

# BRIEFING

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Item # 5.2.1

Transportation Briefing to

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2020 June 18

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
IGA2020-0676

## Chestermere-Calgary Regional Transit Feasibility

### PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update on the Chestermere-Calgary Regional Transit Feasibility project. On 2019 September 18, The City of Calgary's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee (IGA) directed City Administration to continue discussions with Chestermere's Administration to continue exploring the possibility of transit service between the two cities and report back to IGA with an update on discussions by Q2 2020.

Chestermere City Council received a parallel project update on 2020 June 16.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### Project Details

The project team, consisting of representatives from Calgary Transit, City of Chestermere, and HDR (Chestermere's project consultant funded by Chestermere), have been working collaboratively since October 2019 on a feasibility study for a regional transit connection between Calgary and Chestermere.

Four options were originally considered for review by Chestermere Council:

- Option 1 – Extending MAX Purple to Chestermere.
- Option 2 – Limited peak period Trips on the MAX Purple.
- Option 3 – A local route to East Hills.
- Option 4 – An express route to downtown Calgary.

Based on their discussion, Chestermere Council directed their staff to initiate a more detailed discussion with Calgary Transit to refine Option 2 and Option 4.

### Progress to Date

The Regional Transit Feasibility project has four phases:

1. Context and background review – review of previous plans, data collection, peer reviews, best practices and refinement of the two options.
2. Service option refinement – review of routing, stops, peer review of costs and additional refinement of the two options.
3. Ridership and revenue estimates – create estimates on operating cost and ridership based on similar services in other jurisdictions in the context of Calgary and Chestermere.
4. Implementation plan – highlight items to consider in order to begin service including governance, enforcement and cost recovery.

As of May 2020, phases one and two are complete, with phase three underway.

Throughout each project phase, Calgary Transit is working internally to determine specific operating requirements for intermunicipal transit service, which will be reflected in the final feasibility study.

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## Considerations

Key considerations for Calgary Transit throughout the project include cost-neutrality and alignment with The City's intermunicipal servicing protocols. Additional considerations include reviewing a common customer experience for transit users (accessible vehicles, trip planning and fare integration) as well as reducing duplication of services and cost sharing of services and infrastructure.

The feasibility study does not commit Calgary to provide transit service to Chestermere, as Calgary City Council will ultimately decide whether to extend transit service to Chestermere.

## Timeline & Next Steps

Due to COVID-19, and the need to focus municipal resources towards a pandemic response in Calgary and Chestermere, the original timeline for the feasibility study to be complete in Q2 2020 is delayed. The feasibility study will now be completed in Q3 2020 and presented to both municipal Councils in the fall of 2020.

The City of Chestermere is planning to conduct public engagement; however, due to COVID-19, the original engagement plans are not feasible. The project team is currently evaluating the best approach moving forward and there are currently no set dates for the engagement.

The project team will be continuing with phase three by researching ridership and revenue estimates prior to proceeding with the implementation plan for phase four.

Calgary Transit will continue to prepare operational requirements throughout 2020, and Chestermere will include regional transit in their fall 2020 budget deliberations.

If Calgary and Chestermere City Councils direct their Administrations to proceed with the Regional Transportation Feasibility Project, Administrations for both cities will begin negotiation and development of a transit service agreement including operating costs and cost recovery.

The possible implementation of a regional transit connection between Calgary and Chestermere is still feasible for 2021 as originally planned.