

August 9, 2011

GreenTRIP supports public transit system in Cochrane

Edmonton... The Town of Cochrane's public transit system will hit the road with funding support from the Alberta government's Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP).

The town will receive up to \$6.1 million through GreenTRIP to purchase four double-deck transit buses and four community shuttle buses, build a public transit terminal, and design a bus storage and maintenance facility. The double-deck buses will provide transit service between Cochrane and Calgary and the shuttle buses will be used for transit service within Cochrane.

"One of the key reasons the Alberta government introduced the GreenTRIP program was to reduce traffic congestion and cut greenhouse gas emissions in the province," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "But as this public transit project in Cochrane demonstrates, GreenTRIP is also providing more transportation options for Albertans and improving traffic safety."

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 the balance.

"We are pleased to see communities across the province looking at public transit projects that respond to local needs and provide transportation for residents," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. "GreenTRIP is helping get motor vehicles off our roads, improving traffic safety and reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

"The new transit services will benefit residents and visitors as well as reduce the environmental impact on this beautiful part of the province," said Janis Tarchuk, MLA for Banff-Cochrane. "This also demonstrates how the province is partnering with municipalities to develop effective infrastructure solutions for Albertans."

"Transit is a key component of the Town of Cochrane's economic development strategy as well as our sustainability plan," said Truper McBride, Mayor of Cochrane. "We appreciate this provincial support, which will allow us to both grow and green Cochrane's economy, enhancing quality of life for all Cochranites."

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.

Backgrounder: Cochrane transit projects and GreenTRIP program

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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Cochrane transit projects and GreenTRIP program

Cochrane transit projects

What is the total estimated cost of purchasing four double-deck transit buses and four handi-buses, building a public transit terminal, and designing a bus storage and maintenance facility?

The Town of Cochrane has estimated the total cost of the projects to be about \$9,180,000. For additional information, contact Paige Milner, Senior Manager, Town of Cochrane Corporate Services, 403-851-2524, paige.milner@cochrane.ca.

How much funding will GreenTRIP provide to the Town of Cochrane?

The Town of Cochrane will receive a GreenTRIP grant of up to \$6.1 million -- two-thirds of the estimated eligible cost of purchasing the new transit buses, building a transit terminal and the phase one design of a bus storage and maintenance 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, construction and design 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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