

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Local Transit Pilot Project – Final Report

Motion:

That Council receive the Transit Pilot Project Report as information and for consideration during the 2016 budget deliberations.

Purpose:

To provide Council with an analysis of the Local Transit Pilot Project and provide local transit service options for Council's consideration.

Background:

The City of Fort Saskatchewan has been providing commuter transit services to residents for several years as a way to help provide a public transit link from Fort Saskatchewan to Edmonton. During the 2014 budget deliberations, Council supported improvements to the Fort Saskatchewan Transit System by testing the feasibility of a local transit service.

A Transit Pilot Project was initiated in April, 2014 and included a focused commuter route from the Dow Centennial Centre to Edmonton's Clareview LRT Station, a separate local route that would support the commuter route, a Student Upass companion program, and extended operating hours.

The Pilot Program is scheduled to be complete on December 31, 2015.

In August, 2015 WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff was contracted to undertake a review of the Pilot Project and prepare a report for Council's consideration. The key objective was to review the current local transit pilot and provide service options for Council's consideration. Several factors were examined in great detail including the factors affecting how a service should be designed for the City, possible service level modifications, and a detailed look at costs.

The Review has identified three primary options for Council's consideration:

- Commuter service only (no FTS)
- Expanded commuter service only (no FTS)
- Modified existing local transit and commuter service

Each option comes with its own advantages and disadvantages, service and cost implications. Based on Council's direction, Administration will finalize a budget that will provide all associated costs for Council's consideration during the 2016 budget process. Implementation schedules will be highly dependent on which option is chosen by Council. Should Council choose to retain a local transit service in addition to the commuter service, Administration will report back by the end of March 2016 with an implementation plan.

At this point, Administration's recommendation is to continue to contract with City of Edmonton ETS for the commuter service. We are not able to utilize ETS or any other transit provider for a localized transit service due to insurance issues.

Plans/Standards/Legislation:

Goal 1.10 – Position for Growth: Review the results from the transit pilot and implement a program based on the findings.

Financial Implications:

The attached report provides options and a portion of the financial impact for those various options, however not all cost implications to the City are included. At the October 27, 2015 Council meeting the Director of Infrastructure Management will outline the additional costs and resources needed to realize the operating projections in addition to those outlined by the consultants.

Internal Impacts:

Subject to Council's service level selection, Administration will bring forward more detailed resource requirements.

Alternatives:

1. That Council receive the Transit Pilot Project Report as information and for consideration during the 2016 budget deliberations.
2. That Council advise how they wish to proceed.

Recommendation:

That Council receive the Transit Pilot Project Report as information and consideration during the 2016 budget deliberations.

Attachment:

Appendix A - Fort Saskatchewan Transit – Pilot Project Review Final Report.

File No.:

Prepared by:	Ian Gray Director	Date: October 21, 2015
Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager, Infrastructure & Community Services	Date: October 22, 2015
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: October 23, 2015
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: October 27, 2015