



2016 Activity Report: Background and Overview Attachment 1

Background

The Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board (ETSAB) was established in September 1994 to provide advice and recommendations to city council, the transportation committee, and to city administration with regards to public transit. ETSAB prepares an annual work plan and report based on city council's direction and other matters of interest to council. ETSAB may also include in the work plan items that the board as citizens have identified for consideration by council to improve the transit experience of Edmontonians.

ETSAB consists of 12 members, appointed by city council. The President of the Amalgamated Transit Union or a delegate may serve the board as a liaison member. Members of ETSAB represent a variety of interests, are a positive source of informed participation, and are prepared to address issues on a city-wide basis. The criterion for selection of members is to gain representation that reflects the diversity of our citizens, businesses, labour, communities and organizations.

ETSAB meets on a monthly basis, generally on the last Monday. For issues that require in-depth consideration, ad-hoc sub-committees are formed as needed. Board members are expected to serve on at least one sub-committee and, although any citizen can serve on a sub-committee, meetings can only be chaired by an ETSAB member. The board is comprised of 12 volunteer members appointed by Council. Terms are renewed annually to a maximum of six years. Members are expected to commit at least 15-18 hours per month for board related activities.

In order to fulfill its mandate, ETSAB may:

- Conduct research;
- Identify stakeholder groups and seek input from them;
- Share information and collaborate with the City Manager;
- Receive and consider information and records provided by the City Manager that relates to the Board's mandate and work plan; and
- Inform city council of initiatives of other levels of government, surrounding municipalities and other local authorities and organizations that could impact public transit.

Overview

ETSAB had a productive year in 2016. The board increased its level of engagement with Council and Administration, making several presentations and issuing reports and other correspondence on various topics within its mandate. The boards' activities to highlight opportunities to improve transit services and products, with the consideration and response of Administration and Council, have led to tangible benefits in Edmonton's transit system. The board looks forward to continuing these collaborative efforts in 2017.

Membership and Appointments

Twelve members served the board in 2016: Amy Mannix, Izak Roux (Chair), Robert Macklon, Mariah Samji, Vladislav Slavov, Sean Lee, Shaminder Parmar, Kristina Peter, Syed Zaidi, Brian Curry, Charles Kelly, and Philip Reid.

Members are each appointed for a one year term from May 1st to April 30th; terms may be renewed up to a maximum of six years.

Three members, Amy Mannix (December 2016), Syed Zaidi (April 2017), and Shaminder Parmar (February 2017), have retired/resigned their position on the board, and recruitment is under way through the Office of the City Clerk for replacements.

At the first regular board meeting of 2017 (January 30th), Izak Roux was elected to continue as Chair, and Vladislav Slavov was elected to continue to serve as Vice Chair of the board for the 2017/2018 term.

Activities

The board held the all 12 regular monthly meetings in 2016. In addition, the board's work plan was renewed at a half-day retreat held February 6, 2017.

To fulfill the work plan for 2016/17, three new and three ongoing sub-committees of the board were formed to gather information and generate submissions:

1. Public Art and Transit
2. Bus Rapid Transit follow up
3. Transit Innovation
4. Transit User Experience
5. Heated Shelters
6. Transit and Tourism

The activities of each sub-committee are described in **Attachment #2**.

Communications with Council

Two presentations were made by the board to Transportation/Urban Planning Committee in the past year, and one letter from the board was issued to ETS Administration and Councilors.

1. Accessibility Letter (February 8, 2016)
2. Park & Ride Report (March 9, 2016)
3. Public Art and Transit Report (July 6, 2016)
4. Bus Rapid Transit Letter (January 18, 2017)

Councilors were updated on key matters discussed at regular board meetings via e-mail submission of "Topics of the Night". The selected topics for 2016 are listed in **Attachment #3**.

Other activities in 2016

Board members received 20 presentations throughout the year from City Administration and others (**Attachment #3**). Members had the opportunity to ask questions and offer informal feedback at each presentation. The board also attended a Tour of ETS Facilities on a Charter bus led by Jim Stein, General Supervisor of ETS Engineering and Maintenance.

The board nominated a delegate to attend a Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) conference in 2016, and intends to do so again in 2017. The board celebrated its 22nd anniversary at the board's Annual Social in December, attended by current and past members, members of City Council and Edmonton Transit management staff were also invited. The social will be held in November's General meeting in 2017 for better turnout.

Budget & Resource Usage

This is the third annual report of the board to include budget information for the upcoming year (**Attachment #4**). All budget items are included within the annual budget submission of ETS.

Work plan for 2017/2018

A proposed work plan for the board is included in **Attachment #5**. During 2017 the board plans to continue to contribute to the transit strategy, and review the topics of transit and tourism, the impact of autonomous vehicles, multi-modal transportation, citizen engagement in Transit, Transit partnership opportunities, gondolas or cable cars as mode of transit, and transit innovation.