



Edmonton

Quarterly Verbal Update on the Enhanced Transit Safety Plan and the Downtown Core

Item 7.6
March 12/13, 2024, City Council



Broader Contextual Efforts

Federal initiatives:

- \$285 million for health care access and services
- \$4.8 million to 12 Edmonton organizations for gender-equality
- Expanded Trilateral Fentanyl Committee: address firearms trafficking associated with drug production
- \$175 million for Edmonton's Housing Accelerator Fund

Provincial efforts:

- Provincial Navigation and Support Centre
- Funding for more officers dedicated to transit and community safety
- \$1.1 million supporting vulnerable people in and around Edmonton
- Provincial 2024-25 Budget Release (February 29)



Broader Contextual Efforts

City of Edmonton initiatives:

- Activation of the Emergency Operations Centre
- Housing and houselessness emergency
- New regional transit framework
- \$1.5 million for gang prevention and intervention/exiting programs
- Public Spaces Bylaw Review
- Transit Safety Forum

Areas Related to Transit Safety: Downtown Vibrancy

Downtown Vibrancy Fund

2023: \$4.6 million → 162 projects



2024: high impact, long-term projects →

- Ongoing City Led
 - Farmers' Market
 - Data Tool
- March Launch for Stakeholder Led
 - Defined Funding Streams

Con't: Areas Related to Transit Safety: Downtown Vibrancy

Closed and Shared Streets Activations

Rice Howard Way - Entertainment District (summer weekends)

- Pedestrian-only, open liquor, live entertainment
- Boost business, safety perceptions and visitation
- Engagement phase
- June 2024 potential start date

104 Street Farmers' Market

- January 27: EDFMA ceased operations
- Summer '24: EDBA organizing 104 Street farmers market-style activation
- Beyond '24: stakeholder engagement underway

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO) Partnership in LRT Stations

- Spring: Downtown LRT stations will broadcast ESO music



Areas Related to Transit Safety: Chinatown



- Chinatown Recovery Fund
- Chinatown Vibrancy Grant
 - \$481,000 available
- Events Committee
 - Events Calendar live on edmonton.ca/Chinatown
 - Lunar New Year Events
- Coordination with Healthy Streets Operation Centre
 - Safety walks conducted in January and February



Safety



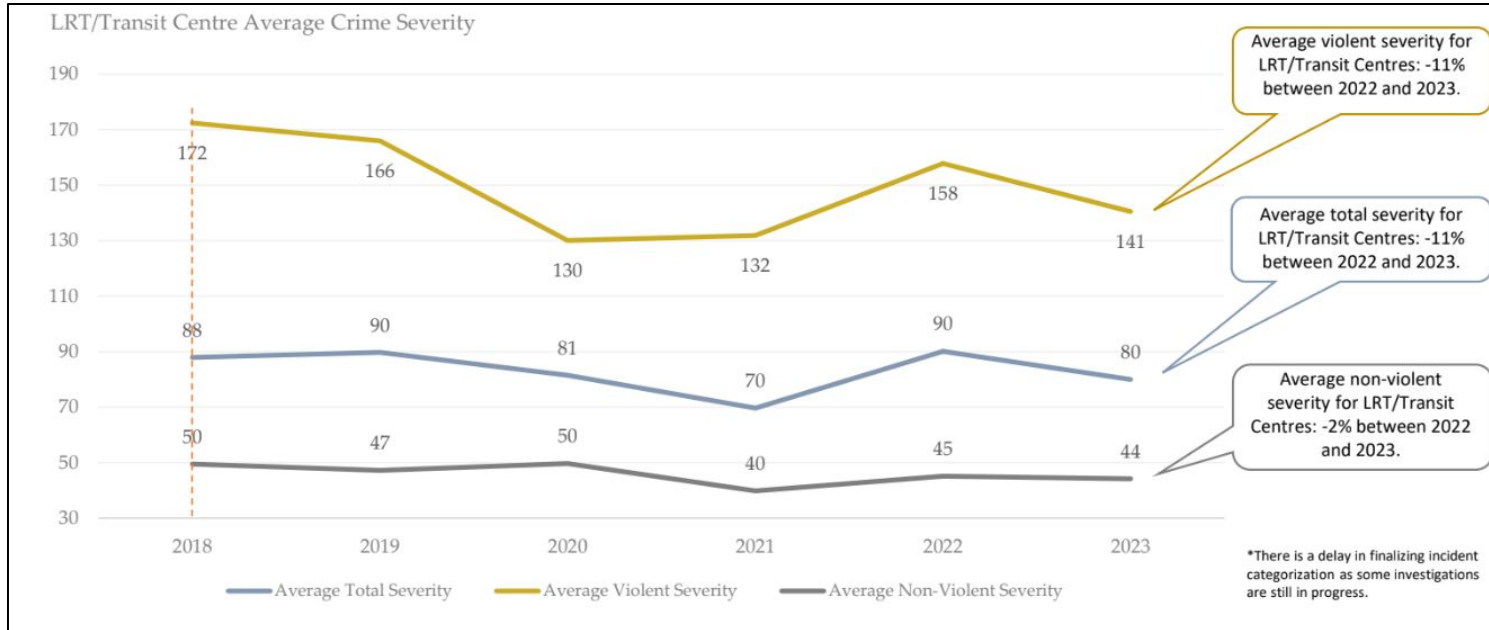
Perception of Safety

Progress to Date on Transit Safety

Metric	December 2023	January 2024
Non-criminal incidents	2,192	1,963
Total ridership	4,367,461	4,353,887
Non-criminal incidents % of total rides	0.050%	0.045%
Perception of safety <i>% of respondents who felt safe throughout their transit journey</i>	62%	63%

Progress to Date on Transit Safety

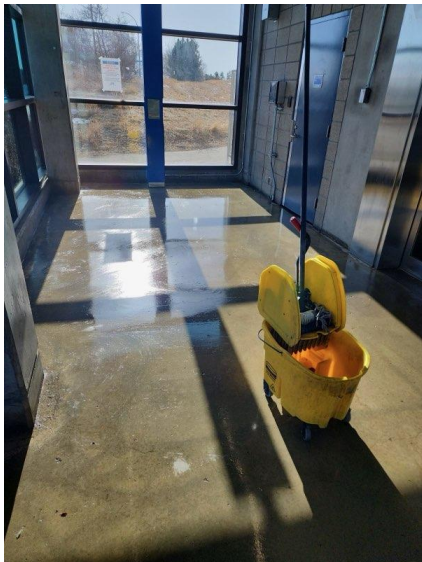
Average Crime severity index (CSI)* down 11% between 2022 and 2023



Source: EPS

*Note: Q1 data will be available in May

Progress to Date on Transit Safety



Eight projects under the Alberta Transit System Cleanup Grant, including:

- Enhanced cleaning ongoing, including FTE dedicated to graffiti removal
- 500+ transit centre doors have been reinforced/replaced
- 40+ new security cameras
- Construction started on Outreach Workstation in Central LRT Station
- Southgate LRT Station mural

Progress to Date on Transit Safety



Enhancing Cellular Connectivity and WiFi

- Major factor that can increase perceptions of safety
- Meetings with telecommunication companies underway
 - Infrastructure being tested
- Additional Wireless Access Points (WAPs) being installed in Churchill LRT Station
 - Will increase WiFi coverage for riders

Progress to Date on Transit Safety

PAWS in the Pedway prototype: Wellness dog, handler and Community Safety Liaison

- Churchill LRT Station Pedway
- Contributes to safety and wellness
- 12 walks and over 300 interactions

Auricle prototype

- PAWS in the Pedway aligns with Auricle
- Data analysis ongoing



NEIGHBOURHOOD
Empowerment Team



Progress to Date on Transit Safety - COTT

Q4 2023

**1,922
Interactions**

44% of these individuals engaged with other services through COTT

January 2024

**1,117
Interactions**

48% of these individuals engaged with other services through COTT

- January 2024 saw a large number of interactions, continuing the trend from Q4
- COTT hours of operation extended to 3 am to support winter approach in December
 - Programming evolves as the needs evolve
 - Peak interactions 11 pm - 3 am in January
 - Included referrals to Winter Shelter Shuttle, available shelter spaces, and (as of January) the Provincial Navigation and Support Centre, etc.
 - Important to consider weather and other factors

Progress to Date on Transit Safety

Winter Shelter Shuttle

- December ridership increased
- January ridership nearly doubled compared to December
- Additional routes offered during extreme weather



- General decrease in nightly station removals compared to 2023
 - Station by station variations
- Service concludes March 31, 2024

Thank you. Questions?

Edmonton