

Edmonton Youth Transit Access Project

Project Partners: The City of Edmonton, Edmonton Transit, MAPS Alberta, Boyle Street Education Centre, Native Counselling Services of Alberta, iHuman Youth Society, Youth Empowerment and Support Services, Old Strathcona Youth Society, WrapEd, Inner City High School, Edmonton Youth Initiative, and Boyle Street Community Services



What is the project?



Goal: Prevent youth from receiving transit fines due to poverty

Action: Free transit passes for 100 high-risk youth for six months

Evaluation: How does public transit access impact the lives of youth?

What is our approach?

- Youth-centred
- Balanced
(enforcement/support)
- Compassionate

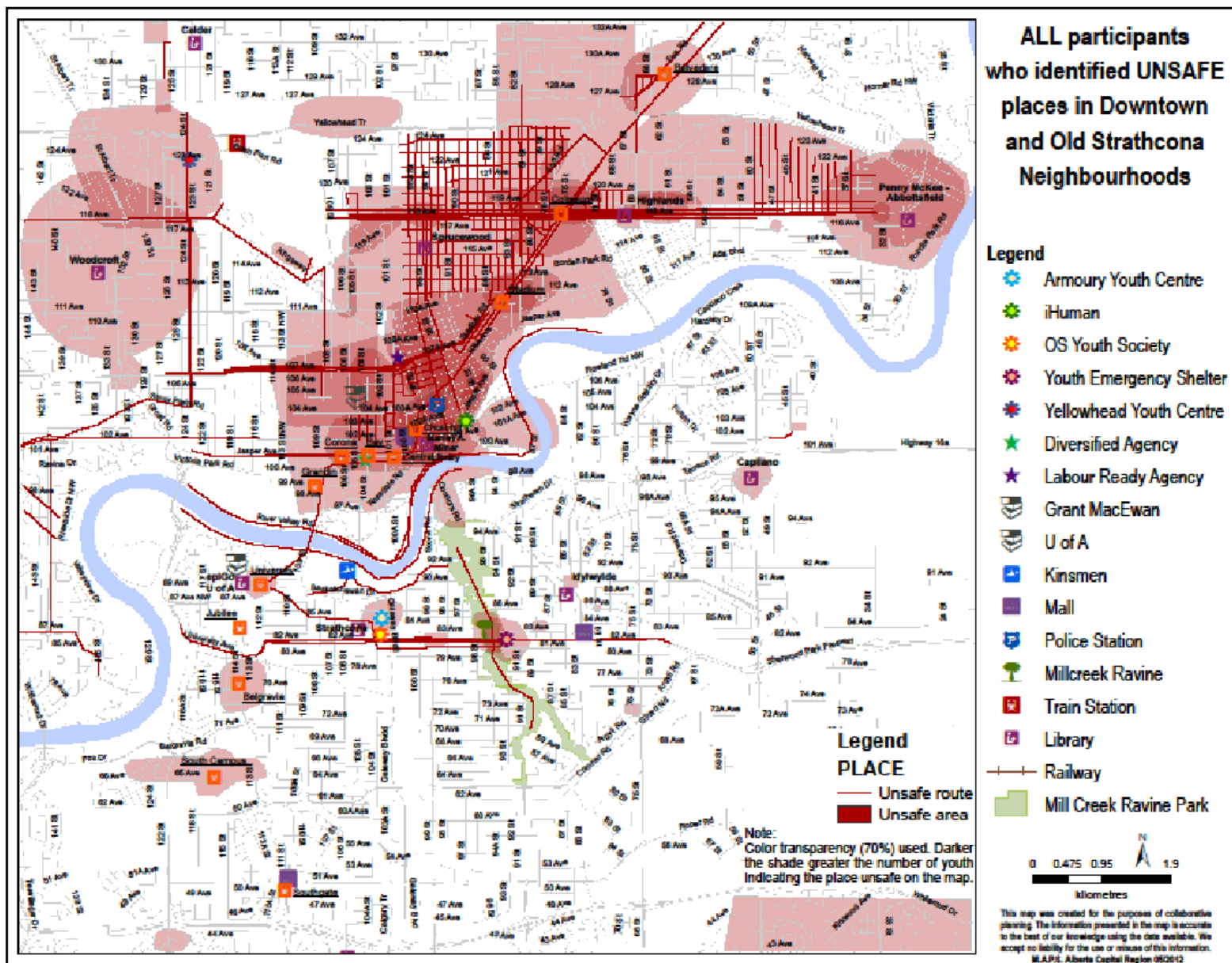


How did we get here?

Youth service providers noticed that a high number of at-risk youth receive the \$250 fines for failure to provide payment on the ETS, and wrote letters of concern to the municipal government calling for system changes.



These maps are available through M.A.P.S Alberta Capital Region Ltd. Please contact us at (780)474-9393 if you wish to see them.



Routes to Homes Study

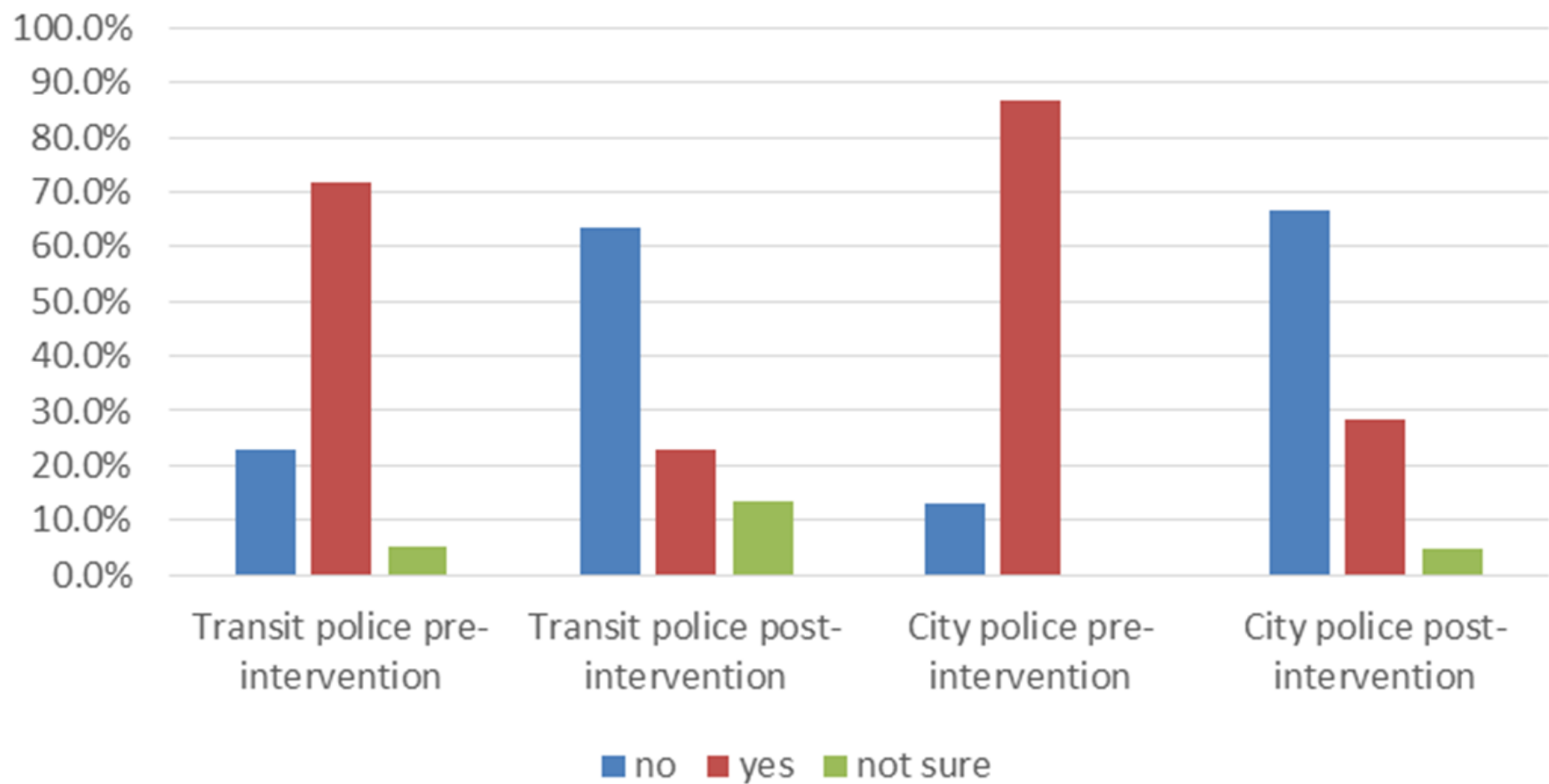
2013 pilot study with Old Strathcona Community Mapping and Planning Committee and the University of Alberta

40 youth were provided with bus tickets or bus passes for 3 months.

Funded by Homeward Trust Edmonton

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Figure 3: Encounters with Transit and City Police



How did we get here?



The current municipal government recognizes that the current system is not working, and that better relationships between bylaw officers/EPS and youth need to be created.

Recent city initiatives:

By the end of May 2015, all Peace Officers will have taken mental health first aid training.

Youth can write a letter to the crown prosecutor to ask if their ticket can be withdrawn

Low Income Transit Pass hearing at Transit Committee on November 9

Both transit projects are in conjunction with End Poverty Edmonton, a key initiative of Mayor Iveson

Strategy #1: The Bus Pass Project

ETS donated 100 bus passes for 5 designated agencies to give to youth who demonstrate need for a period of six months—from October 2015 to March 2016.

Youth participants will meet with their designated youth service provider at the end of each month to answer questions related to the project and receive their new bus pass.

Youth participants will also be invited to join a discussion group on Facebook, answer automated text-based surveys, or be individually interviewed to talk about their ridership experience, and how having a pass affected his/her life.

Strategy #2: The Academy



Purpose: build positive relationships between youth and bylaw officers, and decrease negative interactions.

Project development is in progress—will start implementation in December/January

Youth will be engaged in the creation and delivery of the project

iHuman has a current program (Uncensored) that will inform some of the training.

Current Feedback



Bus passes are in high demand

City Council open to making project ongoing, and increase the number of passes available depending on need

Project partners will be conducting an SROI (Social Return On Investment) evaluation midpoint (January 2016), and at the end of official project period (March 2016)

Questions?

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