



# Community Safety and Well-being Bylaw Review

Transit Tickets and No Fixed Address  
Transit Fare Fines



Edmonton

Community and Public Services Committee  
March 24, 2021

## Context Setting

**July 6/8, 2020, City Council meeting:**

*A bylaw review and analysis of legislation with suggestions for clarification, revision or repeal*

**February 19/21, 2020, City Council meeting:**

*A report on the disproportionate ticketing of individuals with no fixed addresses, by Edmonton Transit Peace Officers*

**November 20, 2019, CPSC:**

*A report outlining fines for all transportation and options*

# Community Safety and Well-Being Bylaw Review

## Legislative Authority

- The City has the power to create & enforce bylaws for municipal purposes
- Fines reflect the severity of the offence, act as deterrent & sanction
- Other orders of government can also set guidelines

## Bylaw Review & Principles

- We reviewed bylaws that commonly affect marginalized Edmontonians
  - Regulatory components create conditions for a safe society
  - Inequities must be adjusted to avoid harm
  - City-building is anchored in inclusion & compassion

# Community Safety and Well-Being Bylaw Review

Review focused on six bylaws that cover public safety, civil conduct in public and maintaining community standards & cleanliness in Edmonton:

- Bylaw 2202 - **Parkland Bylaw**
- Bylaw 5590 - **Traffic Bylaw**
- Bylaw 8353 - **Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw**
- Bylaw 13145 - **Animal Licensing & Control Bylaw**
- Bylaw 14600 - **Community Standards Bylaw**
- Bylaw 14614 - **Public Places Bylaw**

# Community Safety and Well-Being Bylaw Review

Seven areas from three bylaws were identified as offences that could lead to pretence policing based on the frequency of tickets issued:

- Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw
  - **Proof of Payment**
  - **Harassment**
  - **Loitering**
- Traffic Bylaw
  - **Ride Bike on Sidewalk**
  - **Jaywalking**
- Public Places Bylaw
  - **Littering**
  - **Urination & Defecation**

## Transit Tickets and No Fixed Address

- Historical data highlighted the need for **program improvement**
- Transit peace officers have changed their approach - focusing on **assistance, rather than enforcement**
- Interactions begin with a **respectful conversation**
- Staff are focussed on offering **connections to services**, instead of formal sanctions
- Staff received additional coaching to **help coordinate** medical aid, supply personal necessities or transportation to other locations/shelters
- **More work needs to be done**, including coordination & closer contact with 24/7 Crisis Diversion and other social agencies

# Transit Fare Fines

Root causes of fare evasion:

- Reduce barriers to support those who need help paying fares
- Supports exist through Fare Policy (affordability principle)

Equitable fine payment options from a GBA+ lens:

- Incentivize early payment
- Community service options
- Fine escalations

Reducing fine amounts may:

- Encourage fare evasion from those who can afford to pay for the service
- Lead to reduced fare revenues & lower ridership
- Alienate riders who pay for the service & incentivizing further fare evasion
- Introduce more fare-related disputes & operator assaults

## Next Steps

Administration will:

1. Carry out the actions as identified in the bylaw review on educational, legislative & training-based approaches
2. Continue to monitor the houseless and low income population numbers to align monthly distribution of PATH program transit passes
3. Continue to evaluate & collaborate with community partners to make improvements for all Edmontonians



Thank you.