

Public Involvement Process

ETS/MES Hybrid and Trolleybus Evaluation Project (2008)

Project background

- Old and obsolete vehicles must be replaced in the ETS transit fleet. This includes the current trolleybuses, which are nearing the end of their lifecycle and must be replaced by 2010.
- There is an opportunity to review the mix of vehicles within the fleet, and determine the appropriate mix of diesel, electric trolleybuses, and/or diesel/electric hybrids.
- Technical studies are underway to review propulsion systems on diesel/electric hybrids, modern trolleybuses, and modern diesel technology. The studies will identify how the vehicle options perform in Edmonton's environment with respect to impacts such as emissions and fuel consumption, operational dependency, and infrastructure/maintenance requirements.
- A public involvement process will also be undertaken to gather information about public and stakeholder perceptions and values for the transit fleet, on environmental, operational, community impact and fiscal issues.
- Information from the technical studies and the public involvement process will be forwarded to City Council for direction in 2008.

Public Involvement Purpose and Outcomes

- Public involvement is being used to understand and prioritize how fiscal, environmental, operations and community impacts should be considered when reviewing the transit fleet mix.
- Information from the public process will be used to provide a balance to findings from the technical studies. It will allow decision-makers the opportunity to differentiate technical findings with public values and perceptions.
- A diverse range of stakeholders and the public will be engaged through the public process to ensure a balanced range of views is represented. This includes the general public, transit users, interest groups and transit operators.

Public Involvement commitment

- A recommendation that considers information from the technical studies and the public involvement process will be presented to Council for a decision on the transit fleet mix in July 2008. Findings from the technical studies and the public involvement will be included and reported to Council as a part of the report.
- Timelines are a key consideration, as findings from the technical studies are anticipated to be complete by the end of March. A report summarizing initial findings from the process must be completed by mid-April to be considered in the development of the recommendation.
- It is important that a wide range of stakeholders be involved and engaged, to ensure Council can make an informed decision that includes consideration of a wide range of views and perceptions.
- Information about the technical studies and information from the public involvement process will be communicated and shared with stakeholders

throughout the process. Informed discussion is considered to be integral to the process.

Stakeholders:

Engaged stakeholders

- Includes groups with a high degree of interest in transit issues, such as ETSAB, the Edmonton Trolley Coalition and Citizens for Better Transit.
- Information share:
 - Progress and findings from technical studies and public involvement
- Consultation – testing ideas (feedback)
 - Impacts of transit fleet mix
 - values to consider when determining transit fleet mix
 - questions for use in broader public involvement (review phone survey, discussion points for workshop)
- Specific activities:
 - Correspondence
 - Face-to face meetings
 - Representatives participate in a workshop
 - Technical briefing with authors of technical studies
 - Participation at public hearing

Other stakeholder interest groups

- Includes groups with a high degree of interest in other issues that could be impacted by transit fleet choice, such as environmental groups.
- Information share:
 - Progress and findings from technical studies and public involvement
- Consultation – testing ideas
 - Impacts of transit fleet mix
 - values to consider when determining transit fleet mix
- Specific activities:
 - Correspondence
 - Face-to face meetings
 - Representatives participate in a workshop
 - Participation at public hearing

Transit users

- Efforts will be undertaken to identify if there are differences between respondents and their use of the trolleys, modern diesels and hybrid buses. Frequency and purpose for transit use will also be reviewed to determine if they impact values and perceptions.
- Information share:
 - Progress and findings from technical studies and public involvement
- Consultation – testing ideas
 - Impacts of transit fleet mix
 - values to consider when determining transit fleet mix
- Specific activities:
 - Intercept survey

- Transit newsletters/web site/ general communications

Transit Staff

- Information share:
 - Progress and findings from technical studies and public involvement
- Consultation – testing ideas
 - Impacts of transit fleet mix
 - values to consider when determining transit fleet mix
- Specific activities:
 - Staff survey
 - Transit newsletters/web site/ general communications

General public

- Includes City of Edmonton residents and taxpayers – review if values/perceptions change if they are transit users, or if they live along a route.
- Information share:
 - Progress and findings from technical studies and public involvement
- Consultation – testing ideas
 - Impacts of transit fleet mix
 - values to consider when determining transit fleet mix
- Specific activities:
 - Phone survey
 - web site/ general communications