



Edmonton

Monthly Verbal Update on the Transit Safety Plan and the Downtown Core

Item 7.4
June 14, 2023, City Council

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Outline

- Questions from May 1, 2023 CPSC
- Updates on:
 - Joint Operations
 - Recent Federal and Provincial Announcements
 - Encampments
 - Actions Underway
 - Communications
- Theory of Change
- Key Measures, Targets and Outcomes
- What's Next

Questions from May 1, 2023 CPSC

Q: What measures are being used to determine progress [on safety], how is that being shared publicly, [and] what are the statistics?

- Transit Safety - existing measures will be shared today
- Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Strategy takes a whole-system approach (not just downtown and transit)
- CSWB Strategy Evaluation Framework - in development for fall
- Phase 1 CSWB dashboard launching in July 2023 - will include baseline information about safety and well-being in our City

Questions from May 1, 2023 CPSC

Q: [What] ... needs to happen so that [there is a] clear understanding between TPOs vs. EPS?

- The City of Edmonton is working with the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) on this distinction

Q: How do we define violent crime?

- EPS categorizes crime into violent and non-violent categories based on a national standard. The City of Edmonton aligns with EPS on that definition

Joint Operations

- The City of Edmonton and EPS actively work together to respond efficiently and effectively as a team:
 - Healthy Streets Operation Centre (HSOC) in downtown and downtown LRT stations
 - EPS, Transit Peace Officers (TPOs) and Community Outreach Transit Teams (COTT) coordinated deployment (e.g. Southgate and Century Park LRT Stations)
 - EPS Beat teams
 - High visibility hub for EPS, TPOs and COTT
- Transit Community Safety Teams (TRACS) - EPS resources dedicated to the transit system

Recent Federal and Provincial Announcements

- **February** - partnership between the provincial Sheriffs and the EPS focused on the downtown core
- **April** - the Government of Alberta commitment to add 100 new police officers in Edmonton and Calgary, new PACT and HELP teams and \$5 million for transit system cleanup
- **May** - the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-48 (currently under review) that proposes amendments to the *Criminal Code* to strengthen the bail system
- **May** - partnership between the provincial Sheriffs and the EPS focused on the downtown core

Encampments

Highlights from the May 24 Encampment Memo to Council:

- Continuous improvement, pilots, and innovation prototypes
- Steering Committee and four working groups established
- Recent fire ban and ongoing fire safety concerns

Actions Underway: Downtown Vibrancy

- Improved perception of safety by attracting more people downtown to live, work, play and visit
- Funding to support projects led by businesses and organizations
 - Downtown Vibrancy Fund and Meet Me Downtown Grant
- Funding to support safety focused projects
 - Overdose Prevention and Response Teams - Boyle Street Society
 - Night Patrol - Edmonton Downtown Business Association
 - Window Repair Program
- City led projects to support a safe and welcoming environment
 - Clean City Initiative
 - Civic Centre Light Up
 - Meet Me Downtown

Actions Underway: COTT - 18 Months In

- Over 6,000 interactions
- Over 1,000 in-depth engagements
- 45 instances of medical aid
- Over 400 instances of providing supplies
- Connection booth fosters transit user engagement

Connecting with individuals through long term relationship and trust building



Community Outreach Transit Team – an eye for safety and a heart for Edmonton’s vulnerable



Actions Underway: Shelter and Housing

There are a number of shelter and housing related updates for summer 2023:

- Hope Mission is still receiving funding for an additional 150 24/7 shelter spaces from the Government of Alberta
 - Extension received to continue service hub pilot
- The 150 24/7 congregate shelter spaces at the JPWC West End shelter closed on May 31, 2023
- The 100 day shelter spaces at the JPWC Community Resource Centre closed on May 29, 2023
- Day services remain operational in the west end through The Mustard Seed's Christian Care Centre

Communications approach

- Integrated and sustained efforts
- Leveraging opportunities to involve Council
- Transit as an enabler to the Edmonton experience
- Recognizing what's on the minds of Edmontonians

Theory of Change

- The Enhanced Transit Safety Plan identifies one overarching goal, as well as short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes in each of the following pillars:
 - Integration
 - Safety
 - Perception of Safety
 - Well-being
- Each pillar has identified key activities to achieve outcomes, and measures to track progress

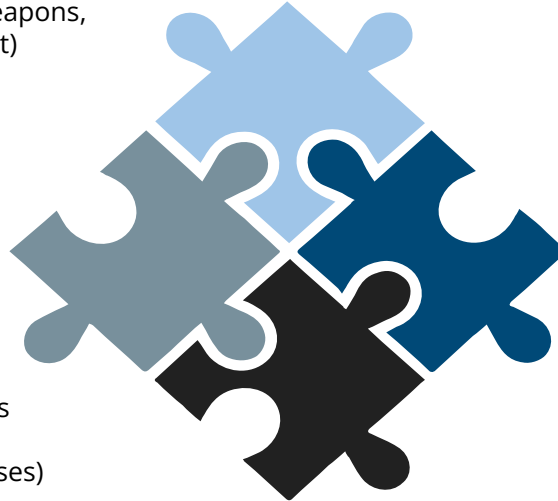
Key Measures

Safety

- Crime severity index
- Crime incidents
 - Violent incidents (weapons, assaults, harassment)

Perception of Safety

- Crime incidents
 - Non violent incidents (theft, vandalism, mischief, drug offenses)
- Medical incidents
- Surveys, media and social media



Well-Being

- Community outreach interactions and engagements
- Nightly transit lockup counts
- Number of physical transportations connected to an agency, service or resource
- Ethnographic research results

Integration

- Qualitative data (stories, anecdotal evidence)
 - How well we work together
 - Information sharing
- # of TPO referrals to COTT
- % of individuals reporting increased confidence in COTT, TPOs and other enforcement
- Media and social media (qualitative)

System Wide Measures*

Safety

Measure	May 2022	May 2023	Source
Violent (Assaults, Weapons, Harassment, Threats)	71	89	EPS
Crime severity index	In development		EPS

Perception of Safety

Measure	May 2022	May 2023	Source
Non- Violent (Arrest, Breach, Bylaw, Disturbance, Drugs, Mischief)	84	63	EPS
Vandalism (average)	In development		ETS
TPO Southgate Calls for service	< 577	654	ETS
Surveys	In development		ETS



Wellbeing

Measure	Avg May 2022	Avg May 2023	Source
Outreach Interactions	< 428	630	Bent Arrow
Outreach Engagements	< 69	115	Bent Arrow

Integration

In development

Edmonton

*May 2022 vs 2023 (Blended Measures)

Outcomes

Safety

All people are physically safe in transit spaces

Perception of Safety

Edmontonians perceive transit to be safe and are not deterred to use transit for safety reasons



Well-Being

Edmontonians are connected to culturally appropriate supports, reducing the use of transit spaces for non-travel purposes

Integration

Transit safety is strengthened through collaboration between City of Edmonton, Edmonton Police Service and Bent Arrow

Testing the Plan: Southgate LRT Station

- “The Southgate Approach” integrated Southgate Mall administration, mall security teams, the neighboring Malmo Community, and City of Edmonton
- Proactive patrol coordinated between EPS and TPOs at Southgate and Century Park LRT Stations
- March 2023 - Coffee with TPOs

Testing the Plan: Southgate LRT Station*

Safety

Measure	May/22	May/23	Source
Violent (Assaults, Weapons, Harassment, Threats)	< 2	2	EPS
Crime severity index	In Development		EPS

Perception of Safety

Measure	May /22	May/23	Source
Non-Violent (Arrest, Breach, Bylaw, Disturbance, Drugs, Mischief)	<40	32	EPS
Vandalism (average)	< \$1,450	\$4,921	ETS
TPO Southgate Calls for service (Mar 2023 vs April 2023)	100	69	ETS



Wellbeing

Measure	Avg May /22	Avg May /23	Source
Outreach Incidents	< 54	50	Bent Arrow
Outreach Engagements	< 50	26	Bent Arrow

Integration

In development

Edmonton

*May 2022 vs May 2023

What's Next

TRANSIT SAFETY	TRANSIT SAFETY + DOWNTOWN VIBRANCY	DOWNTOWN VIBRANCY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enhanced cleaning and safety-related activities through the \$5 million Alberta Transit System Cleanup Grant● QR code survey● Law enforcement and outreach 'hubs' at Central and Churchill LRT Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Transit facility animation and programming (e.g. Churchill LRT Station "Mother Earth" mural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Downtown Vibrancy Fund● Festivals and Events season● Meet Me Downtown Campaign● Clean City Initiative

Questions