



## STAFF REPORT

**Title:** Cold Lake Transit Report 2025

**Meeting Date:** April 15, 2025

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### **Executive Summary:**

The City has been operating Cold Lake Transit Services since 2015. Administration will make a presentation highlighting the background of the Transit Service, Current Services, Target Audience, Transit Route, Ridership Trends, Cost per Ridership, Budget and Future Goals and Plans.

The intent of this report is to update the Corporate Priorities Committee (CPC) of the Council with the summary information of Cold Lake Transit since its inception.

### **Background:**

In 2015, the City of Cold Lake purchased six (6) used MCI (Motor Coach Industries) buses from the City of Calgary. The purchased buses established the commencement of Cold Lake Transit. The service officially started on 26 August 2015.

The transit service is a full-service, accessible transit system provided free of charge by the City of Cold Lake. There is no cost to ride, and no registration or membership is required. This has been a key unique feature of the transit system, making it accessible to all residents and visitors. Initially, two circular routes were proposed: one serving the northern half of the city and the other serving the southern half. In March 2022, Cold Lake implemented an accelerated schedule to provide faster, more efficient service with fewer delays and no need for passengers to transfer between buses when traveling from Cold Lake North to South or vice versa.

Cold Lake Transit won the Minister's Award of Excellence for Transportation Innovation in March 2017 at the 20th Annual Tri-Party Transportation Conference. The Minister's Award backs on to Cold Lake Transit being the recipient of Federal and Provincial transit grants, which aided Cold Lake Transit in rolling out the use of a real-time GPS scheduling system, the installation of six additional solar-powered transit shelters, over 500 linear meters of sidewalk to improve connectivity between bus stops and the city's sidewalk and trail system, and the purchase of two new buses.



**Grant and Funding Supporting the Transit System**

In 2016, Cold Lake Transit was the recipient of funding through the Federal Government's Public Transit Infrastructure Fund. Cold Lake Transit also received funding through the Province of Alberta's Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTrip). These funds allowed Cold Lake Transit to invest in new Infrastructure

Cold Lake Transit has also received funding through the Federal Government's Public Transit Infrastructure Stream and the Alberta Relief for Shortfalls for Transit Operations program. This allowed the city to purchase an additional low-floor bus and helped cover operational costs impacted by Covid-19. Cold Lake Transit is set to receive funding over the next ten years through the Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF) starting in 2026.

Additional information relating to Current Transit Services, Routes, Target Audience, Ridership Trend, Cost per Rider per Trip, Future Goals and Plans are covered in the presentation (attached).

Since inception the Cold Lake Transit system has been a successful enhancement to the public transportation system in the city. As of March 31, 2025 Cold Lake Transit has served 1,361,959 riders since its' inception.

**Alternatives:**

For information only

**Recommended Action:**

For information only

**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

No

**Submitted by:**

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