

Members Present:

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

Regrets:

Emily Batty (Chair), Steve Bradshaw (President, ATU 569)

City of Edmonton Staff:

Tammy Smith, Admin Assistant Transit Planning, Ridership and Revenue.
Marc Lachance, ETS Staff Liaison.

Materials & Attachments:

- Land Acknowledgement
- Meeting Agenda and ETS Branch Highlights Report
- DRAFT Meeting Minutes - November , 2024
- DRAFT Meeting Minutes - December , 2024

CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM M. Seraj	Land acknowledgement	M. Seraj
Agenda Review DECISION		
<i>Motion: add discussion of Chair and Vice Chair position</i>		
<i>Moved: by J. Jackman seconded K. Kirk to amend the January 2025 agenda</i>		CARRIED
<i>Moved: by S. Williams seconded by L. McFarlane to approve the January, 2025 agenda as presented.</i>		CARRIED
Meeting Minutes Review DECISION		
<i>Moved: by, L. McFarlane seconded by J. Jackman to approve the November 25, 2024 minutes as presented.</i>		CARRIED
<i>Moved: by, R. Hardie seconded by E. Masakhwe to approve the December 16, 2024 minutes as presented.</i>		CARRIED

a) Councilor Emerging Issues Update (Councillor E. Rutherford)

Public spaces bylaw has been published early coming to the community and public services committee Feb 10, 2025. ETSAB can provide input for this.

Current bylaws are being rescinded and replaced by the new public spaces bylaw

1. Park Land Bylaw, 2. Conduct on Transit Passengers Bylaw, 3, Public Spaces Bylaw.

Also took regulating provisions from the animal control bylaw, traffic control bylaw and drainage bylaw. There are eight attachments of this document. Some things discussed were the fine changes as they seemed high. There are recommendations to reduce these fines to \$25.00. Bylaws regarding e-scooters and bikes. Fare increase with ETS as approved in the four year budget even before the gaps in our budget were identified by the city manager by ETS. The council did not have the recommendation at that time. This strikes balance with policies between tax and fare increases. One of the Biggest changes is the change in youth age on fare pricing. Passes for low income and students etc have different rates.

B. Gerrits asked about the balance between people surviving and the lack of spaces ie; bathrooms etc Councillor Rutherford highlighted based on GBA plus specifically around the public washrooms part the amendment to the bylaw will have no penalties or fines if facilities are not available or in close proximity. The city of Edmonton as an employer has an obligation to ensure employees feel safe at work and the general public while being compassionate of the people that utilize these spaces. These are regulatory fines ie; homeless etc. Enforcement (issuing fines) is clarified in the report as well. Councilor Rutherford said ETSAB could weigh in on this report. Maybe rapid response on this specific bylaw. M. Seraj commented on this being approached by the board for the rapid responses will have to discuss further. R. Hardie requested the link for the report to be able to review. J. Jackman asked about the ride transit program reserve fund accessed, the LRT reserve rainy day fund used during covid pandemic and is it being worked on being replenished. Councilor Rutherford responded about the justification of using this fund which is capital IIS issue the reserve had a significant increase from Trans Ed fines for the late completion.

b) New board member recruitment

The City has requested applications. The board chair and vice chair have received eighteen applications and will review the applications and forward to councillors for review and approval. Position will start in April.

B. Gerrits asked if the recruitment work is normally the chair and vice chair as it appears a lot of the work load is not distributed amongst other members. FOIP issues come to the City Clerk deciding who has to have this information. B. Gerrits requested some documents to show what the roles of the chair are nominations at the next meeting M. Lachance suggested discussing with the current chair and vice chair. M. Seraj spoke about what he considers his workload is as the vice chair.

c) Annual Report

This is a responsibility of the chair and vice chair. This report work plan is due on February 7, 2025. The annual retreat is on February 8, 2025. E. Batty has requested an extension to allow time to use the annual retreat to complete the report. J. Jackman asked if there are any parts of the annual report able to be delegated to assist with the report so not everything is on the chair and vice chair to complete. M. Seraj suggested he would follow up with E. Batty in regards to J. Jackman comments.

d) Annual Retreat

February 8, 2025 in the 3rd floor conference center of Edmonton Tower from 10am to 3pm. There will be a facilitator and presentation from the city. Purpose of the retreat is to plan out the next year for the board. General idea is to finalize four topics for working groups. Suggested board members bring ideas to present the day.

e) Nominations for the chair and vice chair

The February meeting will be using an online digital vote and in person vote. Chair and vice chair terms are one year. You can re-elect the same positions if you so choose. E. Batty and M. Seraj have both stated potentially moving away from the Edmonton area so this would influence the vote. R. Hardie asked situationally if the chair has to leave mid term was an election to continue the term or will it be at the next election. J. Jackman mentioned how this can be awkward at the meeting if someone wants to speak up if they are considering the role or not considering assisting in the process. K. Kirk stated maybe everyone can take the week to consider and express interest to the board in advance. M. Seraj stated it can be discussed further at the retreat. J. Jackman asked at the retreat could E. Batty and M. Seraji define the roles of the chair and vice chair and provide the bylaws to the board.

Working Groups/Sub-Committees	
ARC Card Review	M. Seraj
It was decided at the last meeting to leave this on hold for now.	

Working groups sub committees rapid responses	M. Seraj
M. Lachance stated that there are two reports coming up that M. Lachance wants to speak about them at the next meeting. DATS audit report going to council February 18, 2025 but maybe changed to March. Report is being finalized and goes in early March. There are procedural and documentation changes and ETS has already started to make changes with the recommendations. Fare policy report, Council would like a review of the cost recovery ratio not a fare policy looking for council input. Fare policy going to council. March 5th.	

<p>L. McFarlane has asked for a brief report on the Dats audit.</p> <p>M. Lachance stated eligibility process and better documentation, some IT changes ie; password security and upgrades. A more specific strategic planning process. Performance targets and risk assessments for DATS. reviewing service delivery model. Data issues better validation and updating training materials. E. Masakhwe asked about performance targets, rider satisfaction not business focused. M. Lachance's response was not specifically defined in this.</p> <p>B.Gerrits asked, did they talk to Dats users? Where is the data coming from? M. Lachance stated Dats advisory group is a sub committee of the Dats group this is where the data came from.</p> <p>Potentially rapid response based on public space bylaw</p> <p>Action item to email board about the report.</p>	
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External Updates	
a) ATU 569 Nothing to report	S. Bradshaw
b) ETS Branch Highlights Report Ridership report increase 15%. November 2024 was 30th anniversary of stuff a bus. Has been Integrated to include stuff a bus stops at schools. Start of January outreach events at schools and Jr and Sr high outreach to help families plan for upcoming school years. Deep freeze festival had performers on the bus and allowed a warm up place for people. Fare changes with youth reflected in fare policy. Short term multi day pass options. February service adjustments, construction detours, rider respect campaign. Trip planner pilot working with regional services. January reports LRT cellular connectivity working on improvements Valleyline west construction impacts. Transportation projects traffic management. R. Hardie three and five day questions, how does it work? and how is it not available for regional partners or 747 only ETS? M. Lachance stated at the moment limited use can not be part of the arc card. L. McFarlane asked if there was a plan to have the passes added for regional services in the future. M. Lachance replied we have started discussions but it's still in that discussion stage. M. Lachance stated cross city routes have increased. Year over year the entire ridership is up 15%. Top performing cross town routes 51 and 52 %% route 54 up %% and %% route 7 increased route 8. R. Hardie asked why the routes have increased. M. Lachance stated there are multi factors for the increases. E. Masakhwe asked if there had been any tie in between with arc cards to increase in ridership. M. Lachance stated we do not have data to show this.	M. Lachance
c) Accessibility Advisory Committee - AAC Liaison Update Question for M. Lachance, a few conversations came up with the board regarding Dats advisory group. Is there any reason for ETSAB to interact with the Dats advisory group? We have tried to facilitate this in the past but unsure if this can be followed up.	J. Jackman

Monthly Branch Update with Carrie	M. Seraj
No updates this month	

<p>Topics of the Night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with councilor Rutherford about public spaces bylaw and provided rapid response after reviewing the document. • Discussion on upcoming annual retreat on February 8, 2025 and plan to finalize key topics for the working group. • Discussion on upcoming election for chair and vice chair to be decided upon at next meeting. 	<p>M. Seraj</p>
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Motion to Adjourn

CHAIR SIGN-OFF _____