



Edmonton Transit Services

**CO01192 Ride Transit and Leisure
Access Programs
CO00576 Transit Fare Fines
Repayment Options**

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Council Report Motion

At the March 14/16/22, 2022, City Council meeting the following motion passed:

That Administration provide a short summary report on the Ride Transit and Leisure Access Programs as well as the current program to allow youth to travel free with a fare-paying customer. This report is to include:

1. The overall usage and cost of these programs.
2. The changes made to eligibility over the past two terms.
3. Any other measures that have been considered in place of low- income cut off (LICO) to determine eligibility for those programs.
4. Opportunities to expand the current scale to include more Edmontonians and an estimate of anticipated costs. This should also include an analysis of expanding these programs to First Nations around the Edmonton Region working in partnership with other orders of government.
5. Opportunities to allow youth 12 and under to travel on ETS for free without a fare-paying customer as well as the opportunity to open that up to those 18 and under.
6. An analysis for individuals with long-term disabilities that prevent the ability to drive (e.g. brain injury)."

CO00576 Transit Fare Fines - Repayment Options Report

At the March 24, 2021 Community and Public Services Committee the following motion was passed:

That Administration work with social agency partners to co-create equitable fine repayment options, including options to allow for proof of purchase of a monthly transit pass within a two week period, and conduct an anti-racism review of current low income fare programs to remove barriers and support equitable participation from those who need support, and provide a report back.

Overview of Ride Transit and LAP

LEISURE ACCESS PROGRAM (LAP)

- Launched in 1995 to provide Edmontonians experiencing low income **access to participating City of Edmonton recreation facilities and attractions**
- Provides a **fully subsidized annual membership or a partially subsidized monthly pass**
- Fully funded by the City of Edmonton.

RIDE TRANSIT PROGRAM

- Launched in 2017 to **reduce financial barriers to accessing transit** for Edmontonians experiencing low income
- Provides **subsidized Adult and Youth monthly passes** to eligible program participants
- Aligns with **Transit Fare Policy C451H** - provides fare discount to those who need it the most
- Jointly funded by the **City of Edmonton and Government of Alberta**

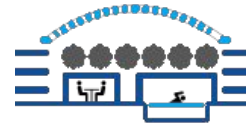
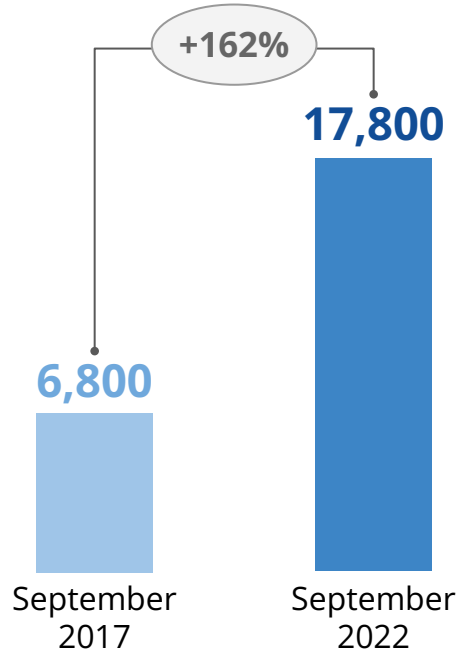
Overview of Low-Income Fare Programs

RIDE TRANSIT	DONATE-A-RIDE (DAR)	PATH (Providing Accessible Transit Here)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Launched in 2017 to provide greater access to ETS to low income Edmontonians→ Provides subsidized Adult and Youth monthly passes to eligible Edmontonians→ Jointly funded with the Government of Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Distributes single use transit tickets to local agencies that support low-income individuals→ Aim is to provide short-term transportation support→ Entirely funded by the City of Edmonton	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Established jointly with community agencies in 2016→ Provides free monthly transit passes to agencies that support unhoused or precariously housed individuals→ Relationship based program
17,800 Passes Purchased in September 2022	64,000 Transit Tickets Distributed in 2022	1,900 Passes Available Each Month Since 2021

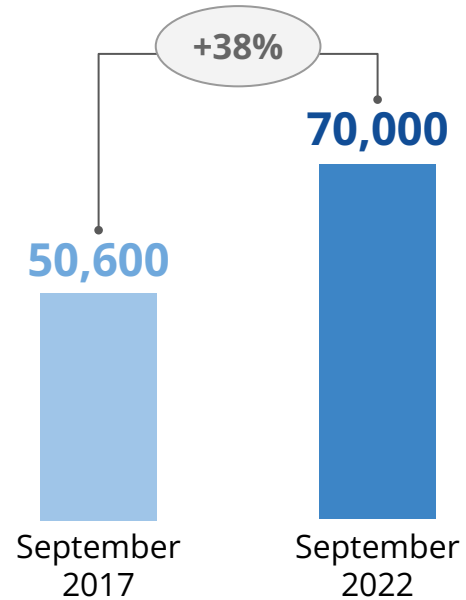
Ride Transit and LAP Usage



Ride Transit Passes Purchased



Total LAP Members



Ride Transit and LAP Cost

Ride Transit & LAP Administration

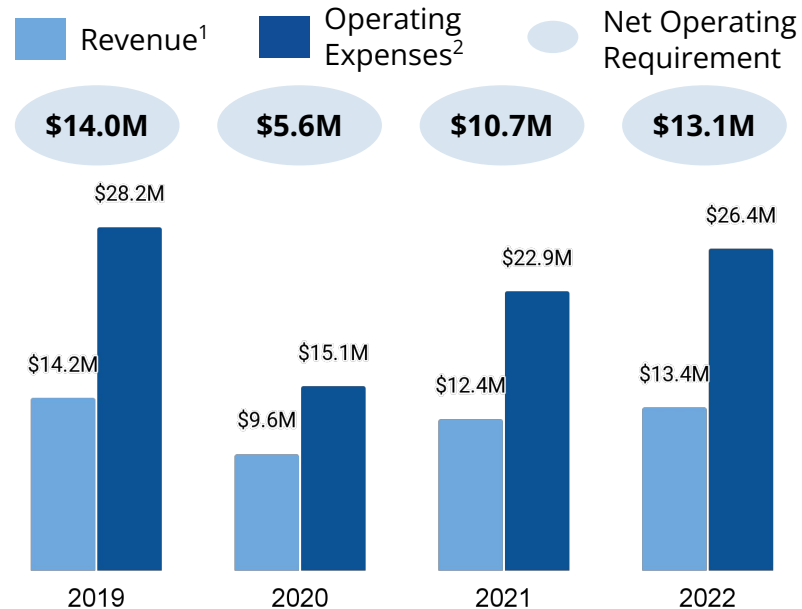
11.8 FTEs

administer both programs

\$819,000

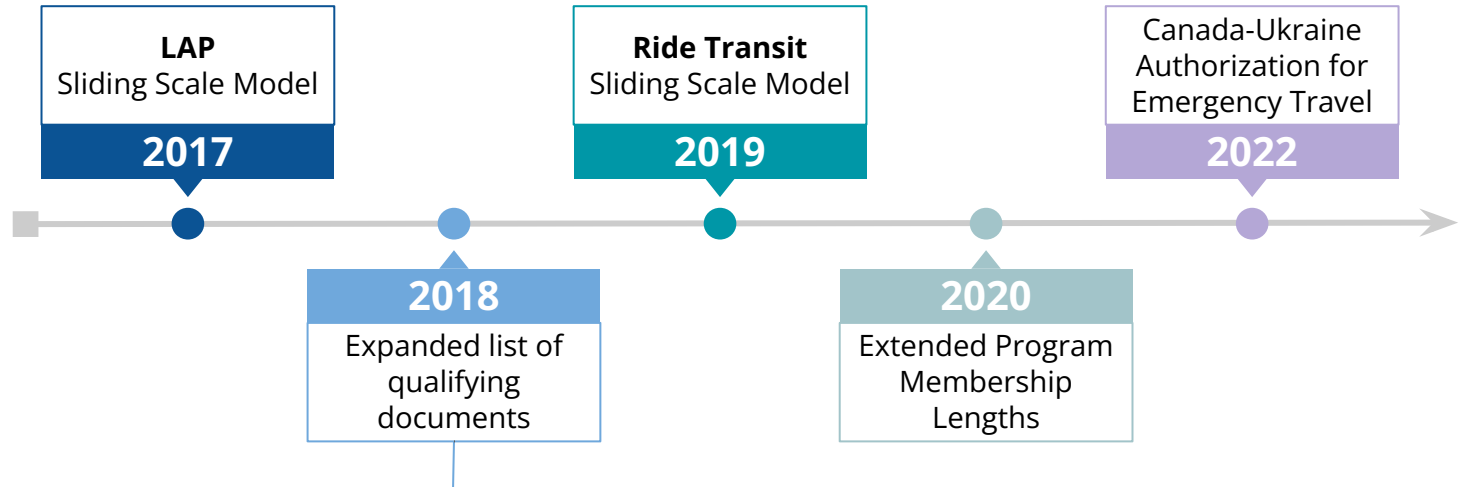
Annual personnel cost for administering applications
(part of this cost is included in the Ride Transit program budget)

Ride Transit Annual Budget



1. Revenue includes pass sales and the provincial grant; 2. Operating expenses include retail value of passes sold and program expenses (personnel, materials and equipment, external services and other expenses)

Other Eligibility Criteria In Place of LICO



Program	AISH	Permanent Resident	Refugee Status	Child under gov't care	GoA Income Support	GoA Learner Income	CPP Disability Benefit	Employment Insurance
LAP	✓ 2001	✓ 2006	✓ 2006	✓ 2006	✓ 2007-15; 2018	✓ 2007-15; 2018	✓ 2007-15; 2018	
Ride Transit	✓ 2017	✓ 2018	✓ 2018	✓ 2018	✓ 2018	✓ 2018	✓ 2018	✓ 2018

Opportunities To Expand The Programs



Barriers to accessing Ride Transit and LAP are continuously reviewed



Marketing and outreach initiatives will increase awareness of the programs among various community groups



Engagement with Enoch Cree Nation led to a few suitable options:

Transit

- ✓ Free transit tickets

Recreation

- ✓ Recreation pass bulk discount program
- ✓ Group Leisure Access Program

Allowing Youth To Ride Fare Free

Youth 12 and Under

- Since 2018, kids 12 and under ride fare-free, with a fare paying rider
- Aligned with regional partners
- Changes could increase demand for transit, support mobility and mode shift
- Financial implications unknown, requires additional research
- Different policies between regional agencies

Youth 18 and Under

- Could Increase demand for transit, support mobility and mode shift
- Youth fare product sales performance is strong; represents \$20M in revenue
- Inability to meet demand for more school special routes without new facility for growth buses
- Monitoring & enforcement challenges for Operators and Transit Peace Officers
- Different policies between regional agencies

Anti-Racism Review of Low Income Fare Programs



Engaged external consultants in 2021 and 2022 to conduct an anti-racism review of ETS fare programs







Focus is on reducing barriers and addressing program gaps







Greater equitable participation and social inclusion

Reducing Barriers To Accessing The Programs

Improvements to Ride Transit program since 2018:

-  Application form readability
-  Expanded income qualification documents
-  Additional sales channels
-  Marketing & outreach to increase program awareness

What we are currently working on:

- Ride Transit**
 -  Enhance application process
 -  Address program eligibility gaps
- DAR & PATH**
 -  Streamline agency reporting process
 -  Widen fare product options
 -  Improve program awareness

Thank you

Edmonton