



*January 25, 2012*

## **GreenTRIP adds more rides to Airdrie transit**

*Airdrie...* Airdrie residents will have more opportunities to use public transit as the city's fleet will grow with funding support from the Alberta government's Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP).

"This is a terrific example of how a community such as Airdrie is looking at transit projects that respond to their local needs," said Premier Alison Redford.

The City of Airdrie will receive up to \$2.8 million through GreenTRIP for a variety of public transit improvements. Some of the funds will be applied to the cost of three articulating low-floor buses and several community shuttle buses, which are currently in use. In addition, some of the funds will go toward improvements previously made to the bus garage and maintenance facility. Airdrie's transit system provides both local service within the city as well as commuter service to Calgary, through its Intercity Express, also known as ICE.

"GreenTRIP helps provide additional transportation options for Albertans and improves traffic safety," said Ray Danyluk, Minister of Transportation. "GreenTRIP is making a difference in municipalities large and small, and takes vehicles off roads to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

GreenTRIP is a \$2-billion program that provides one-time capital funding to support new and expanded public transit throughout Alberta. Applicants provide at least one-third of eligible project costs, while GreenTRIP provides up to two-thirds of the costs.

"Our regional transit service continues to evolve," said Peter Brown, Mayor of Airdrie. "It hopefully provides good transportation choices for those who work in Calgary. Our local transit system continues to be a work in progress."

Over its duration, GreenTRIP will provide up to \$800 million for Calgary region projects. Funding for Airdrie's projects is part of the Calgary region allocation.

- 30 -

### **Backgrounder:** Airdrie transit project and GreenTRIP program

#### **Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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## **Airdrie transit projects and GreenTRIP program**

### **Airdrie transit projects**

**The City of Airdrie will receive GreenTRIP funding to help it purchase three articulating low-floor transit buses, and several community shuttle buses which are currently in use. Some of the funding will go toward improvements previously made to the bus garage and maintenance facility. What is the total cost of this transit project?**

The City of Airdrie has estimated the total cost to be about \$4.3 million. For additional information, contact Chris MacIsaac, Transit Coordinator, City of Airdrie, 403-948-8800, ext 8449, e-mail: [chris.macisaac@airdrie.ca](mailto:chris.macisaac@airdrie.ca)

### **How much funding will GreenTRIP provide to the City of Airdrie?**

The City of Airdrie will receive a GreenTRIP grant of up to \$2.8 million -- two-thirds of the estimated eligible cost of purchasing the new transit buses and improving the transit facility.

### **How will the GreenTRIP funding be allocated for the project?**

GreenTRIP funding is allocated on a “pay-on-progress” basis and the payments will be allocated to the city as progress on the purchases and improvements is made.

### **GreenTRIP program**

#### **What kinds of transit projects would qualify for funding?**

Some examples of eligible capital projects include:

- construction of light rail transit (LRT) and inter-city commuter rail systems;
- planning for and acquisition of transit or commuter rail corridors;
- park and ride facilities (as a component of a larger transit project submission);
- construction of bus terminals;
- purchase of public transit vehicles (e.g., LRT vehicles, hybrid buses, accessible buses); and
- installation of transit intelligent transportation system components.

#### **How does GreenTRIP contribute to the environment?**

GreenTRIP is a good example of how the province is investing in green initiatives that will help contribute to Alberta’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The emphasis of GreenTRIP will be to support regional transportation initiatives that make public transit more accessible to Albertans and reduce the number of vehicles on Alberta’s roads, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Alberta government will continue to take advantage of opportunities to foster Alberta’s growth in a responsible, environmentally-conscious way.

#### **How can I gain additional information about GreenTRIP?**

For additional information about GreenTRIP, go to [www.transportation.alberta.ca](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca).

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