

GreenTRIP

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Public Transportation Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) and Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP) Projects

1. How much money is being invested in transit as a result of the federal Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) and the provincial Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP)?

On December 3, 2016, the governments of Canada and Alberta announced 52 new public transit projects under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund. The federal government is providing up to 50 per cent of funding – just over \$132.9 million – for the projects, while the provincial government is investing more than \$79.4 million through GreenTRIP. Municipalities are contributing the balance of \$58 million.

The Government of Alberta also announced another \$156.2-million investment in 37 more transit projects funded through GreenTRIP. Municipalities are providing the balance of \$79 million for these projects.

These projects are in addition to the 49 PTIF-GreenTRIP projects for Alberta announced on September 1, 2016:

- 46 transit projects in the City of Edmonton
- 3 transit projects in the City of Calgary

The federal funding for these 49 projects totalled more than \$212.4 million and the provincial contribution totalled approximately \$106.2 million.

2. How were the transit projects chosen?

The Government of Alberta worked with the federal government to develop the bilateral transit funding agreement over the past few months and officially signed the agreement on September 1, 2016 when the first round of transit projects for Edmonton and Calgary were announced.

The Alberta government also worked with municipal partners to identify priority projects that met the timeline and criteria requirements of both the provincial and federal funding programs.

3. In the list of PTIF and GreenTRIP projects announced on December 3, 2016, why didn't all municipalities receive PTIF funding?

Municipalities that did not receive federal PTIF support had already accessed their full PTIF allocation or are not eligible for PTIF funding.

4. Where did the provincial funding come from to support the PTIF projects?

The provincial contribution in support of the federally-funded PTIF projects is from GreenTRIP.

5. How will the province support public transportation in Alberta in the future?

The final-call approved GreenTRIP projects were announced on December 3, 2016, bringing the program to a close. Further plans for investing in public transportation infrastructure across Alberta are under development.

6. What funding is being provided for the Edmonton Valley Line LRT and the Calgary Green Line C-Train?

The Government of Alberta has already committed nearly \$600 million toward the Valley Line LRT in Edmonton, some of which is from GreenTRIP. The province has committed:

- up to \$274 million under GreenTRIP over three years beginning in 2016-17;
- up to \$150 million in provincial funding to match federal government investment beginning in 2016-17; and
- up to \$176 million in an interest-free loan to be repaid by the city over 10 years, fully backed by the Alberta Capital Finance Authority (ACFA).

For Calgary, on December 3, 2016, the Government of Alberta announced more than \$147 million in GreenTRIP funding to the City of Calgary for the Green Line LRT. This is in addition to a previous \$470-million GreenTRIP investment in the Calgary West LRT Line.

GreenTRIP Criteria Expansion

1. Why did the GoA expand the GreenTRIP criteria?

In Budget 2016, the federal government announced its new Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF), including a \$3.4-billion investment over three years, beginning in 2016-2017. Alberta's allocation under PTIF is \$347.1 million based on the provincial share of national transit ridership. In July 2016, the Government of Alberta expanded GreenTRIP's eligibility to align with PTIF to help Alberta municipalities maximize support from both funding programs.

2. What was added to the criteria?

GreenTRIP criteria were expanded to include all projects eligible for the federal PTIF program. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Refurbishment or replacement of existing transit vehicles;
- Replacement or enhancement of transit stations;

- Support for asset management capacity;
- Projects for transit system expansion; and,
- Support for design and planning of future expansion and improvements to public transit systems, including:
 - transportation demand management measures and studies; and,
 - pilot projects related to innovative and transformative technologies.

3. What criteria must be met to access PTIF support?

PTIF investments will be provided to support the rehabilitation of public transit systems; the planning of future system improvements and expansions; enhanced asset management; and system optimization and modernization. For more information, visit the [Infrastructure Canada website](#).

General

1. What is the purpose of GreenTRIP?

When GreenTRIP was officially launched in 2008, it provided one-time capital funding to support new and expanded public transit throughout Alberta. The GreenTRIP criteria expansion in July 2016 allowed municipalities to apply for funding for a broader range of transit projects.

The program helps provide Albertans with a wider range of sustainable public transit alternatives for local, regional and inter-municipal travel, making public transit more accessible. It also helps reduce traffic congestion by lowering the number of single occupancy vehicles on Alberta roads and providing people with broader transportation options, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

2. What is the definition of “public transit” with respect to GreenTRIP?

For the purposes of GreenTRIP, “public transit” is defined as: a transportation service available to the general public in urban and surrounding areas, using vehicles designed for use by multiple individuals, with fares, schedules, and routes that are planned and available in advance.

3. Are municipalities responsible for their own transit services?

Yes. Transit is a municipal responsibility. It is up to municipalities to identify their transportation priorities, develop transit policies and plans, and operate and maintain their own transit services.

4. How is funding paid out for GreenTRIP?

GreenTRIP is a multi-year program, with funding “paid on progress.” This means the money is distributed as a project progresses rather than being provided up front.

5. How does GreenTRIP fit with Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan?

Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan recommends increased investment to support infrastructure such as public transit and active transportation options as a key strategy to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the long-term.

GreenTRIP supports regional public transportation initiatives that make public transit more accessible to Albertans to reduce traffic congestion, resulting in people having the option to choose transit over driving, which helps to reduce the number of vehicles on Alberta's roads, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

6. How is public transit considered to be "green" or environmentally sustainable?

Canadian and U.S. transit associations and government agencies indicate that shifting from the use of an average single-occupancy vehicle to public transportation can have immediate environmental benefits through the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Transport Canada data shows a transit rider creates 65 per cent fewer GHG emissions than an auto user for the same trip.

Statistics from the U.S. show that LRT and bus services produce far less GHG emissions per passenger mile than an average single-occupancy vehicle.

7. Is there a formula or process for calculating GHG reductions?

Yes. Guidelines are available on the Alberta Transportation website at www.transportation.alberta.ca. GreenTRIP applicants must indicate in their business case how their project will help reduce GHG emissions.

8. If a project receives GreenTRIP funding, will the recipients be responsible for ongoing reporting of results (i.e., increased transit usage or environmental or societal benefits)?

A number of municipalities are already measuring and reporting on their GHG reductions and other environmental benefits.