

Attachment 4 - Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

Social

Extending transit into the Calgary Region increases access to transit services. Increasing the accessibility of the transportation system and the amount of travel by walking, cycling and transit allows all Calgarians to more fully participate in work and social activities outside of Calgary, while also enabling residents of neighbouring communities to more easily access work and social activities in Calgary. Public transit provides choice and expanded opportunity to move and connect with the community, with a more convenient and socially inclusive mode of travel. Calgary Transit is not seeking to be a regional service provider but to ensure an integrated transit experience in the region that improves attractiveness and encourage mode choice. This extension would increase travel opportunities and encourage equity in the region while reducing duplicate services and fleets.

Environmental

Transit projects contribute to a significant reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) and will help the City meet the Council approved GHG reduction strategy of 15 Mt CO₂e by 2050. A 25 per cent expansion of transit contributes 2.1 Mt CO₂e to the reduction of GHG. Continuing to promote high-quality transit helps shift regional residents and commuters out of single occupancy vehicles into lower or no emissions modes. A single bus can carry as many people as 41 cars; with emissions per passenger-kilometre close to one quarter the level of cars. Calgary Transit buses are clean-burning, use compressed natural gas or premium quality low sulphur diesel fuel and are maintained for continuous efficient performance. The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and the Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP) work collectively to align land uses with the transportation networks to reduce the impact of travel on the environment by curbing land consumption, protecting air and water quality, and reducing energy consumption.

Economic

Transit connects customers to employment and education centres that support improved economic development, business growth and place-making. Providing transit service plays a key role in Calgary's overall mobility plan and supports economic resilience by embracing participation for all. It should be noted that some funding programs look positively on services that cover more than one jurisdiction and this may increase Calgary's ability to apply for funding opportunities. In addition to the direct transit customer benefits, public transit benefits the broader community by:

- helping revitalize corridors and main streets,
- costs efficiency for service and fleet,
- increasing customer service through effective transfers, fare payment and integration,
- connecting employers to an expanded workforce,
- supporting redevelopment, particularly at Transit Oriented Developments, and
- providing Calgarians with a cost-efficient alternative of movement to all parts of the city.