

ETSAB 2021 - 2022 Sub - Committees Activities and Outcomes

ETSAB held twelve regular monthly meetings in the 2021-2022 term. The annual work plan was developed at a half-day virtual meeting on May 8, 2021. To fulfill the work plan, the following sub-committees were formed to conduct research and provide a policy position or recommendation to the appropriate committees of council:

1. Safety and Security
2. Sustainable and Equitable Transit Funding

The activities of each sub-committee are described below:

1. Safety and Security

Purpose

Evaluate transit safety and security from a youth perspective.

Activities

Research included:

- Review previous ETSAB Safety and Security Subcommittee reports, evaluate the recommendations and progress made on implementing these recommendations, through the lens of gender, BIPOC, and vulnerable users.
- Youth and safety on transit:
 - Evaluate city transit programmes to ensure the safety of young people (10 – 21 years) on transit. Analyze transit training for younger riders – what kind of programs exist and how can such programmes help young people feel more confident on transit.
 - Work with parents and guardians of young people, to gather information on safety best practices for young people on transit.
 - Evaluate the efficacy of the Transit Watch programme, from the point of view of young people.
 - Analyze the messaging and tools from the City on transit safety and how it can better reach out to young people.
- Mobilize ideas from other jurisdictions and cities comparable in size to Edmonton, and report on best practices on how to improve safety/security, with particular emphasis on cost.
- Use reports and statistics from ETS on ridership and security (for example: Transit Watch)
- Reaching out to the Edmonton Public and Catholic School Boards to gather data on youth transit riders.
- Using social media to reach out to communities, including Facebook Groups, Twitter, and Reddit.
- Canvass PTA groups from schools.
- Talk to student unions from universities/ colleges.

Attachment 2

- First-hand accounts from transit riders – via unstructured interviews, if possible.
- Inviting concerned parties to future ETSAB and subcommittee meetings to offer their points of view.

Outcomes:

Make recommendations to the City on safety and security on transit for youth via a letter/report to Council.

Membership

Chair: Michelle Peters-Jones

Members: Lindsay Vanstone, Guy Milner, Mary Harvey

2. Sustainable and Equitable Transit Funding

Purpose

The purpose of this subcommittee is to provide meaningful input to Edmonton City Council committees as discussions on financial sustainability from the perspective of everyday people taking transit. The pandemic impacted ETS's ability to generate revenue, while commuters continuously get frustrated at increasing fares while not seeing a tangible improvement in the transit service they received. The City is exploring additional sources of revenue and the subcommittee intends to provide feedback on the impacts of these various methods.

Activities

Commenced November 2021 - March 2022

- Reviewing the ETS Report CO00607 Mass Transit System - Sustainable Funding and Service Growth Report that will be presented to City Council on April 13.
- Comparing travel times for different modes of travel, to assess how Edmontonians are likely to choose one method over another, using publicly accessible online tools.
- Discussions among subcommittee members of their lived experiences traveling in Edmonton using various modes of transport.
- Drafting a letter outlining the feedback of the board members, to highlight the potential impacts of these funding options towards Edmontonians.

Outcome

- A letter currently being drafted that will be sent prior to April 13 in time for ETS' presentation on Sustainable Funding and Service Growth

Membership

Chair: Giselle General

Members: William Agbakoba, Jarret Esslinger, Bryan Shepherd, Serena Tang, Bob Turner, Lindsay Vanstone