

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

Council approved RouteAhead in 2013 as a 30-year plan to guide public transit service, infrastructure, and investments. RouteAhead’s goals are to improve transit service and customer experience and ensure development throughout the city consistently prioritizes access to safe and reliable public transportation.

In July 2023, Council approved a 10-year update to RouteAhead and directed Administration to return to the Infrastructure and Planning Committee annually with a RouteAhead annual status report. Later that year, Council received the RouteAhead Implementation Plan for information. It included investment scenarios, projected ridership, and a 10-year investment plan.

In May 2025, as part of the 2024 RouteAhead annual status report, Council approved a one-time investment of \$3 million for Calgary Transit to respond to growth pressures and \$15 million to upgrade bus operator separation barriers.

Previous Council Direction

Date	Reference	Overview
2013 January 14	TT2012-0833	Council first approves RouteAhead: A Strategic Plan for Transit in Calgary.
2014 December 17	TT2014-0917	RouteAhead Annual Update reports.
2016 March 16	TT2016-0193	
2017 March 15	TT2017-0185	
2018 June 07	TT2018-0617	
2019 June 26	TT2019-0637	
2020 July 22	TT2020-0722	
2020 December 14	TT2020-1289	RouteAhead: Prioritization of Future Projects. Council approved the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the results of the prioritization analysis to advance projects to the corporate prioritization processes to align with all City priorities and make the best match with available funding. 2. Conduct ongoing advocacy with the federal and provincial government for capital funding for the rapid transit

		<p>expansion projects, fleet purchase/maintenance, and state of good repair.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Return to Committee by Q4 2022 with an updated prioritization list as part of the 10-year review of RouteAhead. Direct Administration to use the analysis in this Report to create Appendix 1 of RouteAhead that will identify priority transit projects to be used for infrastructure prioritization.
2022 February 15	IP2022-0122	<p>RouteAhead: 2021 Annual Update report. Council approved the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Endorse in principle the RouteAhead 10-year update scope and direct Administration to proceed with updating RouteAhead and RouteAhead Project Prioritization with a programmatic approach, returning to Council no later than Q4 2022.
2022 July 26	IP2022-0803	<p>Calgary Transit Fare and Revenue Strategy</p> <p>Council directed Administration to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Use the guiding principles outlined in Attachment 2 to recommend fares/user fees and estimate revenues for the 2023-2026 Service Plans; and Increase revenues from existing sources and continue to explore new revenue sources.
2022 December 20	IP2022-1354	<p>RouteAhead: 10-Year Update. Council approved the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the Proposed Key Changes to the RouteAhead plan in Attachment 2 and direct Administration to return to Committee with a final draft of the updated RouteAhead plan for approval no later than Q2 2023. Approve the Updated Transit Capital Project Prioritization List in Attachment 3 and direct Administration to include the list in the final draft of the updated RouteAhead plan. Receive the RouteAhead 10-Year Update Public Engagement What We Heard Report (Attachment 4) for information.
2023 June 06	IP2023-0369	<p>Calgary Transit Fare Innovations. Council approved the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt ending the Airport Boarding Pass (special fare) and replacing it with Calgary Transit regular fares;

		<p>2. Adopt the guiding principles for reviewing, designing, and implementing fare products in the 2023-2026 Service Plan timeline.</p>
2023 July 04	IP2023-0584	<p>Calgary Transit's 30-Year Strategic Plan (RouteAhead). Council approved the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve RouteAhead (Attachment 2) as a replacement for the original plan approved on 2013 January 13; 2. Direct Administration to return to Infrastructure and Planning Committee in Q3 2023 with a RouteAhead Implementation Plan consisting of near-term operating and capital investments, to include in the Standing Executive Committee Item—Strategic Discussion on Building and Delivering on Plans and Budgets, for consideration as part of the Adjustments to service plans and budgets in 2023 November; 3. Direct Administration to return to Infrastructure and Planning Committee annually with a RouteAhead Annual Status Report, starting for the year 2023, including a report on the status of operating investments and short-term capital projects, by Q2 2024; 4. Direct Administration to provide within each RouteAhead Annual Status Report an overview of all non-seasonal changes to bus routes that occurred in the previous year, including the following specific information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For each bus routes change, the total number of residents living within 400 metres of bus stops on the subject bus route(s), before and after the route change(s); b. A map showing the geographic areas of the city where bus route change(s) occurred; c. A summary of expected and/or actual ridership changes associated with bus route changes; and d. A summary of how the transit network design principles contained in RouteAhead Section 4.1 informed the bus route changes. 5. Advocate to the provincial government for permanent and sustained transit operating funding and continue advocating to the federal government the importance of the Permanent Transit Fund.
2023 September 13	IP2023-0977	<p>Infrastructure and Planning Committee receives investment scenarios, projected ridership, and a 10-year proposed budget for RouteAhead Implementation via briefing.</p>

2024 May 15	IP2024-0581	The 2023 RouteAhead Annual Status Report goes to Infrastructure and Planning Committee via briefing. The annual status update includes updates on operating and capital investments, and an overview of all non-seasonal bus route changes in the previous year. It also includes status indicator updates for each of the 159 strategies contained in RouteAhead.
2025 March 18	EC2025-0315	Council approved a notice of motion directing Administration to explore suggestions to improve the customer experience and Calgary Transit, and report back as part of the RouteAhead annual update.
2025 May 27	IP2025-0381	<p>The 2024 RouteAhead Annual Status Report went to Infrastructure and Planning Committee. Council approved the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve a one-time investment of \$3 million in 2025 from the Fiscal Stability Reserve for Calgary Transit to respond to growth pressures; 2. Direct Administration to prioritize the RouteAhead 10-Year Implementation Plan through the 2026 budget adjustments; 3. Implement the following safety improvement measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Install new safety signage on all Calgary Transit vehicles, with a focus on operator and passenger safety, including non-compliance consequences; b. Upgrade current driver separation barriers to more secure security shields, funded through an up to \$15M and funded as part of the 2025 High Priority Requests June 3 Strategic Council Meeting; c. Review all safety and training practices, implement improvements and changes where needed, and in 2025 November bring to Council any associated 2026 budget adjustment requests; and 4. Include a safety status and progress report in each annual Route Ahead update.
2026 February 24	EC2026-0042	Council approved a notice of motion directing Administration to amend the transit fare transfer window from 90 to 120 minutes. Administration has been directed to report back with impacts of the decision, changes to fare policy required, and an implementation plan directly to the 2026 April 28 Regular Meeting of Council.
2026 February 24	EC2026-0106	Council directed Administration to undertake a comprehensive review of the Free Fare Zone and report back to Council by Q2 2026 with findings, analysis and recommendations.

