



Date/Time:
May 11, 2022 / 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Christopher Gordon, Jim Brown

In Attendance:

Christopher Gordon (CNIB)
Dan Pederson (Community Advocate)
Amber Staples (Vantage Enterprises Ltd)
Brittany McFarlane (DDRC)
Colleen McGann (Community Advocate)

Meri Topchieva (AAN)
Paul Schmold (City of Edmonton – Transportation)
Alex Preddy (CTA)
Jim Brown (Community Advocate)
Diane Kreuger (ILRCC)
Toni Freimark (City of Medicine Hat)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Review/Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Topics of Discussion:

E-scooter Presentations/Discussion

- Bird and Roll will present at the June meeting. We are still waiting to hear back from Neuron Canada.
- Christopher will reach out to his Neuron and Spin contacts and see if they are able to present at the next meeting.
- As Spin might not be operating in Alberta anymore, we will await the response of the Spin representative before asking for a presentation.
- An Increasing number of scooters have been around Calgary as summer is their peak season.
- Edmonton hasn't picked a date for the release of e-scooters yet and has restricted fleet size from 4000 to 1500 due to parking and sidewalk safety issues.

Update on Age-Friendly Transit Discussion

- Series of meetings were held in April hosted by Calgary Transit for the community to provide feedback on the services.
- There has been an increase in violence on Calgary Transit. More peace officers and security guards have been hired and placed in transit areas to deter any violent behavior.
- Calgary City Councillors are addressing this issue by discussing whether they should prevent access to some transit stations.
- Edmonton City Council has discussed increasing the budget for police officers

and adding more police officers to focus on transit.

- Edmonton has security and peace officers ride transit with passengers until 7 pm. Security is usually needed after 7 pm as it gets more dangerous after that time.
- Neighbourhood watch or another type of non-violent crisis intervention should be established. Anyone can be taught de-escalation methods in ways where they wouldn't put themselves in danger, such as calling transit police when a situation looks as if it's going to escalate.
- Municipalities are getting funding due to the loss of revenue during the pandemic. More people and resources are needed to de-escalate violent transit situations.

Letter to Calgary and Edmonton City Council

- Write a letter to Calgary and Edmonton City Councillors encouraging their efforts to keep looking for solutions and highlight challenges that people with disability face on transit.
- We will start the letter with a story from a person with a disability who has experienced violence on transit and include recommendations on how the City Councillors can help.

Access Calgary Transit

- Many people with disabilities have limited access to Access Calgary. For example, Diane's client who was attacked on transit has seasonal access to Access Calgary. There are many other vulnerable individuals who only have seasonal access to Access Calgary, making them targets of violent outbursts on regular transit.
- This issue should be brought up to the eligibility department and see if a middle ground can be reached.
- Alex will contact Access Calgary and see what steps of violence prevention have been taken and if there can be improvements.

Bike Calgary Project with Public Library

- Bike Calgary has been invited to an event on June 5 from 1:30 – 3:30 pm for the launch of a new book called Calgary's Best Bike Rides.
- Mezaun volunteered to present if there are no other presenters. If anyone wants to present, please contact Meri to put you in contact with Bike Calgary.

Automated Stop Announcements on Transit

- Christopher contacted a supervisor from Calgary Transit about the inaudible stop announcements. The supervisor rode Christopher's regular route and agreed that there are problems with the stop announcements.
- There is usually a lot of white noise on buses from fans, road bumps, and conversations that happen during stop announcements.
- The supervisor has taken this complaint back to his team and will see how they can make announcements more audible.
- Edmonton transit also has inconsistent stop announcements, where not everyone can hear them since the volume is controlled by the driver.
- Toronto had the same problem which led to a human rights lawsuit. Their solution was mandating that the drivers make a public announcement at every stop if the



stop announcements aren't working. This solution made the drivers more attentive to the stop announcements.

CTA March Update:

- Total trips provided in March – 73,775
- On-time performance – Target is 93% and the average is 94.61% throughout the month
- Calls answered – 34158
- Delay - 0.28
- Web Users – 664 users
- At Fault concerns – 28
- Commendations – 40

John Humphrey Centre: Radical Inclusion: Conversations on Accessible Transportation in Edmonton

- May 16th, 3-5 pm, to register click here: <https://www.jhcentre.org/new-events/2022/5/16/radical-inclusion-conversations-on-accessible-transportation-in-edmonton>

Action Items:

- Jim will write the letter to Calgary/Edmonton City Councillors.
- Diane will ask her client, who has experienced violence on transit, to write down their experience. We will include their experience in our letter.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: June 8th, 2022

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00PM

Location: Zoom