

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: April 11, 2024
To: Community Services Sub-committee
From: Michael Mousley, Manager of Transit
Report Number: COM24-003
Attachments: None

Title: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Transit Funding Agreement

Objective: To seek authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to sign an updated/extension Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with the Province of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Transportation, and to provide Transit project updates.

Background: In early 2019 the MTO announced capital funding opportunities for transit agencies over a potential 10-year period. Stratford applied for and was approved for a total of \$14,167,535 through funded streams (Federal (40%), Provincial (33.33%) and Municipal (26.67%) governments). The Municipalities' contribution can be funded through the annual Provincial Gas Tax which results in a "no net impact" scenario to the City's tax levy.

In the first five years of intake (2019-2023) Stratford was approved for fourteen projects (\$4,395,000) and has seen most of those projects completed, including:

- 2019 - 40 ft Conventional bus replacement
- 2019 - ITS-Real time app-AVL-Media package screens
- 2019 - 40 ft Conventional bus replacement
- 2019 - Transit on demand software and hardware
- 2020 - Farebox refurbish-new hardware/software
- 2020 - (2) 40 ft Conventional bus replacements
- 2020 - Mobility bus replacement
- 2020 - Accessible bus stops with shelters
- 2021 - (2) 40 ft Conventional bus replacements
- 2021 - Mobility bus replacement
- 2021 - Accessible bus stops with shelters
- 2021 - Underground fuel/waste oil tank replacements
- 2021 - Updated ITS/GPS upgrades to hardware/software
- 2021 - Fees for Consultants for updating Transit office, garage, and bus storage

Remaining projects include:

- 2024 - Automatic bus wash replacement (RFP this Spring)
- 2024 - Magnus card introduction (Launch Spring 2024)
- 2024 - Bus storage upgrades roof, concrete floor, exhaust/ventilation system (Summer 2024)
- 2024 - Accessible bus stops with shelters (completed Spring 2024)
- 2024 - (2) new 40 ft Conventional Hybrid buses (arrive later this year)
- 2025 - Garage facility update
- 2025 - Possible Hybrid Mobility bus (TBD)
- 2025 - Transit Office upgrade
- 2026 - Accessible bus stops with shelters
- 2026 - Battery electric 40 ft Conventional bus
- 2027 - Battery electric Mobility bus
- 2028 - Battery electric 40 ft Conventional bus

Analysis: Some of the main revisions to the TPA include language, more fulsome reporting of projects, including a bi-annual update on project status and the timeline extension on project completion. The original TPA had a completion date of 2029 and has now been extended to 2033. This is due to most projects being impacted by the pandemic and there is still currently supply chain concerns which will delay many projects.

At this time, staff do not foresee any lengthy delays in project completion however, two projects slated for the future are a hybrid mobility bus and later a full electric mobility bus which presently have not met the technology thresholds that larger conventional buses have at present. Future consideration and/or project revisions might need to be re-applied for if electric technology is not achieved.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current and future year operating budgets: The amounts of funding and the expenditures will impact total revenues and total expenses however, there are no net financial implications as the City's contribution for these capital projects will be funded through the annual Provincial Gas Tax allocation which is received in the Spring of each year.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Mobility, Accessibility and Design Excellence

Improving ways to get around, to and from Stratford by public transit, active transportation, and private vehicle.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Not applicable: This item does not fall within a One Planet Principle.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to execute the Amending Agreement No. 1 to the Transfer Payment Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) with His Majesty the King in Right of the Province of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Transportation for the Province of Ontario.

Prepared by: Michael Mousley, Manager of Transit
Recommended by: Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer