

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Public Transit Infrastructure Fund

Motion:

That Council approve the allocation of \$109,000 from the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) and \$54,500 in grant funding from the Provincial Government, to offset project costs associated with the construction of the Northern Transfer Station and key bus stop infrastructure improvements.

Purpose:

For Council to approve the allocation of new grant funding for transit infrastructure upgrades initiated in 2016, to be completed in 2017.

Background:

Last year, Council approved an increase in operating funding to offset costs associated with a new local transit system and the current commuter service to Edmonton. These costs included on-going upgrades to bus stop infrastructure.

In the second quarter of 2016, the Federal Government released the new Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF). This new Federal transit grant program provides municipalities with an opportunity to receive financial support to upgrade transit infrastructure.

The City's Infrastructure Management Department applied for two projects, planned for the next 2-3 years:

- a) Northern Transfer Station, located at 99 Avenue & 95 Street; and
- b) bus stop infrastructure upgrades to key sites located throughout the city, on local bus routes.

The total cost of these two projects is \$218,000. Based on the PTIF application criteria, the City and the Federal Government would equally contribute \$109,000 towards the cost of these transit infrastructure improvements.

Funding from the PTIF program would allow much needed upgrades to be completed in 1 year instead of 2-3 years. It would also reduce costs to the City for these projects.

The new Fort Saskatchewan Transit Service started on September 6, 2016. To date, the City has invested \$109,000 in the Northern Transfer Station and basic bus stop infrastructure. Additional upgrades were put on hold until 2017 and the confirmation of PTIF grant program funds. The upgrades identified in the City's PTIF grant application included heated shelters at the Northern Transfer Station as well as non-heated shelters, benches and trash receptacles in key bus stops throughout the city.

In December 2016, the City received a letter from Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation announcing the City's PTIF grant application was successful. The City is approved for \$109,000 in grant funding from the Federal Government, as well as an unexpected grant of \$54,500 from the Provincial Government. Due to timing, these new sources of funding were not captured in the 2017 budget.

Plans/Standards/Legislation:

Transit Pilot Review Report, October 2015.

Financial Implications:

The Federal Government's contribution of \$109,000 will be used to complete the Northern Transfer Station and other key bus stop infrastructure upgrades in 2017. The Provincial Government's contribution of \$54,500 will be also used to offset the City's contribution to these two projects.

Essentially, through these grants the City will acquire a \$218,000 transit infrastructure investment for a quarter of the cost. These grant funds will contribute to a reduction in costs to the City for transit infrastructure improvements.

Attachment:

November 23 2016 PTIF Approval Letter

File No.:

Prepared by: Richard Gagnon
Director, Infrastructure Management

Date: January 4, 2017

Reviewed by: Troy Fleming
Acting City Manager

Date: January 17, 2017

Submitted to: City Council

Date: January 24, 2017