

*June 23, 2011*

## **GreenTRIP provides \$900,000 for new public transit buses in Banff and Canmore**

*Edmonton...* New regional public transit services in Banff and Canmore are being provided with funding support through the Government of Alberta's Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP). The towns of Banff and Canmore will each receive \$450,000 to purchase one low-emission, low-floor transit bus for joint transit service between various Bow Valley communities.

Banff, Canmore and Improvement District No. 9 (communities within Banff National Park) partnered to establish the new Bow Valley Regional Transit Services Commission. The commission was formed to manage and improve transit in the region, including the introduction of regional transit service between Banff and Canmore. It is the first transit commission of its kind in the province.

"This regional public transit service is the kind of innovation and big-picture thinking we've been wanting to see in transit development in Alberta," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "It is an excellent example of how GreenTRIP reinforces government's commitment to regional transportation planning and is helping better connect our communities."

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.

"Public transit plays a role in building a world-class transportation system and as more Albertans have opportunities to use transit, more will leave their cars at home," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. "GreenTRIP will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve traffic safety."

The Town of Banff currently operates a public transit service within its townsite, but the Town of Canmore does not operate regular transit service. The two new GreenTRIP-funded buses will operate under the Bow Valley Regional Transit Services Commission.

"This demonstrates how the province partners with municipalities to develop effective infrastructure solutions for Albertans," said Janis Tarchuk, MLA for Banff-Cochrane. "The new service will benefit residents as well as reduce the environmental impact on some of Alberta's most beautiful areas."

"We are excited to see Banff's vision for sustainable transportation solutions advance, thanks to this support from the province," said Banff's mayor, Karen Sorensen. "Regional transit benefits residents and commuters and will encourage greater visitation to Banff National Park."

"Thanks to the generosity of the province and our partners in the regional transit commission, this new transit program will be both affordable and accessible," said Ron Casey, Mayor of Canmore. "It will provide much needed transit service to residents in our communities as well as visitors."

Over the duration of the GreenTRIP program, \$800 million in funding is available for transit projects in the Capital region; \$800 million for the Calgary region; and \$400 million for other Alberta municipalities. The \$900,000 in funding for new transit buses for the towns of Banff and Canmore is part of the Calgary region allocation.

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: New transit buses for Banff and Canmore and GreenTRIP program**

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

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To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.



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## **New transit buses for Banff and Canmore and GreenTRIP program**

### **New transit buses for Banff and Canmore**

#### **What is the total estimated cost of a low-floor transit bus?**

The towns of Banff and Canmore have estimated the total cost of a low-floor transit bus to be \$675,000. For additional information, contact Diana Waltmann, Town of Banff (403-762-1207) and Kevin Van Vliet, Town of Canmore (403-678-1545).

#### **How much funding will GreenTRIP provide for each new transit bus?**

The towns of Banff and Canmore will each receive a GreenTRIP grant of two-thirds of the estimated eligible transit vehicle cost, or up to a maximum of \$450,000. The final grant amount that each municipality will receive will be based on the actual eligible cost of the transit vehicle 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 towns 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](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca).

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