Transit ridership increasing

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The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) recently joined the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan University among the institutions offering the U-Pass, and due to support from the student population, Edmonton Transit’s ridership has increased.

Dr. Graeme, LRT Director for ITS, said statistics show that 94 per cent of those eligible pick up their U-Pass tickets.

“It certainly meets one of the objectives of the City of Edmonton to increase the use of public transit,” Graeme said. “We certainly saw [the U-Pass] as a way to increase ridership and it’s been very successful.”

Graeme believes that the U-Pass has been increasing ridership on both the LRT and the entire public transit system. He added the students there were no complaints so far, there are some drawbacks to increased ridership.

“We’ve had some people政 that people being too late to get on the train or they physically couldn’t get on the train,” Graeme explained. “People and it’s unignorable around the doors.”

Graeme believes there is simple solutions to some of these problems. He believes that if riders spread themselves out along the platform and inside the train, everyone will be able to get on the train easier.

In reference to students, Graeme believes that U-Pass users “tend to really help [ITS] by taking off their backpacks.”

According to Students’ Union Vice President (Student Life) Tony Tighe, the increased use of the transit is only partly due to the U-Pass.

“We haven’t had any major issues or complaints about clogged service so far, so that is great,” Tighe said. “I think it’s great that students are using it more and getting more value out of it.”

Tighe said that student慑tions are already paying for the service, so it’s encouraging to see them making use of it.

“I would say that this year we try to really improve our marketing to make sure everyone knows about the U-Pass. We have included pick up the pass, because everyone’s paying for it,” Tighe said. “I think the majority of people think it’s growing every year, so that’s great.”

In addition, he feels the U-Pass is good for students for a number of reasons.

“The [U-Pass] referendum passed with the now rates by 89 per cent, so people were satisfied with it,” Tighe said. “The fantasy is for free campus, the cheaper housing rates get, and students finally have that choice to get on campus for free while getting cheaper rent.”

As of this week, Tighe added that he encouraged some of the ETS increases their capacity to accept more riders by showing 559.

Due to the success of the U-Pass and increased ridership of the LRT, further expansion of the ETS system is coming. Edmonton City Council has approved a line towards NAIT, as well as one to the west end.

PLEASE STEP BACK People assembling around LRT doors can reduce ridership.

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THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER...

A study by U of A doctoral student Emily Hubert found that though some are willing, many of Edmonton’s suburbs don’t have access to the recreational facilities to have environmentally friendly lives.

Hubert, a graduate student in rural economic, surveyed residents of the newer Tuxedo and Towse suburbs who admitted they were interested in sustainable living. However, compared to a survey of an older Mill Creek community, Hubert found that the Riverbend region was not as environmentally friendly. Because of their location, they had ready access to parks and places able to walk or bike at places often.

Now Hubert is sharing her results with policy makers to help in planning policies that affect the way people interact with the environment. To fight the negative environmental effects of suburban life.

TRIPLE THE TROUBLE

A recent study led part by U of A researchers suggests that older people with type 2 diabetes are more likely to have problems with cognitive function if they also show signs of poor balance, high blood pressure, or consider themselves to have bad health.

Though the correlation between diabetes and dementia has been previously found by other researchers, these new findings, published this month in the journal diabetes, shed light on symptoms that doctors can use to identify signs that patients may have cognitive deficiencies.

Psychologist professor Roger Dixon, one of the researchers on the project, suggested that evidence of this link to diabetes adds to the incentives for people to control their blood.

The Public Health Agency of Canada says 19 per cent of Canadians over 60 have diabetes.

HUNGRY FOR A DEGREE

An honorary degree will be given by the U of A to Montreal-based Social researcher, Alan Swaminathan, a man who sought to eradicate hunger from his native India.

Known as the “father of economic ecology” to some, Swaminathan was instrumental in India’s Green Revolution of the 1960s, which introduced high-yield seeds and served to raise the nation’s food supply.

The University of Alberta在哪日, with the award ceremony, coming in at 7pm.

Because of this award, researchers said they said this made them feel more fit, happier, and more energetic.

SLIPPING THROUGH THE CRACKS

The University of Alberta is falling in this year’s Times Higher Education (THE) University Rankings, coming in at 149th. Although in the top 100 universities, this is a decrease from last year’s ranking.

The University of Cambridge was ranked number one in the world and McGill University was the top Canadian school, coming in at 59th.

GET SOMETHING HILARIOUS YOU’D LIKE TO SAY? Want to talk about a missed romantic connection? Recite shitty poetry? Bitch at your pain-in-the-ass roommate in secret? Gripe about the class you’re in at the moment? Take potshots at your bus driver? Complain about not getting laid? Or got something else on your mind?

You can say three lines of pretty much whatever you want*, and we’ll print it in the Classifieds section of an upcoming Gateway!