



Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 30, 2018
5:30PM –8:00PM
Heritage Room, City Hall
Meeting No. 18.04
Prepared by Christy McKenzie

Members Present:

Izak Roux, Bob Macklon, Charles Kelly (Vice-Chair), Isabell Hubert, Kristina Peter, Jorge Arango, Mariah Samji, Brian Curry, Philip Reid, Vlad Slavov

Regrets:

Sean Lee (Chair), Stewart Smith, Mark Tetterington (President, ATU 569)

Guests:

Gary and Amber Poliquin, Big E Tours
 Jeffery Hansen-Carlson, Ellis Don Construction Services and Edmonton Project Founder
 Giselle General, New Board Member
 Kouresh Lotfi, New Board Member
 Maurice Vincent, New Board Member

ETS & City of Edmonton Staff:

Ettore Iannacito, Program Manager of Transit Network Design, ETS Planning & Scheduling
 Sarah Feldman, Director of ETS Planning & Scheduling
 Marc Lachance, ETS Staff Liaison for ETSAB, ETS Business Integration Manager of Strategy & Planning
 Christy McKenzie, Administrative Assistant, ETSAB and ETS Technical Services, City Ops

Materials & Attachments:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2018
- ETS Branch Highlights Report
- Draft Urban Gondolas and Public Transit Report

1. CALL TO ORDER	
Call to order at 5:30PM	

2. AGENDA REVIEW	DECISION
<i>MOVED: by I. Roux & seconded by M. Samji to approve the April 30th, 2018 agenda.</i>	
<u>CARRIED</u>	

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES	DECISION
<i>MOVED: by K. Peter & seconded by P. Reid to approve the March 26th, 2018 minutes.</i>	
<u>CARRIED</u>	

4. PRESENTATIONS	INFORMATION
Bus Network Redesign (BNR) Project Update	Sarah Feldman & Ettore Iannacito
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bus Network Redesign (BNR) is the first major Transit Strategy project. The goal is to transform Edmonton’s bus network by mid-2020 to deliver bus service that meets the needs of more Edmontonians. The project timeline is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop the Network (January to June 2018) ○ Refine the Network (July to November 2018) ○ Approve the Network (December 2018 to February 2019) ○ Roll Out the Network (March 2019 to June 2020) 	

- The service areas were defined, with inner area neighbourhoods with riders that want more frequent service differentiated from outer area neighbourhoods, with riders who want more direct services.
- The changes that will be implemented include service pattern changes, changes to almost every route, and a reduction of the total number of routes in order to facilitate increases in frequency and increases in evening and weekend services. A study on first and last km solutions is underway.
- It was noted that most major corridors will have the same service, or better service; the service is not expanding into new neighbourhoods and no additional resources (service hours, staffing requirements, and number of buses) are required to accommodate the proposed changes.
- Types of routes were defined as:
 - Primary Transit Network
 - Frequent Transit Network routes, which will be routes along major corridors in defined inner area neighbourhoods that will run seven days per week every 15-20 min maximum during normal service hours (peaks, midday, early evening and late evening to midnight or in late owl cases, 2:30 am).
 - All-day Rapid Bus routes and Peak Rapid Bus routes, which will connect areas with no LRT service options available. They are frequent limited stop services between outer areas and major destinations.
 - Crosstown Bus routes, which will connect major destination in outer areas without going through downtown.
 - Other route types are Local Bus routes, School Specials and Community Bus routes, which will connect important destinations in neighbourhoods to the Primary Transit Network, such as junior and senior high schools, Senior's activity centres and libraries.
- Twenty four public engagement workshops will be held throughout the City between April 12 and June 14, 2018, including six workshops for groups with specific needs (mobility challenges, seniors).
- An online survey is also an optional feedback mechanism, and the Remix Mapping engagement tool is available online as well. More specific route information is available on the [BNR project website](#), which includes a copy of the full draft of the proposed network.
- Question and answer period followed, which included:
 - Discussion around opportunities for feedback from the Board on the draft network plan. The Board requested a separate workshop date, which ETS Administration agreed to consider as a possible option dependant on availability of staff and Board members for an additional special meeting in May or June.
 - The Remix interactive map tool is useful to show the new route, but it was noted that the service levels in the tool will show the standard 15 minute service schedule. Peak service levels or frequent route service schedules are not programmed into the tool.
 - Discussion around increase in ridership expected may be dependent on setting a new standard which is different from 15 minutes across the board.
 - The naming system for the new routes was discussed. It was confirmed that the route identifiers in the tool (like W14) are meant to be a placeholder to ensure they are unrelated to current numbers. Members noted that there may be challenges with the learning curve required to adjust to a new route naming convention.
 - Members inquired if service additions to Calgary Trail and Gateway Boulevard were considered, as some citizens earning minimum wage are in neighbourhoods alongside those main roadways.
 - Rapid Bus was defined to refer to non-stop express routes on high demand corridors that are likely good candidates for BRT but the lanes are not separate from traffic in this case. An intersection priority option like queue jumping was noted to be part of a study in progress on options for the three primary route types.
 - Members inquired about smaller fleet vehicles with flexible/on demand service options to address first mile/last mile challenges. It was confirmed that a first mile/last mile study is also in progress.
 - It was confirmed that Smart Fare data could impact the network design decisions. After one year, the performance of the proposed network and data collected will be reviewed. An annual service plan will be going to Council after 2020 for approval of proposed ongoing route adjustments based on available data.
 - It was confirmed that pre-cursor bus service is being planned for that period of time (June – December 2020) when the Valley Line LRT will not be open yet, but the new network design will have been implemented.

- The planning team will look into whether Transit App data can be leveraged (such as potential and existing rider search history). Also whether Uber data is being shared with and accessed by the City. It was noted that the Vehicle for Hire bylaw does required data sharing as part of the agreement with the City. The status is not known.

Edmonton Project and the Gondola submission	Amber & Gary Poliquin, Jeffrey Hansen-Carlson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The non-profit <u>Edmonton Project</u> was founded by Jeffrey Hansen-Carlson with no constraints on the type of project that could be submitted. • Gary and Amber Poliquin own and operate <u>Big E Tours</u>, and won the contest with their submission of the <u>Gondola over the North Saskatchewan</u>. • Since then business owners along the proposed route and a small team of subject matter experts have been engaged to study the feasibility of both public and private approaches to implementation. ETSAB members were invited to nominate a member to act as a contact for further updates. • Aerial Urban Transit (AUT) is the term the project team is referencing in place of gondola. • Whyte Avenue, possibly Rossdale and the Shaw Conference Center were noted as locations of interest for possible stations. Building the stations into existing infrastructure is also being considered. It was noted that Edmonton has the ideal geographical features to accommodate this mode of transport, as compared with other Canadian cities that have considered it. • Promoting transit oriented development (TOD) in the Old Strathcona area with the increased density is a focus for the project for stakeholder and partnership buy in. • Question and answer period followed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion around funding for a full feasibility study and associated business plan (about \$150,000 would be required). ○ Limitations were noted to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cold weather (likely due to the funicular) ▪ Safety (especially of female passengers) ▪ Perception of use by tourists rather than commuters. 	

5. FOR APPROVAL	DECISION
DRAFT Urban Gondolas and Public Transit Report	V. Slavov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Urban Gondolas and Public Transit Report and its recommendations was provided for Board review and approval. No changes were noted to be required. <p>MOVED: by I. Roux & seconded by M. Samji to approve the Urban Gondolas and Public Transit Report. Approved with all members present in favour.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	

6. NEW BUSINESS	INFORMATION
ETSAB Annual Activity Report - April 17th presentation debrief	I. Roux
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Izak confirmed that the presentation of ETSAB's Annual Activity Report and the work plan for the upcoming term to Council was well received at the April 17th session. 	
New Member Items	C. Kelly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three new Board members were in attendance to observe the Board meeting and will officially join in Board membership activities from the start of the new term (May 2018 to April 2019). • The date selected based on new member availability for the new member orientation session is May 10th, 2018. All members will be invited, as well as the Manager of Civic Agency Governance, and the Civic Agencies Coordinator from the Office of the City Clerk. 	
CUTA fall conference	C. Kelly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget approval for two Board members to represent the Board at the CUTA fall conference has been confirmed by ETS Administration, and members will be selected at the June meeting. • It will take place this year in Toronto, ON from November 18-21, 2018. Members were invited to provide expressions of interest to attend. 	

Transit Fare Policy Updates	M. Lachance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marc provided the project plan and status of the Transit Fare Policy that is being reviewed and updated to align with the Smart Fare payment system. Four principles based on the Transit Strategy have been drafted and will be distributed along with the meeting materials package for discussion in May. The Board will be engaged for feedback and updates over Q2 and Q3. 	
Council Member Advisor for ETSAB	A. Knack
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Knack is joining ETSAB as the Council Member Advisor in place of Councillor Cartmell effective from this month. He invited the Board's feedback on their perception of the role. Councillor Knack confirmed that bi-annual meet and greet luncheons the Board has been initiating are a good practice, and should continue. 	

7. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES	INFORMATION
Transit Innovation	I. Hubert
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isabell provided members with a summary of discussions at the March meeting. The next meeting will be held May 17th. 	
First Mile/Last Mile	K. Peter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kristina reminded members of the sub-committee to submit their contributions to the report if they haven't already, and noted that in May the report will be 70% complete and ready for handover to a continuing member. 	
Standing Items	C. Kelly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charlie noted the addition of this standing item on the agenda as a placeholder and reminder for any updates related to items that members are assigned to monitor. The list of items is now added as a second page on the General Meeting agenda. 	
Wayfinding	C. Kelly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charlie requested an overview of the activities involved in the two sub-committees that are planned to commence following wrap up of Gondola/Cable Cars and First Mile/Last Mile sub-committees. Jorge provided an overview for the Wayfinding sub-committee as the assigned lead, and Mariah provided an overview for the Land Use and Transit Policies sub-committee. Members were requested to sign up to participate in one or both sub-committees as time allows prior to the next General meeting of the Board. 	

8. INFORMATION SECTION	INFORMATION
ATU569	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a 	
DATS Advisory Group (DAG) Update	B. Macklon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DATS Annual Open House is scheduled for September 13, 2018. More details to follow. Cameras are expected to be installed on all buses this fall. Bob will take back the question of whether the cameras are recording, or if it is a live feed that ETS Control can access. 	
ETS Branch Highlights Report	M. Lachance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ETS Branch Highlights report was reviewed. The fare rate change back to \$5 or two tickets for Route 747 to the International Airport will be effective from May 1, 2018. An inquiry regarding the results and actions related to the "#YEGcommute" campaign out of the Mayor's office was brought up for response from the Transit Innovation meeting of the Board. 	
Edmonton Arts Council (EAC)	M. Samji
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mariah will be part of the selection committee for the water themed submissions for the murals, sculptures and mosaics that are planned for the construction of the Heritage Valley Park and Ride station. The meeting will be held May 17th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. 	

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)	C. Kelly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charlie noted that the AAC connected with him at the Council meeting on March 17th following presentations of the Annual Activity Reports regarding the ETSAB Heated Shelters and Wayfinding sub-committees. Charlie will attend the June AAC general meeting. 	

9. TOPIC OF THE NIGHT	DECISION
	C. Kelly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The approval of the Urban Gondola report, welcoming Councillor Knack as our Council Liaison and farewell and recognition for retiring members were selected as the topics of the night. 	

10. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING	DECISION
<p>MOVED: by _____ & seconded by _____ on May 28th, 2018 to approve these April 30th, 2018 minutes.</p>	
<u>CARRIED</u>	