

Transit Bylaw 25-2021

Transit Changes for Smart Fare
July 6, 2021

Smart Fare Project

The Smart Fare solution is a modern electronic transit fare payment system for the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.

Implementation phasing:

- Phase 1: Fall 2021, includes U-Pass, transit employee passes and the PAYG flat fares for the standard profile (adult)
- Phase 2: Q1 2022 for concession fares (seniors, youth, low income) and local EICS school passes
- Phase 3: Q2 2022 for Mobility Bus clients
- Phase 4: Q3 2022 for open payments

Recommended Changes

The current Public Transportation Bylaw 88-44 is 33 years old and therefore, outdated

In order to align with new bylaw standards and to incorporate new requirements for the regional smart fare system, the Transit Bylaw 25-2021 needs to be updated to include:

- New definitions
- New sections
- Updated penalties

New definitions

To enable smart fare, the following new definitions were added:

- **Fare** – the fee set out in the Fees, Rates, and Charges Bylaw for use of the County's public transportation services
- **Fare media** – means an instrument or document that demonstrates pre-payment of a fare
- **Fare validation device** – means a device that indicates whether a payment card has been used to provide the required fare
- **Payment card** – means a credit card, debit card or smart card
- **Proof of payment** – means evidence that the required fare has been paid
- **Proof of payment area** – a transit vehicle and any portion of transit property that is identified as a proof of payment area.

New definitions

As the current bylaw is outdated, there was the need to also add other general definitions. Including:

- **Bicycle** – means a vehicle consisting of two wheels propelled by human power
- **Chief Commissioner** - means the chief administrative officer of the County, or delegate
- **Mobility Aid** - means a device designed to assist in walking or to otherwise improve the mobility of a person with a mobility impairment

New and Updated Sections

- **Fares**

- This new section provides guidance on how a valid proof of payment must now be shown in a proof of payment area and the rules on how fare media and proof of payments may be used

- **Passenger Conduct**

- This section has been updated with clearer language and some outdated rules were removed (such as not allowing food or drink in a transit vehicle)

- **Enforcement**

- This section has been updated to reflect new bylaw standards

New and Updated Sections

- **General**

- This section has been added to provide guidance for the type of records required for enforcement in a smart fare system

- **Chief Commissioner's Authority**

- This section has been added to provide direction on the powers of the Chief Commissioner, including the ability to:
 - Take any steps, or carry out any action, required to enforce this bylaw
 - Prohibit a person from using the County's public transportation system
 - Approve fare validation devices

Updated Penalties

In order to encourage the proper behaviour on transit property and vehicles, the penalties have been updated

- The penalty amounts are now broken out between Municipal Tags and Violation Tickets
- New penalty amounts have been added for repeat offences
- Certain penalty amounts have been increased to reflect the severity of the risk of the offence

Future Changes

The proposed changes to the bylaw provide guidance for all future smart fare related requirements

Language was also added to recognize the future Edmonton Metropolitan Transit Services Commission and possible impacts to Strathcona County

Questions?

