



NEWS

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# Councillors vote to prioritize transit

Committee begins talks to renew aging fleet in 2027-30 budget cycle

JACKIE CARMICHAEL

Presented with some graphic numbers and dire service scenarios, Edmonton city council's urban planning committee kicked off its transit funding brainstorming Tuesday with three scenarios to choose from as presented by the Edmonton Transit Service.

Councillors voted not to kick the

can down the road.

This time, no short-changing transit.

Sarah Feldman, director of transit planning, ridership and revenue, presented a report requested in 2024 to outline bus renewal needs to maintain current transit service levels through 2030, and the service impacts that would occur if the minimum requirement

isn't met.

The ETS conventional bus fleet consists of 983 buses, including 879 40-foot buses.

There is a smaller number of larger, 60-foot articulated buses, as well as smaller 30-foot buses for specific service needs.

"Fleet renewal is a driver of service reliability. A younger fleet will experience fewer issues with vehicles breaking down and running late. An older fleet also requires more time in the garage for maintenance and repairs, which means less time on the road for delivering

service," Feldman said.

The North American average for retiring 40-foot buses is 15.1 years, with 81 per cent of these buses adhering to a 12-year standard.

"In Edmonton, we are currently retiring buses at 24 years, and currently, more than half of the bus fleet is rated in poor condition," Feldman said.

The current fleet renewal plan is based on conventional 40-foot buses getting midlife refurbishment, a mechanical makeover around the nine-year mark.

SEE FUNDING ON **A4**



SHAUGHN BUTTS

## JUST RIDING AROUND

A mountain biker enters a new trail Tuesday at the Mountain Bike Park inside Queen Elizabeth Park. Work on the facility continues this spring. A sharp drop in temperature is expected to bring showers heading into the long weekend. **WEATHER, NP12**

## 'Oh my god, no! They're biting me!': Court sees video of 2024 dog attack

STEVEN SANDOR

The video, taken by a neighbour's backyard camera in February 2024, shows an icy backyard in southwest Edmonton. Two large dogs are playing with a woman, who is accompanied by a man, Raymond Grumbach.

The two of them and another friend had dropped in to visit

Crystal Jean MacDonald. She wasn't home, but they were given permission to enter the house. The female friend in the video brought dog treats for the two Cane Corsos, each weighing more than 100 pounds.

But, the video, shown in Alberta Court of King's Bench Tuesday, shows the woman slipping on the ice, and then both dogs attack.

"Oh my god, no!" she is heard screaming on the video. "They're biting me!"

The woman was later taken to hospital. This was all part of Grumbach's testimony since MacDonald faces a criminal negligence charge based on allegations that her dogs killed 11-year-old Kache Grist at an Edmonton home in April 2024.

SEE DOGS ON **A4**

SPORTS

TYCHKOWSKI

It appears the coach-killing Oilers have struck again **NP9**

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