

Edmonton Transit Service

Edmonton

## **CO02481 Transit Service Needs to Meet Population Growth**

**October 9, 2024**  
**Executive Committee**

Craig McKeown, Acting Deputy City Manager, City Operations  
Carrie Hotton-MacDonald, Branch Manager, ETS  
Sarah Feldman, Director, Transit Planning, Ridership, and Revenue

# Background



Council has made several significant decisions to enhance transit service



Update to 2023 report, looking at a future horizon of 2026



Edmonton's population is forecasted to grow 5.5% by 2026



ETS has been experiencing growing ridership, putting pressure on service

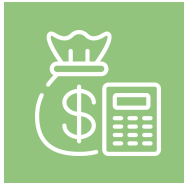
# Transit Service Decisions



TRANSIT  
SERVICE POLICY



SERVICE  
STANDARDS



BUDGET



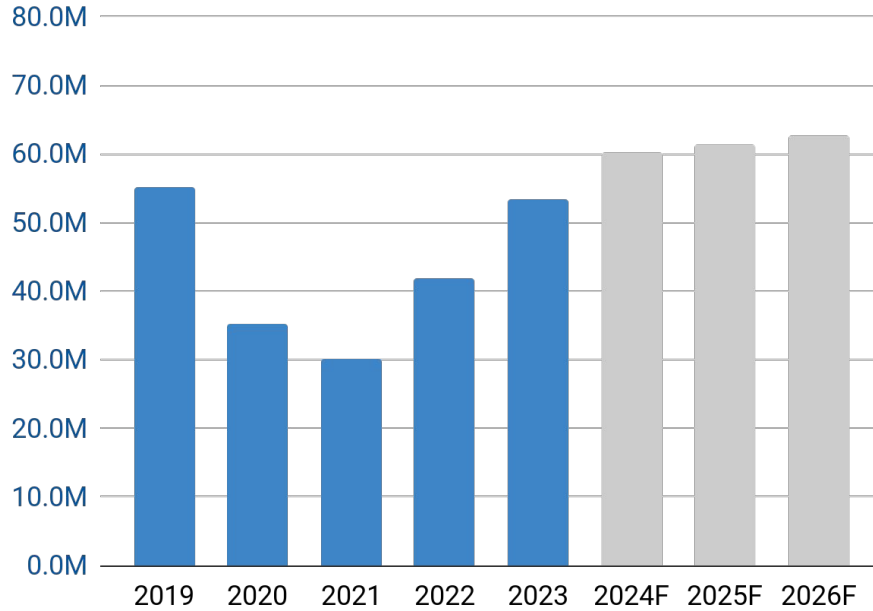
SERVICE  
CAPACITY



Edmonton

# Transit Ridership Growth 2019 - 2026

Annual Transit Ridership (Bus & LRT)



**13% year-over-year** growth projected for 2024

**12% overall** increase from pre-pandemic (2019) levels - YTD August 2024

**28%** increase in **weekend** ridership from pre-pandemic (2019) levels - YTD August 2024

Note: The above forecasted ridership figures are baseline projections

# Projected Population Growth for 2026



2023 gap was  
**5,000** weekly  
service hours  
(**260,000** annual  
hours)



Council invested:

**70,000** annual  
hours in Feb 2024

**50,000** annual  
hours for April 2025

Gap reduced by  
**120,000** hours



Updated  
analysis for  
future horizon of  
**2026**



Needs at the  
neighbourhood  
and route level

## 2026 Ideal Service Levels

Transit Service Improvement	Hours/Week	Hours/Year
Improved Frequency	+ 600	+ 31,500
New Routes and Network Changes	+ 1,800	+ 94,000
New Off-Peak Service	+ 350	+ 18,000
New Peak Service	+ 100	+ 5,000
Transition from On Demand to Conventional	+ 1,900	+ 99,000
<b>Total Additional</b>	<b>+ 4,750</b>	<b>+ 247,500</b>

**Currently operating ~44,000 hours/week (~2.29 million hours/year) in 2024**

# Fleet and Facility Needs



99 additional buses to deliver service **247,500** annual hours



260 renewal buses



Additional rider-facing facilities:

- Mass Transit Routes B1 and B2
- Windermere North Transit Centre & Park and Ride



# Transit Service Improvements

## 2023 - 2026 BUDGET



Mass Transit for  
1.25 million  
people (B1 & B2)  
planning & design



Transit Priority  
Measures  
implementation

## 2023 - 2030 BUDGETS



Bus replacements

## 2027 - 2030 BUDGET



LRV replacements  
arrive



LRT expansion  
service  
commencement



New transit  
garage opening



# Risks and Considerations



Timing of ability to grow the bus fleet



Population projections



School growth plan



Fleet renewal affecting service reliability



Funding programs from other orders of government may change

# Canada Public Transit Fund Update

**\$3 billion** annually across Canada starting April 2026

## BASELINE FUNDING

\$500 million/year nationally

Routine growth and rehabilitation, state of good repair and active transport

Provincial contribution not required

City of Edmonton

## METRO-REGION AGREEMENTS

\$2 billion/year nationally

Long-term development of transit infrastructure in large urban areas

Aimed at driving impacts on mobility, housing, climate and equity

Provincial contribution required

Edmonton Metro-Region

## TARGETED FUNDING

\$500 million/year nationally

Flexible, call-specific funding to address federal priorities

Rural transit, active transportation and zero emission solutions

Provincial contribution not required

Edmonton

**Thank you. Questions?**