

Building a better Alberta



September 16, 2011

GreenTRIP enhances public transit service in Medicine Hat

Medicine Hat... Public transit service in Medicine Hat will accelerate into the future thanks to funding support from the Alberta government's Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP).

The City of Medicine Hat will receive up to \$2.7 million through GreenTRIP to purchase two low-floor transit buses, install solar-lit transit shelters, build a bus garage and maintenance facility, and install mobile data terminals with GPS on a number of its transit buses.

"The Alberta government continues to invest in our communities by providing significant funding support for infrastructure projects, including those in medium-sized cities like Medicine Hat," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "GreenTRIP is making a difference in many municipalities and the upgrades to Medicine Hat's transit system will enhance the quality of life of residents."

GreenTRIP is a \$2-billion program that provides one-time capital funding to support new and expanded public transit throughout Alberta. This helps make transit more accessible and provides Albertans with a wider range of public transit options for local, regional and intermunicipal travel. Applicants must contribute at least one-third of the capital cost of a project, with GreenTRIP providing two-thirds of eligible project costs.

"The GreenTRIP program is about getting vehicles off provincial roads, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping improve traffic safety," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. "GreenTRIP is helping provide many Alberta communities with more options for public transit and this is very positive for municipalities."

"The enhancements to Medicine Hat's transit system will benefit the community and encourage more residents to use our city's growing and improving public transit network," said Rob Renner, MLA for Medicine Hat. "This project is a good example of how the province continues to partner with municipalities to develop effective infrastructure solutions for Albertans."

"The new transit buses and the upgrades to Medicine Hat's transit system are improvements that will benefit both residents and visitors alike," said Len Mitzel, MLA for Cypress-Medicine Hat. "This is a positive development for the community and the Alberta government is proud to be a part of it."

"Transit is the backbone of our community and we are grateful for the province's support," said Norm Boucher, Mayor of Medicine Hat. "By using the funding we have received through the GreenTRIP program, the City of Medicine Hat will continue to strive towards making the right environmental and sustainable energy decisions while improving our transit service."

Over the duration of the GreenTRIP program, \$800 million in funding is available for transit projects in the Edmonton Capital region; \$800 million for the Calgary region; and \$400 million for other Alberta municipalities.

The Alberta government is working to [build a better Alberta](#) by fostering economic growth, strengthening our health and education systems, investing in infrastructure, supporting safe and strong communities and ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

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Backgrounder: Medicine Hat transit project and GreenTRIP program

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Martin Dupuis
Communications, Alberta Transportation
780-916-9625 (cell)
780-427-1938
martin.dupuis@gov.ab.ca
To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Colleen Brown
Communications, City of Medicine Hat
403-502-1977 (cell)
403-502-8071
colbro@medicinehat.ca

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Medicine Hat transit project and GreenTRIP program

Medicine Hat transit projects

What is the total estimated cost of the City of Medicine Hat's transit project, which includes purchasing two low-floor transit buses, installing solar-lit transit shelters, building a bus garage and maintenance facility, and installing mobile data terminals with GPS on buses?

The City of Medicine Hat has estimated the total cost to be about \$4,135,000. For additional information, contact Richard Sieppert, Manager of Transit Services, 403-529-8216.

How much funding will GreenTRIP provide to the City of Medicine Hat?

The City of Medicine Hat will receive a GreenTRIP grant of up to \$2.7 million – two-thirds of the estimated eligible cost of purchasing the two new transit buses, installing solar-lit transit shelters, building a bus garage and maintenance facility, and installing mobile data terminals on buses.

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 is made, as transit shelters are built, as work on the bus garage progresses, and as mobile data terminals are installed on buses.

GreenTRIP program

Which groups are eligible to apply for GreenTRIP funding?

The program is available to owner/operators of public transit services, which may include municipalities, regional entities, non-profit organizations, Métis settlements and the private sector. Ineligible applicants include individuals, federal government departments or agencies and First Nations, which are under federal jurisdiction.

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.

Project submissions must demonstrate that a project can help advance government priorities. What are these priorities?

The Alberta government's priorities include:

- implementing the 20-year Strategic Capital Plan;
- investing in priority projects that contribute to a safe and world-class transportation system that supports regional and provincial economic development and provides Alberta with some of the most advanced infrastructure in North America;
- supporting the province's return to prosperity and creating a strong foundation for continued economic strength;
- implementing the provincial Land-use Framework, which supports regional planning for key infrastructure, such as transit; and
- advancing the province's climate change strategy by getting cars off roads to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

How does GreenTRIP fit with Alberta's climate change strategy?

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, reduce the number of vehicles on Alberta's roads and reduce 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.

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