



Date/Time:
March 8, 2023 / 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Jim Brown, Tonia LaRiviere

In Attendance:

Adam Kinney (Dedicated Accessible Transit Service (DATS))
 Amber Staples (Vatage Enterprises Ltd)
 Chris Ryan (Community Advocate)
 Curtis Maile (City of Grande Prairie Transit)
 Colleen McGann (Community Advocate)
 Dan Pederson (Fair Calgary Community Voices)
 Darren Garlough (City of Calgary, Ward 12)
 Douglas Barns (Calgary Transit Access)
 Jasmine Elniski (Healthy Aging Alberta)
 Jayson Toews (Red Deer Transit)
 Jim Brown (Community Advocate)

Jon Van Heyst (Bike Calgary)
 Kayla Eichelt (Winder Inclusive Community Services)
 Lauren Slavik (Healthy Aging Alberta)
 Meri Topchieva (Alberta Ability Network)
 Mezaun Lakha-Evin (Alberta Ability Network)
 Morine Rossi (Autism Edmonton)
 Paul Schmold (City of Edmonton)
 Rebecca Aspden (Healthy Living Alberta)
 Sam Mason (Voices of Albertans with Disabilities)
 Tonia LaRiviere (City of Edmonton)

Meeting Minutes

Welcome
 Land Acknowledgement
 Breakout Rooms
 Meeting Considerations
 Review of meeting minutes

Spotlight Presentation:

City of Grande Prairie

- Grande Prairie has 3 different types of transportation. There's the conventional transit which currently has 9 routes, an on-demand service for communities that don't have access to the main routes, and Grande Prairie Accessible Transit (GPAT)
- Grande Prairie has a population of about 60,000 people and GPAT has a client base of 600.
- Has a fleet of 4 buses that can carry 4 wheelchairs or 12 standard seats.
- Additional 8 busses that can accommodate 2 wheelchairs and 18 passengers.
- Base fare is \$3 per ride, \$50 for 20 rides, and \$75 for unlimited rides, low-income passes are also available.
- GPAT customers can book based on arrival or pick-up time and can book 7 days in advance.

- On-demand transit is available for communities outside of the city, however, conventional transit does not go there.

Discussion items:

Communities outside of big Municipalities

- Transportation services not coming to communities outside of big municipalities has become a bigger issue, as more outlier communities form with fewer services available.
- For example, Calgary Transit can only operate within city limits and cannot go to Airdrie, Okotoks, Cochrane or Chestermere.
- Similar to DATS, they only serve within Edmonton city limits, however, they might get a contract with Leduc and St. Albert to provide them with their transportation services.

DATS Union Negotiations

- ETS and DATS are under the same union, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 569, for transit and support workers. There are 2 separate agreements, one for ETS and one for DATS which are negotiated separately.
- There's a \$2.50 hourly wage difference between ETS and DATS bus operators, DATS is asking for the same wage.
- If a strike were to happen, a contingency plan would be in place.
- If there was a strike vote (which there hasn't been) and it goes through, the strike would not happen immediately. The strike vote gives operators the ability to strike and rally within a 120-day window.
- Union is currently in the middle of collective bargaining, once it is over more updates will be provided.

CTA

- January trips requested – 100,139
- Trips provided – 75,425
- On-time performance – 92%
- Average delay under 3 minutes – 95.61%
- Average delay 3-5 minutes – 2.40%
- Average delay over 5 minutes – 1.99%
- On board times under 15 minutes – 11.5%
- On board times 15-29 minutes – 36.5%
- On board times 30 – 44 minutes – 25.1%
- On board times 45-59 minutes – 13.8%
- On board times 60-74 minutes – 7.3%
- On board times 75- 89 minutes – 3.5%
- On board times 90+ minutes – 2.3%

DATS update

- All paratransit services are the responsibility of the City of Edmonton. Some of the drivers and vehicles are contracted out. This is no different from the Edmonton LRT being contracted out to the City of Edmonton from a company.
- Contracting is a very common practice for the industry, Calgary has a similar model as well.
- February trips carried – 56,041
- Same day booking – 1,305
- Overall on time performance – 92.64%
- Onboard times under 15 minutes – 15.35%
- On board times 15-29 minutes – 32.86%
- On board times 30 – 44 minutes – 18.99%
- On board times 45-59 minutes – 13.91%
- On board times 60-74 minutes – 7.81%
- On board times 75- 89 minutes – 7.76%
- On board times 90+ minutes – 3.28%

Province-wide low-income transit program

- This table will be used as a conduit to share what's happening with the province-wide low-income transit pass ensuring there's diversity and equity throughout the province.
- Currently no updates.

Snow Removal: Community Engagement

- Dan and Jon shared some photos of inaccessible sidewalks and pathways. Dan has forwarded his complaint to the business that is responsible for the sidewalk, and they have since cleared it up.
- The alleyway exits that connect one row of houses to the next are always filled with ice and snow making it an increasing safety hazard in Calgary. Many homeowners do not know they are responsible for the sidewalk around their house if they own a corner lot.
- Please call 311 if you see any potential ice safety hazards.
- The City of Calgary has requested that homeowners clean around the alleys, but it is not required.
- Can reach out to community newsletters to inform them of the issue.

Agency Updates

Vatage Enterprises Ltd

- A lot more people that are applying for Calgary Transit Access services are being denied. This has increased over the last couple of years.
- Some of the clients have gone through the appeals process.
- Meri shared a Calgary Transit Access representative's information.

Barrier Free Alberta Election Campaign 2023

- BFA will be targeting all candidates running for the Provincial election parties, and recommend they put accessibility legislation on their platforms.
- Emails to candidates will be going out in the following weeks.
- If you haven't already, please sign up as a supporter on the following link <https://www.barrierfreeab.ca/support>
- BFA has created a monthly newsletter that will be sent to all supporters that register above.

Action items:

- Next year for our annual snow and ice campaign, we can reach out to community organizations and ask them to write about the ongoing issue regarding snow and ice cleanup in alleyways.
- Ask CTA representatives if eligibility criteria have changed and why more clients with disabilities are being denied service.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: April 12, 2023

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Zoom