

**Members Present:**

Emily Batty (Chair), Mudasser Seraj (Rafi) Vice Chair), Zohra Jabeen, Eugene Masahkwe, Maria Owczarek, Lexi McFarlane, Ken Kirk, Shalene Williams, Bailey Gerrits, Joshua Jackman, R Hardie, Councilor Erin Rutherford.

**Regrets:**

Steve Bradshaw (President, ATU 569), Rebecca Hardie.

**City of Edmonton Staff:**

Tammy Smith, Admin Assistant Transit Planning, Ridership and Revenue.

Marc Lachance, ETS Staff Liaison Transit Planning, Ridership and Revenue

**Materials & Attachments:**

- Land Acknowledgement
- Meeting Agenda and ETS Branch Highlights Report
- DRAFT Meeting Minutes - March, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM**

Land acknowledgement

**E. Batty**

**Agenda Review DECISION**

***Moved:** by Z. Jabeen seconded by E. Masahkwe to approve the April 22, 2025 agenda as presented.*  
**CARRIED**

**Meeting Minutes Review DECISION**

***Moved:** by, K. Kirk seconded by Z. Jabeen to approve the March 31, 2025 minutes as presented.*

**CARRIED**

**Presentations: Edmonton Transit Riders**

**D. Witte**

- D. Witte, representing the Edmonton Transit Riders (ETR), presented on their organization. Described their history, starting in Spring 2024, and their advocacy work, including campaigns for low-income transit passes and improved transit priority measures
- ETR's mission focuses on three key areas: sharing information about transit decisions in an accessible way, advocating for improvements through various means, and building community

among transit users. Their advocacy goals center on adhering to existing transit plans, engaging provincial and federal governments, and ensuring equitable access for all.

- Recent ETR campaigns included work on low-income transit passes, Transit Action Week, and transit priority measures. Future efforts will concentrate on transit awareness, the ETS fare policy review, and the upcoming municipal election
- B. Gerrits highlighted the key difference between ETSAB's advisory role and ETR's advocacy focus. She recognized complementary strengths, with ETSAB possessing better access to city information and ETR excelling in community.
- Both groups expressed interest in collaboration, particularly regarding research and data collection. ETR's large membership base and community engagement skills were identified as valuable resources for ETSAB's research. Specific collaboration points identified included sharing survey results and providing feedback on ETSAB reports.
- D. Witte noted that ETR's membership has grown significantly since their launch, and they aim for continued expansion to strengthen their advocacy efforts.
- S. Williams inquired about ETR's reporting on advocacy outcomes. Daniel explained that their reporting is less formal and more social media-driven, focusing on advocating for increased data transparency from the city.
- Contact info: edmontontransitriders.org, [info@edmontontransitriders.org](mailto:info@edmontontransitriders.org), Also found on instagram, bluesky and linkedin.

#### **New Business/Updates:**

##### **a) Councilor Emerging Issues/Updates:**

**Councillor E. Rutherford**

- E. Rutherford provided updates on council decisions regarding transit safety, including the transition of commissioners to transit peace officers and plans for increased safety initiatives and enhanced cleaning. Also mentioned the approved acquisition of 25 new transit buses.
- Concerns were raised regarding provincial government interference in municipal decisions related to cycling infrastructure and broader transit planning. The potential impact of provincial bills on federal funding for transit was also discussed. The new transit garage and bus storage were discussed in relation to the procurement of new buses. The source of new buses and the potential impact of tariffs were also addressed.

##### **b) Resignation - Maria**

**E. Batty**

- The board members expressed gratitude for M. Owczarek's three years of service and contributions to various subcommittees. They noted her insightful contributions and highlighted her presentation on city shadows and expressed support for her prioritization in personal well being. M. Owczarek explained her retirement plans, including extensive travel and continued part-time work.

<b>Working groups/subcommittees:</b>	<b>E. Batty</b>
<p><b>a) Rapid Responses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing at this time.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Sub Committees:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fare Funding Gap</li> <li>• ARC Card Review</li> <li>• ETSAB members discussed their subcommittee work, including reviews of the ARC card and the fair funding gap, as well as potential future topics like pet-friendly transit and improved bus stop mapping and navigation. A potential collaboration with MU Transit on mapping and navigation was also discussed. discussed the status of subcommittees, noting that some were full while others had openings. They addressed R. Hardie's inquiry about subcommittee assignments. They also discussed the possibility of adding one or two new members to the ARC card review subcommittee.</li> <li>• Discussed the timeline for subcommittee work, aiming for initial meetings and progress by the end of the following month. M. Lachance explained that the upcoming election's "blackout period" would delay the submission of reports to the council until after the election, but this was not expected to significantly impact the subcommittees' work. B. Gerrits sought clarification on when reports could be scheduled after the election .</li> </ul>	

<b>External Updates:</b>	<b>E. Batty</b>
<p><b>a) ATU 569:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nothing to report</li> </ul>	<b>S. Bradshaw</b>
<p><b>b) Branch Highlights Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See attached report</li> </ul>	<b>M. Lachance</b>
<p><b>c) Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Jackman provided an update on the Accessibility Advisory Committee's (AAC) work regarding service and guide dogs on transit. They highlighted incidents where confusion arose about regulations, noting that only a harness, not an additional vest, is required for guide dogs. They stressed the importance of operator training and awareness to ensure respectful treatment of riders with disabilities.</li> <li>• described their collaboration efforts with the Demand-A-Ride Transit Services (DATs) advisory group, noting opportunities for information sharing and addressing challenges faced by users of both conventional and DATs services.</li> </ul>	<b>J. Jackman</b>
<p><b>d) ETS Branch Manager/Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing to report</li> </ul>	<b>E. Batty</b>

<b>Topics of the night</b>	<b>M. Seraj</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation from Edmonton Transit Riders on their organization and potential collaboration</li><li>• Preparations for the upcoming subcommittees, including member recruitment.</li></ul>	

### **Motion to Adjourn**