

Review of Regional Transit Services Commission (RTSC) Final Report**Report Purpose**

To provide Council with highlights of the key areas that Administration has identified in the RTSC's final report for their consideration before voting to join or not join the RTSC.

Recommendation

None

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Report

On July 17, 2018, Council approved a motion to sign onto the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to join the Regional Transit Services Commission (RTSC) work to develop the regulatory, technical, financial, and operational framework of a commission. Council then appointed Councillors Botterill and Anderson as the County's representatives on the RTSC Transition Team. On October 11, 2018, Mayor Frank, along with 12 other Mayors of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, signed onto the MOU.

The inaugural meeting of the RTSC Transition Team was held on January 17, 2019. At the Transition Team's February 2019 meeting they selected EY (Ernst & Young) as the consultant to work with the Transition Team to complete Phase 2 – the establishment and transition phase of the Regional Commuter Service Phase Implementation Plan. A Working Team, comprising administrative representatives from the participating municipalities, was requested for information gathering and work plan development. Wade Coombs, Director, Transit, served on the Working Team for Strathcona County, with support from Nancy Lyzaniwski, Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs.

Overall, the project was broken into two stages. The first stage was to gather and catalogue all existing current information sources, and to develop the scope of work and detail a project plan for the second stage. The purpose of stage two was to execute on the scope of work and ultimately create the RTSC master plan (operational framework), meeting relevant requirements for a successful submission under the MGA regulation to form a regional services commission. Stage one was completed in April 2019 and stage two was completed on November 29, 2019. Council has received several closed session updates on the progress of the work over the past year.

On January 28, 2020 Priorities Committee received a presentation from the RTSC consultant EY on the final report, Accelerating Transit in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region: Building a Regional Transit Services Commission. Administration will be providing a presentation outlining further considerations, based on questions from the January 28, 2020 Priorities Committee meeting, that Council may want to consider before making their decision to join or not join the RTSC.

Council and Committee History

- January 28, 2020 Council received a presentation on the final report for the RTSC, Accelerating Transit in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region: Building a Regional Transit Services Commission.
- October 29, 2019 Council received an update on the work of the Regional Transit Services Commission.
- March 26, 2019 Council approved the following:
THAT Councillor Botterill and Councillor Anderson be appointed as the Elected Representative and Alternate, respectively, for Strathcona County to the Regional Transit Transition Team, both terms to commence effective as of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and ending at the sooner of the 2019 Council Organizational Meeting or the creation of the Regional Transit Services Commission by provincial regulation, and provided that the appointees continue to serve as Councillors throughout the terms of appointment.
- July 17, 2018 Council approved the following:
THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Regional Commuter Service Phase Implementation Plan; and

THAT Councillor Botterill and Councillor Anderson be appointed as the Elected Representatives for Strathcona County to the Regional Transit Transition Team, both terms to commence effective as of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and ending at the sooner of the 2019 Council Organizational Meeting or the creation of the Regional Transit Services Commission by provincial regulation, and provided that the appointees continue to serve as Councillors throughout the terms of appointment.
- May 8, 2018 Council received an update on the discussions taking place between the cities of Edmonton and St. Albert.
- January 23, 2018 Council received an update on the discussions taking place between the cities of Edmonton and St. Albert.
- September 9, 2014 Council formally endorsed Administration's response to the Capital Region Board regarding the Inter-Municipal Transit Study.

Other Impacts**Policy:** N/A**Legislative/Legal:** N/A**Interdepartmental:** Participation in a Regional Transit Commission could impact Fleet Services and Strathcona County Transit.**Master Plan/Framework:** N/A

Author: Wade Coombs, Transit

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Director(s): Wade Coombs, Transit, Laura Probst, Financial Services, Debra Smith, Human Resources

Associate Commissioner: Gord Johnston, Community Service Division, Greg Yeomans, Financial and Strategic Management Division, Lori Cooper, Corporate Services Division

Lead Department: Transit

Communication Plan

A communication strategy is in place to communicate Council's decision to opt in or opt out of the RTSC, including internal communication tactics (through affected departments) as well as external tactics, including but not limited to, key messages, media releases, web posting, social media.

Enclosure(s)

1. Presentation – To be distributed at meeting.