

Sept. 15, 2011

GreenTRIP provides \$12.1 million for Red Deer transit buses

Red Deer... Red Deer residents will ride in style when they use the city's public transit service in coming months, thanks to funding support from the Alberta government's Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP).

Through GreenTRIP, the City of Red Deer will receive \$12.1 million to purchase 40 new low-floor transit buses, which will enhance transit service for residents and visitors alike.

"Alberta is continuing to experience phenomenal growth and in the years ahead, more Albertans will be using public transit than ever before," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "GreenTRIP is about this government's commitment to supporting municipalities as they plan for the future, and the new buses will serve Red Deer's growing population."

GreenTRIP is a \$2-billion program that provides one-time capital funding to support new and expanded public transit throughout Alberta. This 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 funding government is providing for these buses for Red Deer is a good example of how the province partners with municipalities to develop infrastructure solutions for Albertans," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. "GreenTRIP is in addition to all the other funding the province provides to municipalities for infrastructure."

"This funding for Red Deer's new transit buses is a significant investment in the city's future that will provide many benefits to the community," said Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA for Red Deer-North. "Public transit provides affordable, environmentally-friendly transportation and more Albertans are choosing to leave their vehicles at home."

"The new buses are going to make a positive addition to the quality of transit service the City of Red Deer already provides to residents and visitors," said Cal Dallas, MLA for Red Deer-South. "This increased access to affordable transportation will help promote Red Deer as a vibrant place to live."

"Connecting our community in sustainable ways is a priority for the City of Red Deer, and this funding means we can move more people to more places," said Mayor Morris Flewwelling. "This enables us to replace 17 buses scheduled for retirement, with the remaining 23 buses providing new and upgraded transit service. The best part is, we're doing it all with clean diesel technology that substantially reduces greenhouse gas emissions."

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: Red Deer transit projects and GreenTRIP program

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Red Deer transit projects

What is the total estimated cost of purchasing 40 low-floor transit buses?

The City of Red Deer has estimated the total cost to be about \$18 million. For additional information, contact Kevin Joll, Transit Manager, City of Red Deer, 403-342-8228.

How much funding will GreenTRIP provide to the City of Red Deer?

The City of Red Deer will receive a GreenTRIP grant of up to \$12.1 million – two-thirds of the estimated eligible cost of the 40 new transit buses. The final grant amount the municipality will receive will be based on the actual eligible cost of the purchase.

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 purchase is made.

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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