electronic bus impact on the electrical grid and lower installation and operating costs. This technology is the first-of-kind system that will innovate how electric buses are managed and maintained.

This funding will contribute to important research and development for our electric bus program and provide significant cost savings for the expansion of the program to additional transit garages. ETS is fully committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, leading the way toward a lower carbon economy and helping achieve the City's climate resilience goals.

## **Response to Terwillegar Recreation Centre**

On the evening of March 14, the Terwillegar Recreation Centre experienced an ammonia leak in the arena. Fire crews evacuated approximately 1,000 people from the Centre. Fire crews requested ETS buses to assist evacuees. Operators, Inspectors and Control responded quickly to arrange the buses on the scene and four ETS buses were brought in to keep swimmers warm during the evacuation.

## **3. ETSAB INFORMATION REQUESTS**

N/A

#### 4. ETS REPORT TRACKING - 2019

| SIRE | Report Title  | Meeting Date | Committee |
|------|---|--------------|-----------|
| 6537 | Principles of Services for DATS – Contracted Service, Pickup Time & Impact of Snow & Ice Policy | June 24      | Exec      |
| 7029 | Interim Update on Transit Ridership Growth and Recovery Report                                  | June 24      | Exec      |
| 6432 | LRT Station Security Update   | July 10      | CPSC      |
| 6505 | Safety of Future Transit Stations - Design Guidelines and Site Activation                       | September 3  | UPC       |
| 6999 | Ride Transit Program Update   | September 19 | UPC       |
| 6417 | Shift Flexibility for Staff with Young Children   | September 30 | Exec      |
| TBD  | Ridership Recovery and Growth Strategy  | TBD          | TBD       |
| 6854 | Transit Service Standards Policy  | November 19  | UPC       |
| 6719 | Bus Network Redesign 2020   | November 19  | UPC       |
| 6788 | First KM/Last KM Community Solutions  | November 19  | TBD       |
| 6778 | Update on Bus Network Redesign  | March 2020   | TBD       |
| 6126 | Gondola Feasibility Study* (moved to the same time as the Rosedale Business Advisory report)    | March 19     | UPC       |
| 5995 | Regional Transit Commission*  | TBD          | TBD       |
| 6901 | Options to Implement Wayfinding*  | May 21       | UPC       |

\*Not an ETS lead report

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