ETS and Riding the LRT: Safety Concerns

By: Cassie Carriere, Elizabeth Wells, Ethan Supina & Kaeden Tyrkalo



Why Are We Here Today?

We are here to:

- push for change and action regarding safety of ETS users
- provide some perspectives of Edmonton's young transit riders and show how we are affected
- spread awareness about how young riders are feeling while using ETS
- discuss Edmonton's homeless population issue and ways that we want to help the homeless as well as transit riders



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Services Committee help make change in Edmonton?

01

What Is Happening?



Matters of Concern

- Public use of drugs (illegal substances)
- Weapons
- Homelessness
- Behaviours in and around public transit (swearing, screaming, yelling, racism, etc.)
- Abuse of property (vandalism, spitting)
- Cleanliness
- Enforcement of laws



Is Ridership Declining?

- Ridership has been declining since January 2020
- Pandemic is not entirely to blame for decline
- Many riders have expressed how they are more likely to stick to personal transportation, rather than taking the LRT

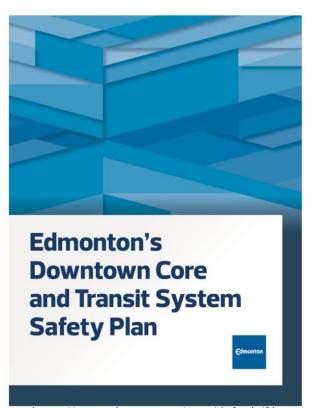
Below is a link to monthly ridership from January, 2020, to December 2022.

https://dashboard.edmonton.ca/dataset/Transit-Ridership/56kw-8dv4

https://www.lethbridge.ca/living-here/getti ng-around/Transit/Pages/default.aspx

What Has Been Done So Far?

In response to public safety concerns, on June 9, 2022, the City launched Edmonton's Downtown Core and Transit System Safety Plan. With a focus on Downtown, including Chinatown and transit spaces, the plan outlines sixteen actions that support and strengthen the safety of Edmontonians. The city has also set aside \$8.4 million to go towards solving issues.

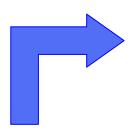


https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/Downtown-Core-and-Transit-Safety-Plan.pdf?cb=1655540117

Actions That Will Support Edmontonians

- As much as the city has done so far to try and make this system safer for all riders, there are still things that can be done to help. Examples include, funding overall, response to the homeless population and encampments, tidying and cleaning stations/trains, the increase in peace officer presence, a major response to needles, drugs and the ongoing opioid problem, and amendments to the Conduct of Transit Riders Bylaw.
- In May 2022, the Edmonton Police Service started Phase I of Project Connection, with focus on increased police visibility in Alberta Avenue, Chinatown, the Downtown core and the transit system.

What Else Is Being Done?



All of the following initiatives are said to also contribute to making Edmonton a safer city.

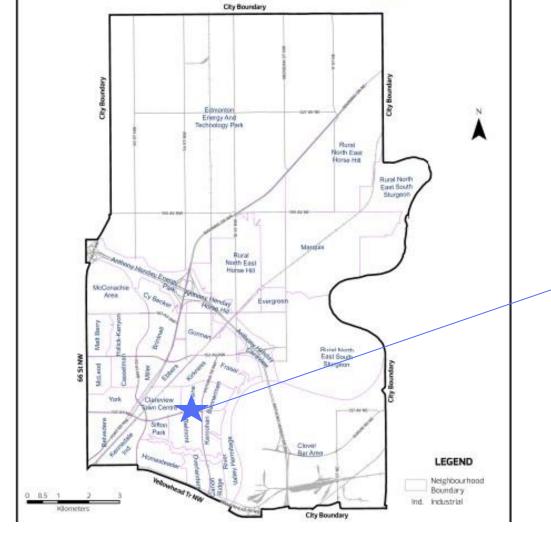
- 1. Bylaw 8353 Conduct of Transit Passengers
- 2. Amendment to Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw
- 3. Downtown Vibrancy Strategy
- 4. The Chinatown Strategy: Energizing a Prosperous Future (10.55 MB)
- 5. Chinatown Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

 Recommendations
- 6. A Transit Safety and Security Plan
- 7. Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy
- 8. Resource Analysis
- 9. 🖟 Edmonton's Needs for Housing
- 10. 🖟 Advocacy Submissions and Meetings with Other Orders of Government
- 11. 🖟 Minimum Emergency Shelter Standards

02

Student Opinions





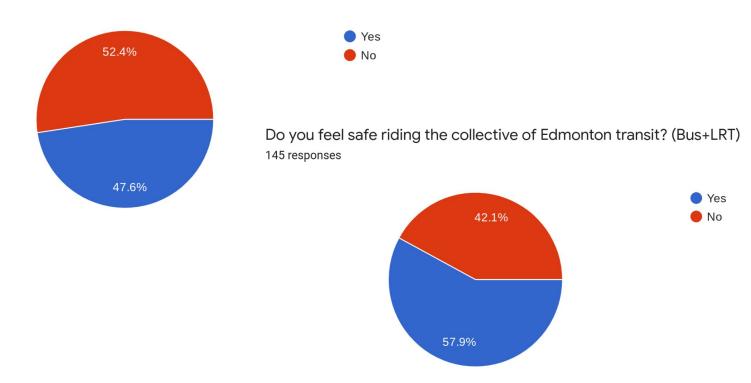
John D. Bracco (our school)

Student Responses

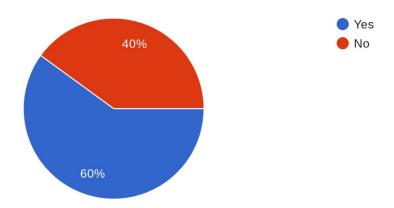
- Before our meeting here today, we presented our concerns to other students in our school
- We have collected 145 responses from students ages 11-15 years in our student population
- They all filled out a Google Form asking questions about how they feel while on transit and their experiences on transit



Do you feel safe riding the LRT? 145 responses



Have you witnessed any illegal activity in our transit stations? (Drugs, Graffiti, Violence, etc) 145 responses



What Happens If This Continues?

- Riders will still feel unsafe
- People with addictions and people in poverty will not get the proper help they need and will continue to use transit stations as shelters and safe drug consumption sites
- We will continue to be at risk of getting physically harmed by people carrying weapons, which could possibly lead to severe injuries and/or death
- Edmonton will keep its bad reputation of having a bad transit system
- If transit riders (especially younger kids and teenagers) are near people with addictions and substances, they may be influenced by them and get stuck in the world of drugs and alcohol

03

Ideas For Change





THE MAIN GOAL

The main goal is to have city council agree to build a turnstile gate system at each transit station. These systems would require people to scan a pass before they were allowed to pass through. If someone were to hop over, it would set off an alarm. We would request that at least 2 security officers be there to patrol these gates at all times.



This is a photo of Presto gates in Toronto, ON

Helping Edmonton's Homeless Population

As mentioned earlier in our presentation, the high level of homeless population is a problem within our city. With nowhere else to go, homeless people end up in our city's LRT stations. The question of "how will this help the homeless people" came into further consideration and discussion when we went around our school.

Here are some of the ideas we propose would help this issue:

- More shelters with larger spaces
- Provide easier access to supervised drug use sites (possibly building more)
- Increasing access to mental health professionals and facilities
- A program similar to the CityLINK program in Lethbridge

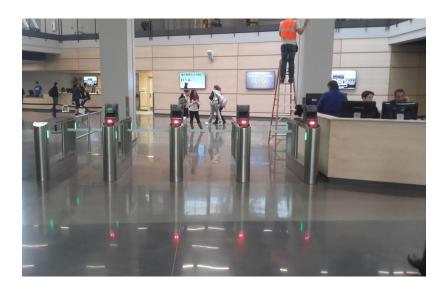
https://www.lethbridge.ca/living-here/getting-around/Transit/Pages/city LINK.aspx 04

Research/ Data



THE MAIN GOAL- PRICES

- GB-3 Optical Turnstile, from Turnstiles Security Systems Inc.
- Costs \$18,000 per lane of 4-6.
- We would like to put one lane per entrance, per station
- System has built in sensors to detect if people jump over.
- Along with this, it can be hooked up to fire systems so that in case of a fire it opens automatically
- This would work out to \$972,000 for all stations to have a few lanes of turnstiles per station.



The GB-3 systems in use at University Of Oregon

Hygiene Goals

We would need 5 Janitors at each station per day, the hourly wage for a janitor ranges form \$15- \$19.93 an hour. Adding this all together it would cost:

- \$75- \$99.65 a hour
- \$2250- \$2992.5 a day
- \$15,750- \$20,947.5 a week
- \$63,000- \$87,790 a month
- \$117,000- \$155,610 a year

Per station.

Proposed Shift Times

Janitor 1: 5:00am-11:00am

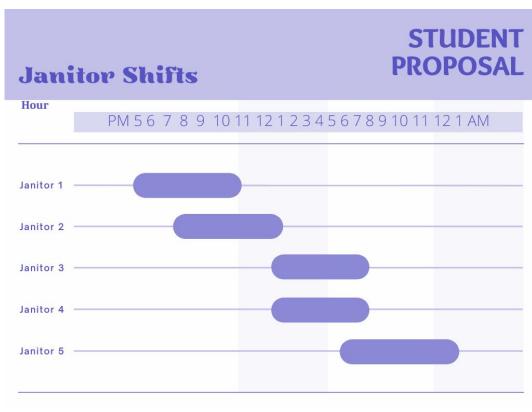
Janitor 2: 7:30am-1:30pm

Janitor 3: 1:30pm-7:30pm

Janitor 4: 1:30pm-7:30pm

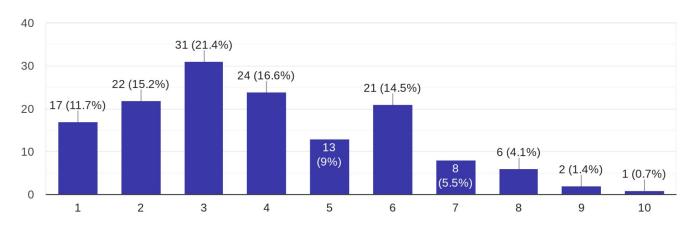
Janitor 5: 7:00pm-1:00am

This would overlap multiple janitors during peak hours to allow faster cleaning and lesser costs.



We asked students to rate the cleanliness of LRT stations on a scale of 1-10.

On a scale from 1-10, What would you rate the cleanliness of our transit stations 145 responses



How Would Our Ideas Help?



RIDERS FEEL SAFER

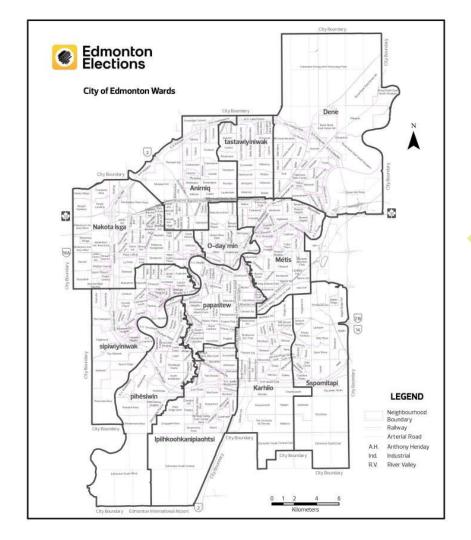
Riders would feel safer knowing that there is more security and less risk of public drug use and violence.

LIMIT UNAUTHORIZED ENTRIES

People who suffer from homelessness and addictions will be forced to receive proper help and proper shelter.

MAKETHINGS FAIR

People who don't pay for a pass will not be able to ride the train. This would make laws about paying for transit more official and respected.



CITY WARD MAP

This is the current map of all the wards in our city. Currently, we have 18 LRT stations, and more on the way with the Valley line extension. 05

Conclusion





Conclusion

In conclusion, the ideas that we've presented today are just a few ways that the city council can help increase the safety of the LRT and the ETS systems.

What Can The Committee Do?

We would really appreciate if the committee members passed on our ideas, data and research to City Council. We hope that our presentation provided some insight into the current state of the transit system in Edmonton.





Global News 3-Part Series

A Global News reporter named Morgan Black created a special 3-part series to spread awareness of the LRT safety concerns. Take a look if you want!

The link below takes you to part 1. Before the article, there is a small paragraph that has links to parts 2 and 3.

https://globalnews.ca/news/8784747/troubled-transit-edmonton-lrt-safety-crime/

Thank You For Listening

Do you have any questions?



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Resources

https://www.edmonton.ca/city-government

https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_organization/mayor/contact-the-mayor

https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/2021-sa w-increase-in-downtown-violence-more-severe-crimes-o n-lrt-eps-report

https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/it-s-not-really-safe-lrt-safet y-concerns-remain-with-daily-users-1.5858204

https://globalnews.ca/news/8677547/assault-stabbing-central-edmonton-lrt-station/

https://globalnews.ca/video/rd/7b6501aa-9e87-11ec-aed4-0242ac110005/?jwsource=cl

 $\underline{\text{https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/senior-shoved-onto-edmonton-lrt-tracks-in-violent-unprovoked-assault-1.5877002}$

https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/mobile/poop-on-the-train-then-edmonton-hit-with-wave-of-backlash-for-locking-transit-bathrooms-1.5835223?cache=gdhnoxdjktp?clipId=86116

https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/assets/PDF/Citywide _Ward_Map.pdf

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-city-council-transit-1.6395 609#:~:text=Councillors%20flagged%20issues%20that%20continue,during%20the%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic.

https://globalnews.ca/news/8504598/edmonton-transit-riders-safety-concerns/

https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/senior-shoved-onto-edmonton-Irt-tracks-in-violent-unprovoked-assault-1.5877002

 $\underline{\text{https://globalnews.ca/news/8784747/troubled-transit-edmonton-lrt-safety-crime/}}$

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-city-council-downtown-disorder-1.6455751