

Bylaw 19782

Amendment to the Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw 8353, to reduce the current fine amount for fare evasion and provisions regarding loitering

Recommendation

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:
That Bylaw 19782 be given the appropriate readings.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the April 6, 2021, City Council meeting the following motions were passed:

That Administration prepare amendments to the Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw 8353 provisions regarding loitering, including recommendations for exempting helping agencies and organizations, their corresponding social workers and anyone accessing these services in transit stations as part of a whole systems approach to community safety and transit.

That Administration prepare amendments to the Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw 8353 to reduce the current fine amount for fare evasion from \$250 to \$150, to be in line with other jurisdictions as outlined in Attachment 3 of the March 24, 2021, City Operations report CR_7813.

Purpose

To amend the current Conduct of Transit Passengers bylaw to reduce the fine amount for fare evasion from \$250 to \$150 and remove provisions regarding loitering.

Readings

Bylaw 19782 is ready for three readings.

A majority vote of City Council on all three readings is required for passage. If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving third reading, Council must unanimously agree “That Bylaw 19782 be considered for third reading.”

Position of Administration

Administration supports this Bylaw.

Report Summary

Bylaw 19782 reduces the fare evasion fine from \$250 to \$150 and removes provisions regarding loitering.

Report

Bylaw 19782 amends the Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw to reduce the fare evasion fine from \$250 to \$150 and loitering be removed within the bylaw. The precise financial implications of reducing the fine amounts are unknown due to factors such as changing ridership and fare purchasing behaviour due to COVID-19, phased implementation of Smart Fare payment technology and Transit Peace Officers changing their approach to fare enforcement - starting with coaching and education before moving to warning and ticketing.

Prior to discussions around changing the fine amount for loitering, Transit Peace Officers moved to an assistance model for fare evasion offenders and non-destination riders. Providing assistance includes sharing connections to social services and supports, transportation connections to shelters, providing support for extreme weather conditions in winter and summer. As a result of the change and reduced ridership due to COVID-19, overall ticket volumes and fine revenues have been reduced .

Amendments to the bylaw include replacing loitering with inappropriate behavior that can reasonably be expected to interfere with the safety or comfort of others, including passengers and Edmonton Transit Service employees.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

| Corporate Outcome(s): Edmontonians use public transit and active modes of transportation | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Outcome(s) | Measure(s) | Result(s) | Target(s) |
| Edmontonians use public transit and active modes of transportation | Transit Ridership | 48,275,563 (2020) | 85,640,000 |

Attachment

1. Bylaw 19782 - Conduct of Transit Passengers Amendment No. 14

Others Reviewing this Report

- M. Persson, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Corporate Services
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- R. Smyth, Deputy City Manager, Citizen Services
- K. Fallis-Howell, Acting City Solicitor