

June 9, 2011

GreenTRIP provides \$1.1 million for new public transit buses in Grande Prairie

Edmonton... The City of Grande Prairie will offer expanded public transit service through \$1.1 million in capital funding from the provincial Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP). The city will use this funding to purchase four new low-floor buses for Grande Prairie Transit.

"GreenTRIP is a part of this government's commitment to supporting communities as they plan for the future, making transit more accessible and better connecting Albertans," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "Grande Prairie is growing rapidly and this funding will enable the city to provide more residents with effective public transit for years to come."

The \$2-billion GreenTRIP program 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.

"We recognize the vital role public transit plays in building a world-class transportation system, promoting vibrant communities and enhancing Albertans' quality of life," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. "Adding more public transit in the province will get cars off the road and help foster Alberta's growth in a responsible, environmentally-conscious way."

The four low-floor buses the city plans to purchase will be wheelchair accessible. Two will be used to replace existing high-floor buses, which are not wheelchair accessible and are less fuel efficient. The other two buses will be used to provide service on a new transit route.

"This is a good example of how the province partners with municipalities to develop effective and practical infrastructure solutions for Albertans," said Wayne Drysdale, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti. "The new buses will provide more opportunities for Grande Prairie residents to use transit."

"The City of Grande Prairie is excited to receive this funding," said Mayor Bill Given. "It really enables us to move forward with our transit master plan and expand transit service across the city."

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 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: New transit buses for City of Grande Prairie 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

David Olinger
Marketing and Communications Manager
City of Grande Prairie
780-538-0349
dolinger@cityofgp.com

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



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New transit buses for City of Grande Prairie

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

The total cost is estimated to be \$1,744,000. For additional information about the project, contact Audra McKinley, transit co-ordinator, Grande Prairie Transit, ph. 780-538-0487.

How much funding will GreenTRIP provide for the four new transit buses?

The City of Grande Prairie will receive a GreenTRIP grant of two-thirds of the estimated eligible project costs, or up to a maximum of \$1,163,000. The city's final grant amount will be based on the actual eligible costs at the time of project completion.

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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