

Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board

2010 Activity Report

Recommendation:

That the April 12, 2011, Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board report 2011CATR01 be received for information.

Report Summary

Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board reports the Board activities to Transportation and Public Works Committee on an annual basis.

Report

Background

Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board was established in September 1994. Its purpose is to advise City Council and Administration on matters relating to public transit. The original bylaw 12454, section 6, presents the range of a subject matter as ridership, vehicle mix, public input to Edmonton Transit System, projects impacting transit, public and political advocacy and LRT. In March 2003, a bylaw amendment was approved to add paratransit service issues to the list.

Year in Summary

As per usual practice, the Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board (the Advisory Board) began its 2010 year with an all-day planning retreat at City Hall, in early January. This was followed by 12 regular monthly Board

meetings in 2010. The Advisory Board was in contact with Transportation and Public Works Committee, and appeared in front of Council and Transportation and Public Works Committee to make formal presentations.

Chair and Vice-Chair for 2010

At the first regular Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board meeting of the year, on January 25, 2010, M. Makarechian was elected for a second term as Chair and J. Doucette for a second term as Deputy Chair of the Board.

Membership Changes in 2010

There were no changes in the Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board membership in 2010.

2010 Task Groups

At the planning retreat on January 9, 2010, members discussed priorities for the year. They heard about Edmonton Transit System priorities, and then formed four task groups/sub-committees. These were:

1. ***Municipal Development Plan Review:***
B. Robertson (Chair), L. Landry and V. Hoy
2. ***Transit to the Airport:***
B. Marcotte (Chair),
M. Makarechian and G. Smith
3. ***ETSAB Web Site:***
C. Gray (Chair), J. Doucette and J. Vandenberg
4. ***Public Art on ETS:***
J. Hayes (Chair), E. Johnston and V. Hoy

Throughout 2010, more Task Groups were formed. These were:

5. **Fast Track LRT Review:**
B. Robertson (Chair), C. Gray, J. Doucette, J. Vandenberg, L. Landry, and V. Hoy
6. **2010 ETS Community Fair:**
J. Vandenberg (Chair), J. Doucette, L. Landry, and G. Smith
7. **LRT Station Retail Space:**
J. Hayes (Chair), J. Vandenberg, G. Smith, B. Robertson
8. **The Way We Live Review:**
J. Doucette (Chair), M. Makarechian, J. Vandenberg, and V. Hoy
9. **Fare Policy Review**
M. Makarechian (Chair), J. Vandenberg, B. Robertson, C. Gray and J. Hayes
9. **Heartland Commuter Rail:**
J. Hayes (Chair)

Contact with Transportation and Public Works Committee

As always, the Advisory Board set out to have regular contact with Transportation and Public Works Committee members to ensure that Council is aware of their work, and that the Advisory Board is cognizant of Transportation and Public Works Committee perspective on transit issues.

The practice of updates on the Board's key discussions was continued (the full list of the '**Topics of the Night**' are outlined in Attachment 1).

Members also continued their requests for informal meetings with Transportation and Public Works

Committee members, and the Advisory Board met with Transportation and Public Works Committee on Wednesday, May 19, and then again on December 6, 2010.

Appearances at Transportation and Public Works Committee/City Council:

1. B. Robertson presentation to Council on behalf of the Advisory Board at the Municipal Development Plan public hearing in January 2010.
2. M. Makarechian presented the Advisory Board 2009 Annual Report to Transportation and Public Works Committee on March 16, 2010.
3. M. Makarechian presented to Transportation and Public Works Committee on April 20, 2010: *Transit to the International Airport*.
4. The Advisory Board members were present at Council Meeting on June 23, 2010, as Council considered an Edmonton Transit System proposal for Transit Service to the International Airport.

Additional detail regarding Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board's activities during 2010, are outlined in Attachment 1.

Challenges facing Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board

In carrying out its responsibilities as per Bylaw 12454, the Advisory Board faces two fundamental challenges:

1. Limited volunteer resources:
The Advisory Board is aware of the ongoing deluge of transit related reports coming before Transportation and Public Works Committee and Council. Many of these are of interest to the

Advisory Board and might well be selected for our review. But with 12 appointed members, the Advisory Board can reasonably sustain only three or four sub-committees studying major projects at any given time, and this with members contributing well beyond the expected ten hours per month. At best, the Advisory Board can generate a dozen the Advisory Board reports, letters, or presentation to Transportation and Public Works Committee/Council each year. Inevitably, many important transit issues will slip past the Advisory Board every year with no review or discussion.

2. Unavailability of early access to reports and projects:

With only a few exceptions, the Advisory Board must wait for public release of most Administration reports relating to transit. While we appreciate the challenges inherent to early, 'in-private' release of draft reports, it is often impractical for the Advisory Board members to adequately study a report after its public release. This leaves us with two poor options to choose from: Either to remain silent on a matter of interest, or two prepare comments in haste and without adequate study.

For a few select projects, Administration has chosen to include the Advisory Board in the early discussion and drafting of reports. The Advisory Board has regarded these few opportunities as very positive experiences. Comments from Administration seem to indicate that the Advisory Board's early involvement in these rare instances was beneficial and caused no problems.

On a number of occasions in 2010, the Advisory Board undertook to address

this challenge by asking for 'in private' discussion of draft reports. Twice these requests were granted and the Advisory Board was able to go in private for discussion of draft reports. The Advisory Board hopes that Administration can employ this mechanism more regularly to bring the Advisory Board into various discussions at an early stage.

Justification of Recommendation

The Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board is required to report annually on activities.

Attachments

1. Additional Activities in 2010

Additional Activities in 2010

DAG Updates: E. Johnston attended monthly meetings of the DATS Advisory Group and reported back on matters of interest to Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS

2010 Advisory Board Leadership Training: M. Makarechian attended this orientation in the River Valley Room of City Hall on Saturday, March 20, 2010 along with J. Doucette and V. Luxton. This was presented by the City Clerk's Office.

2010 ETS Community Fair: J. Vandenberg, L. Landry, G. Smith and J. Doucette volunteered to man the Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board Display Booth at the Community Fair on Saturday April 24, 2010. This Community Fair was to celebrate the opening of the LRT Southgate and Century Park Stations.

Correspondence with Council

December 8, 2010 – Letter to Transportation and Public Works: regarding West, Southeast and Downtown Connector LRT Lines.

'Topic of the Night': Key EDMONTON TRANSIT SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD discussion Topics for Monthly Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting Update

January: Municipal Development Planning Presentation

February: Presentation on the Northwest LRT alignment.

March: Getting alerts from the Transportation and Public Works Committee.

April: Presentation received by ETSAB on LRT alignments from Clareview to Gorman and from Century Park to Heritage Valley.

May: None.

June: Transit to the International Airport.

July: None.

August: None

September: None

October: Congratulations note to newly appointed TPW members and a thank you note to out-going TPW members.

November: 2011 Budget comment.

December: Season greetings.

PRESENTATIONS TO EDMONTON TRANSIT SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD IN 2010

Presentation Summary	Date	Name of Presenter
Transit Smart Card	January 25, 2010	Patricia Waisman, Director Business Development
Northwest LRT – NAIT to Northwest Edmonton	February 22, 2010	Adam Laughlin, Transportation Planning)
Downtown to NAIT	March 29, 2010	Ronda Toohey, Transportation Planning
NAIT Station Relocation	March 29, 2010	Adam Laughlin, Transportation Planning
West and Southeast Public Involvement Plan	March 29, 2010	Michelle Chalifoux and Nat Alampi, Transportation Planning
Century Park to Heritage Valley and Clareview to Gorman	April 26, 2010	Carole Cej, Capital Construction, LRT Expansion Branch
Northwest LRT Corridor	May 31, 2010	Adam Laughlin, Transportation Planning
Safety and Security Presentation	June 28, 2010	Michelle Chalifoux, Transportation Planning
Glenwood Community League	July 26, 2010	Jaime Post, Glenwood Community League
Fare Strategy Presentation	July 26, 2010	Patricia Waisman, Business Development
Centennial Garage Tour	August 30, 2010	Chuck Van Deel Piepers, Bus Operations
APTA Peer Review	September 27, 2010	Lorna Stewart, Director of DATS
2011 Budget Presentation	October 25, 2010	Charles Stolte, Manager, Edmonton Transit System
2011 Budget Presentation	November 10, 2010	Charles Stolte, Manager, Edmonton Transit System
West, Southeast and Downtown LRT	December 1, 2010	Adam Laughlin, Transportation Planning