

Transit Safety and Security

Item 6.7
February 22/24, 2022
City Council

Outline

- Strategic Context
- Framework for Transit Safety and Security
- Community Outreach Transit Team
- Community Insights
- Next Steps

Strategic Context

Transit enables The City Plan to create a community of communities

- Mode shift targets:
 - 50 per cent of trips are made by transit and active transportation
 - 15-minute districts that allow people to easily complete their daily needs
- Safety and security is a key lever for transit ridership
- Public transit contributes to health, climate adaptation, social and economic outcomes

Framework for Transit Safety & Security

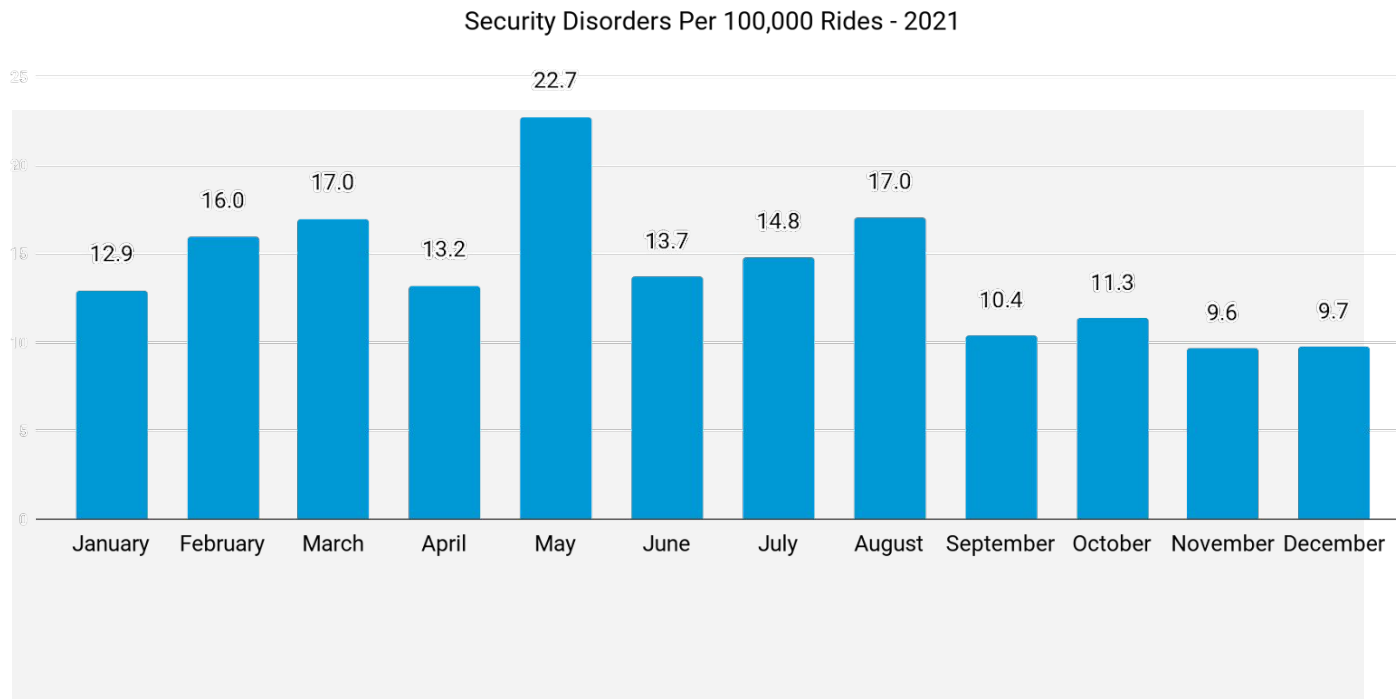
- Technology and equipment
- Infrastructure and environmental design
- Mass transit plans and transit network design
- Education, social support and outreach
- Policies and procedures
- Security and policing

Community Outreach Transit Team (COTT)

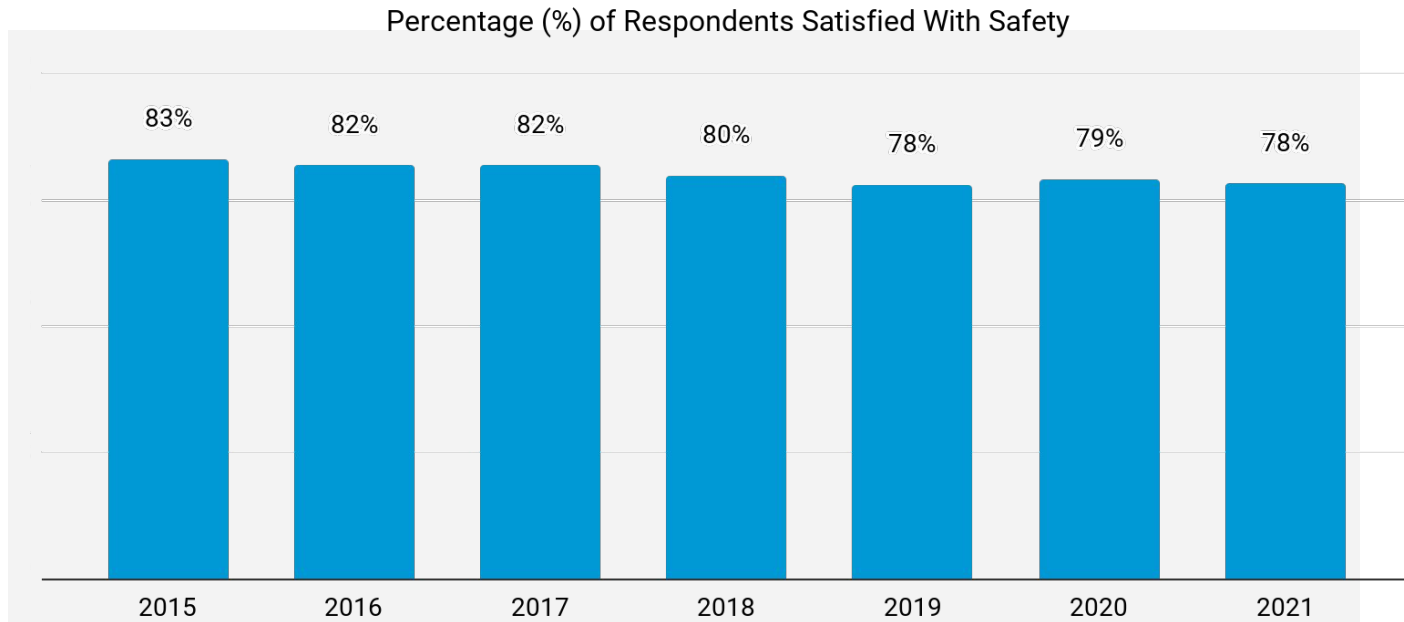
Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society

Edmonton

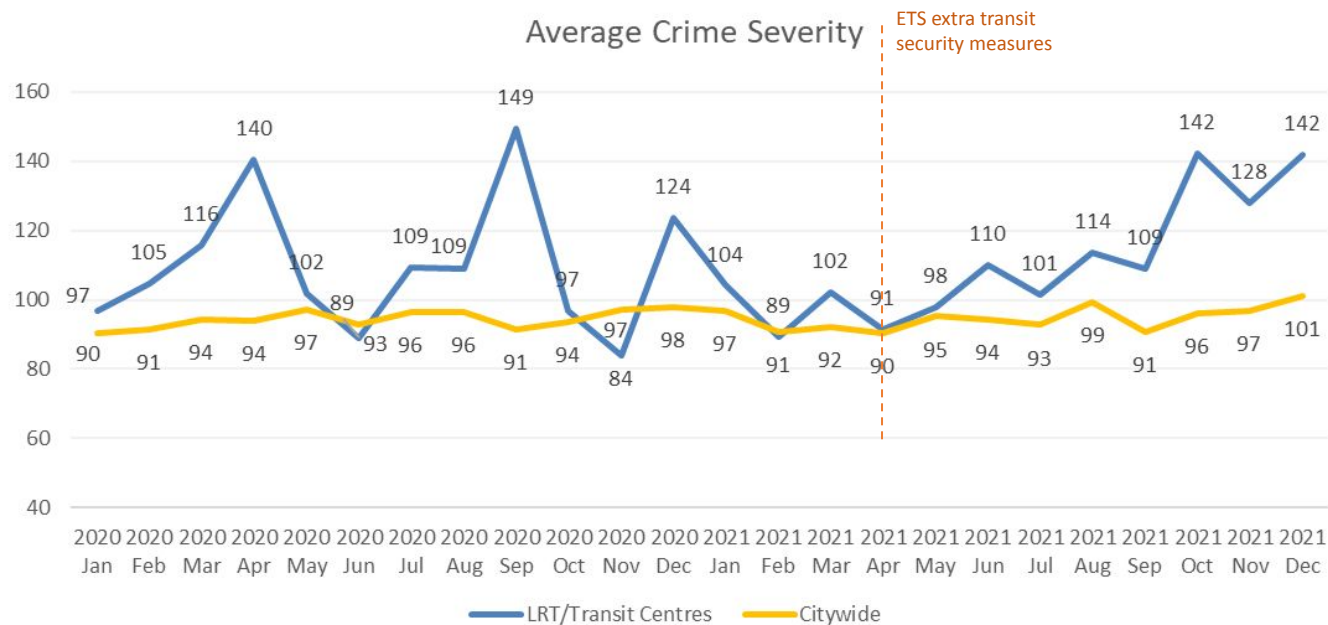
Transit Security Disorder



Perceptions of Safety



The average crime severity at LRT / Transit centres is 12% higher than the citywide average.



Drivers of crime severity at LRT/transit centers:

- Personal Robberies
- Personal Robberies with offensive weapon
- Assault Bodily Harm/Weapon
- Possession of Weapons
- Aggravated Assault

The average crime severity of the top 10 calls for service at LRT / Transit centres was almost **3x** greater than the average severity of the top 10 calls for service city wide.

Community Insights

University of Alberta International Students'

Association - Chanpreet Singh, President of the University of Alberta International Students' Association

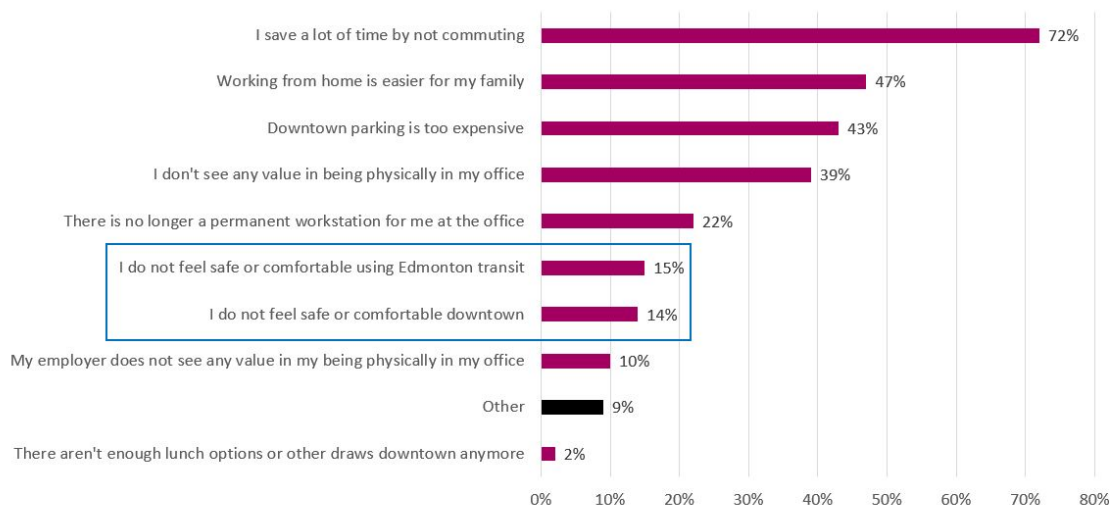
- 12,900+ international students in Edmonton
 - 9,000+ University of Alberta
 - 2,000+ NAIT
 - 1,900+ Norquest
- Last year in April an international student was stabbed at University Station, and in September, an international student has assaulted again at University Station.
- International students contribute to the City in same manner as any other resident and heavily rely on transit to study, go to jobs, buy groceries and all day-to-day activities.

Downtown Business Association - Puneeta McByran

Executive Director, Downtown Business Association



What are the primary reasons you won't be returning to the office?



DRAFT



Base: respondents that are returning to the physical office only when requested or has a job that is fully remote. n=163
Multiple responses recorded

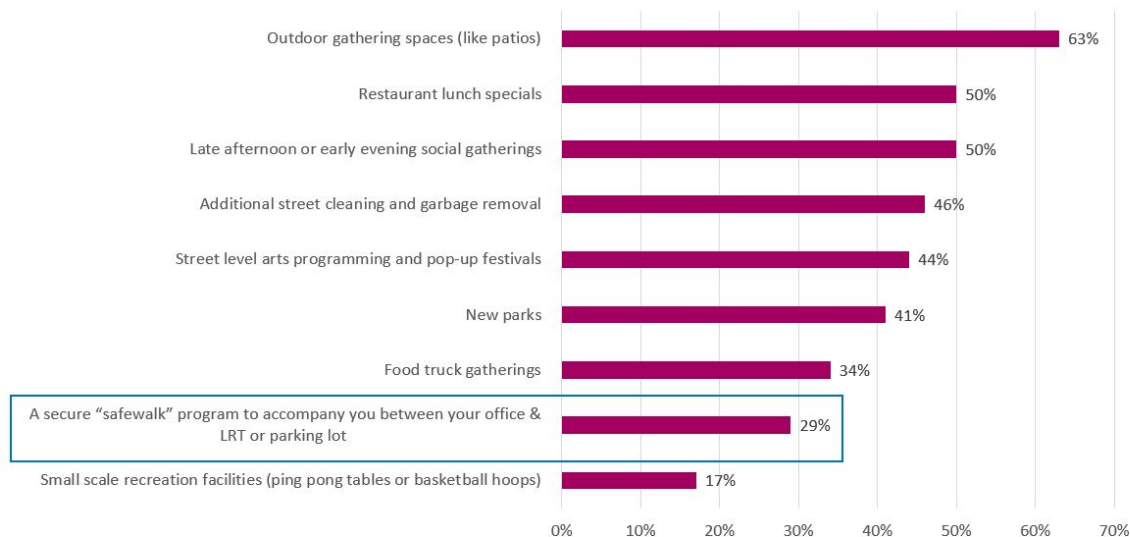
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Downtown Business Association - Puneeta McByran

Executive Director, Downtown Business Association

Importance of downtown events, programs or features that would increase likelihood of choosing to return to work downtown



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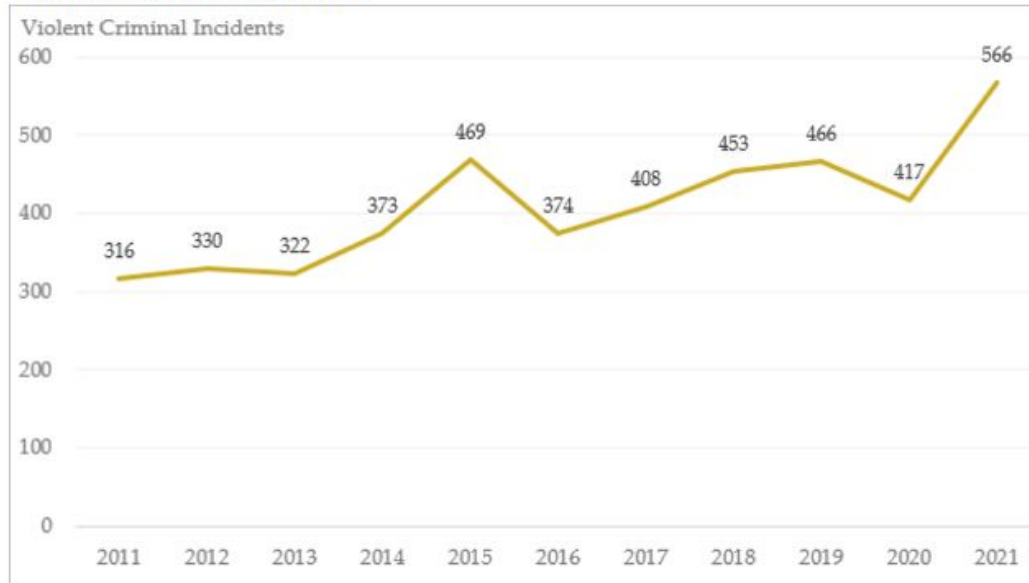
n=611. Percentage of 4-5 "Important" responses.

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Chinatown and Area Business Association - Holly Mah, Chair of the Chinatown and Area Business Association

Violent Criminal Incidents



Violent Criminal Incidents McCauley Neighbourhood - % Change

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Violent Criminal Incidents	316	330	322	373	469	374	408	453	466	417	566
Change		14	-8	51	96	-95	34	45	13	-49	149
% Change		4%	-2%	16%	26%	-20%	9%	11%	3%	-11%	36%

Transit Safety Plan

Transit Safety Plan

- Integrated and coordinated governance and operations
 - Enhanced Safety Measures and Protocols
- Social Supports
 - Community Outreach Transit Team expansion
 - Partnerships with stakeholders such as Alberta Health Services
- Return to workplaces
 - More frequent cleaning of spaces
 - Space activation in our LRT stations and transit centres

Funding

- The three year pilot program (2023-2025) requires \$3.9 million in funding from 2022 to 2025
- Annual costs of \$1.27 million, with a one time \$60,000 vehicle purchase

Item	Cost	Funding Source
Allocate a project director to oversee the operations	\$185,000/year for 3 years = \$555K	Edmonton Police Services funds held corporately within Financial Strategies
Additional resources for COTT: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• three peace officers• three outreach workers One outreach coordinator	\$830,000/year for 3 years = \$2.49M	Funded equally from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edmonton Police Services funds held corporately within Financial Strategies• COVID-19 funds with the appropriated Financial Stabilization Reserve• Financial Stabilization Reserve
Additional vehicle for the COTT team	\$60,000 (One time)	
Two Transit Peace Officer foot patrol sergeant positions	\$250,000/year for 3 years = \$750K	

Further Options

- Amend the Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw
- Expand the Plan to the rest of Downtown

Questions