

Attachment 6: Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

Social

Calgary Transit's service delivery contributes to achieving the Social Well-Being Policy principle of providing equitable services by removing barriers to access and inclusion. For people who choose not to drive or are unable to drive, including people with disabilities, transit provides low-cost mobility and accessible transportation. It provides mobility for young adults who don't yet have a driver's license or who do not own a car. It allows households to reduce transportation costs by driving less and owning fewer vehicles. Increasing the accessibility of the transportation system and the amount of travel by walking, cycling and transit allows all Calgarians to participate in work and social activities more fully. Public transit provides choice, expanded opportunity to move and connect with the community, with a more convenient and socially inclusive mode of travel.

Environmental

Transit contributes 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 use contributes 2.1 Mt CO₂e to the reduction of GHG. Continuing to promote high-quality transit helps shift Calgarians out of single occupancy vehicles into lower or no emissions modes. The City of Calgary uses a wind power contract for the LRT network, enabling zero-emissions door-to-door travel in Calgary for CTrain customers. 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 has invested in and is reviewing various zero or low emission strategies including Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Battery Electric buses. Calgary Transit buses are clean-burning, use compressed natural gas or premium quality low-sulphur diesel fuel and are maintained for continuous efficient performance. In February of 2020, Calgary Transit signed an agreement with Emissions Reductions Alberta (ERA) to develop a 50/50 cost share for a \$14M zero-emissions transit shuttle pilot project. Calgary Transit is developing an implementation plan for the deployment of 14 battery electric shuttles. This project will help prepare for a future electrified fleet.

Economic

Calgary benefits greatly from public transit: it reduces the need for more road capacity and supports efficient and attractive land use patterns, allowing a city to grow intelligently. Transit provides a return on investment to Calgary by promoting development, redevelopment, private sector investment and increased real estate revenues. The City benefits when we can expand the workforce and improve a city's economy by giving more people the ability to get to their job, and public transport accomplishes this. This reduces the challenge of needing to be able to afford a car and gasoline to earn a paycheck. Providing transit service plays a key role in Calgary's overall mobility plan and supports economic resilience by embracing participation for all. In addition to the direct transit customer benefits, investment in public transit benefits the broader community by:

- helping revitalize corridors and main streets,

- 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.