

Federal Public Transit Infrastructure Fund Project List**Report Purpose**

To seek Council's approval of the project list for the Federal Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF).

Recommendation

THAT the Federal Public Transit Infrastructure Fund project list, as set out in Enclosure 1 of the July 19, 2016 Strathcona County Transit report, be approved.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: n/a

Governance: The renovations for the Ordze Transit Centre (OTC) are listed as the number two priority in the Capital Region Board's Transit project list. This project will allow the County to use higher capacity double-decker buses at the OTC resulting in higher quality of inter-municipal service. By completing these three projects now, the County will be demonstrating strong fiscal management by leveraging federal and provincial funding that will reduce the municipal funding required.

Social: By bringing forward the replacement of the remaining coaches in the Capital Budget plan, Strathcona County will make our conventional transit fleet 100% accessible earlier than planned and provide higher capacity buses from the OTC. This will result in transit becoming even more accessible and available to all residents within the County sooner than previously planned by reducing the number of standing passengers and the number of times when a second bus is required. The replacement of the Mobility Buses will provide a newer, more reliable fleet for residents with mobility limitations.

Culture: n/a

Environment: Replacing the last coaches in the County's fleet with higher capacity double-decker buses will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The renovations for the OTC will allow the double-decker buses to be used at this location along with the replacement of three older Mobility Buses with newer, more efficient buses will result in even further reductions of GHG emissions.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: Replacing the last three coaches will reduce the number of vehicle types Fleet Services will have to service and maintain parts for.

Summary

To improve and expand public transit systems across Canada, the 2016 federal budget proposed to invest up to \$3.4 billion in public transit over three years, starting in 2016–17. Funding will be provided through a new PTIF to support projects that will deliver increased capacity, enhanced service or improved environmental outcomes.

Under PTIF, the federal government will contribute up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs. The remainder of the funding must be comprised of non-federal sources. Given the current fiscal situation in Alberta, the province is assessing how provincial funding may be able to address the remaining 50 per cent of the funding required for projects. They are requesting project submissions be submitted to the province in order to gain a better sense of possible provincial contributions.

Funding under the program will be allocated to municipalities based on the 2014 CUTA ridership data. Based on this, Strathcona County is eligible to apply for up to \$2,555,000.

To get projects moving quickly, Alberta Infrastructure and Alberta Transportation are working with Infrastructure Canada to ensure funding under the new PTIF is distributed to recognized transit systems as soon as possible.

In addition to program requirements outlined by the federal government, regional endorsement will be required for final project proposals in the Capital Region and Calgary regions, in order to align with ongoing efforts to encourage regional collaboration. This endorsement will be provided by the Capital Region Board for the Capital Region.

While the bilateral agreement with the federal government has not been finalized, the Alberta Government wishes to expedite the provision of funding under the PTIF by requesting initial project lists from municipalities. To ensure funding is available as soon as possible the province is requesting project lists be submitted by July 29, 2016. This will facilitate the province being able to make announcements on approved projects in late summer or fall 2016. To accommodate this, Strathcona County Council's approval is required prior to submitting the County's project list.

Strathcona County Transit is proposing the following projects for the PTIF funding:

1. To bring forward the replacement of the remaining three coaches within the Capital Budget from 2021 to 2017 with the following funding sources:
 - a. PTIF funding - \$1,632,500
 - b. Provincial GreenTRIP funding - \$1,000,000
 - c. Transit Bus Replacement Reserve - \$632,500
 - d. Total cost \$3,265,000
2. To bring forward the replacement of three Mobility Buses scheduled for replacement in 2018 in the current five year Capital Budget with the following funding sources:
 - a. PTIF funding - \$172,500
 - b. Transit Bus Replacement Reserve - \$172,500
 - c. Total cost \$345,000
3. To make renovations at that OTC that will lower one lane to allow the double-decker buses to access the platform area with funding sources of:
 - a. PTIF funding - \$750,000
 - b. Reallocation of Transit Bus Replacement Reserve funding - \$750,000
 - i. This may be able to be reduced with provincial funding based on this project being number two on the CRB regional transit priority list.
 - c. Total cost \$1,500,000

These projects total \$5,110,000 in capital costs. By using the PTIF funding, Strathcona County will reduce its contribution by \$1,055,000, which can be reallocated to other projects.

Enclosure

- 1 Public Transit Infrastructure Fund ppt