



Date/Time:
October 12th, 2022 / 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Jim Brown

In Attendance:

Alex Preddy (Calgary Transit Access)
Amber Staples (Vantage Enterprises)
Andrea Sereda (Epilepsy Calgary)
Christopher Gordon (Community Advocate)
Colleen McGann (Community Advocate)
Dan Pederson (Fair Calgary Community Voices)
Darren Garlough (City of Calgary)
Douglas Barns (Calgary Transit Access)

Kayla Eichelt (Winder Inclusive Communities Service)
Margot Brunner (Voices of Albertans with Disabilities)
Mezaun Lakha-Evin (Alberta Ability Network)
Melissa Vande Scoot (Independent Living Resource Centre of Calgary)
Morine Rossi (Autism Edmonton)
Sam Mason (Voices of Albertans with Disabilities)
Toni Freimark (Community Advocate)
Trina Cameron (St. Pauls Abilities Network)

Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement
Welcome and Introductions

Spotlight:

St. Paul's Abilities Network

- Operate 17 24-hour staff residences for adults with developmental disabilities.
- 1 home funded through Alberta Health Services Continuing Care (DSL 3 home)
- 1 home funding through addictions and mental health. This is a transitional home for people coming out of a psychiatric unit who aren't ready to live independently yet. 2-year maximum stay.
- Support people through employment, PDD funding, recreation, and they also have social enterprises, a thrift store, an action bus, and 2 low-income apartment buildings.

Topics of Discussion:

Calgary Transit Access August

- Total trips provided: 69,811
- On-time Performance: 94.68
- Cost per trip will decline as the increase in ridership continues to go up. The current actual cost per trip is \$36.34 and the budgeted cost per trip is \$34.55



- 96.07% of calls are answered under 3 minutes and the average wait time is 30 seconds.
- Web bookings have steadily increased throughout the year. There will be some newly added features such as booking regular trips and updating personal information in early 2023.
- 60-70% of drivers are contracted from third-party providers. They are trained the same as in-house drivers and no correlation has been found between the number of at-fault complaints and the types of drivers driving the vehicle.
- The City of Edmonton and Edmonton Transit Services (ETS) to create a Bystander Awareness Campaign. The aim of the campaign is to help prepare transit riders to safely act should they witness undesired events or behaviors in the transit system. The campaign will provide the knowledge and tools for riders to navigate the challenges safely and confidently they may encounter, with a strong focus on reducing gender-based violence and harassment.

Agency updates

Winder Inclusive Communities Service

- October is Disability Employment Awareness month. Have reached out to Sherwood Park, Beaumont, and Edmonton where they have proclaimed the month as Disability Employment Awareness month.

Driver Appreciation Week planning

- November 6-12 is Driver Appreciation Week. We put up social media announcements throughout the week and celebrate the drivers of accessible vehicles.
- VAD and AAN will pick out which poster to distribute.
- In previous years we have distributed timbits and coffees to the drivers and they were stunned by the support and recognition.
- Packages to accessible drivers are put together and sent to their mailing addresses. Prior to COVID-19, every year there was an update on each agency's mailing address.

Councilors Carra, Spencer & Mian update

- Through the Calgary Alliance of the Common Good, we get to meet Calgary Councilors and talk to them about our collective concerns.
- Councilor Spencer was very supportive of accessible and affordable transportation during some of the conversations that occurred. He has also provided Darren and Sarah the capacity to be involved with AAN and support our asks.
- If you have any opportunities to meet with councilors to talk about accessible and affordable transportation, please do. We need to know who our champions are or could be and having meetings with councilors is a great way to discover them.

Snow Clearing campaign 2022

- The goal is a clear unobstructed path of travel for people with disabilities people with mobility challenges and seniors.

- Very related to transportation as sometimes the only mode of transportation available to people is their feet.
- These are pathways such as patios, sidewalks, bus stops, and laneway aprons.
- Last year there were little islands in between the sidewalk and a lane where the snow wasn't cleared. With the table's advocacy efforts, Calgary Councillors were able to solve that problem.
- Edmonton offers a grant to the community leagues, where people who can't clear their snow can go to the leagues to get their snow cleared for them.
- People who rent houses sometimes don't want to clear their sidewalks because they don't own them contributing to the problem.
- If a senior is on the Calgary Fair Entry program, they have a senior's home maintenance program where they provide \$1226 per person per year for snow clearing, grass cutting, and any home maintenance a senior might need.

RouteAhead: A Strategic Plan for Transit in Calgary

- <https://www.calgarytransit.com/content/transit/en/home/plans---projects/long-term-strategic-plans.html>

Driver Appreciation Week Details (November 7-11, 2022)

- <https://vadsociety.ca/annual-accessible-driver-appreciation-week-november-6-12-2022/>

Action items:

- Will start planning our annual snow-clearing campaign.

Wrap-Up/Adjournment

Next meeting:

Date: November 9th, 2022

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00PM

Location: Zoom