

Date: August 2, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council**

Name and title: Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

Subject: 3 Year Transit Improvement Process

Attachment(s): None

## Recommendation(s):

That Council APPROVES “Scenario B” with the BC Transit Improvement Program for January 2026 as described in the report dated August 2, 2024 from the Director of Civic Operations titled “3 Year Transit Improvement Process.”

## Purpose:

To seek Council’s approval of scenario B in year 1 (2025/2026) for the Transit Improvement Process between BC Transit and the City of Prince George.

## Background:

The Transit Improvement Process (TIPs) is an annual process in which local governments submit requests for transit expansions through BC Transit. This process identifies the required resources and costs associated with transit expansions and the local government commits to providing their share of the resources through a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) Upon signing, the local government commits financially to the first year of identified expansions. The second and third years are presented for planning and budgeting purposes only.

Priorities from Prince George’s Transit Future Action Plan were selected through consultation between city staff and BC Transit for costing and two scenarios were developed: scenario A and B.

BC Transit is requesting that the city provide direction between two scenarios for transit expansions in years one and two.

## Scenario A

Year one of scenario A includes one (1) 40' heavy duty bus and one (1) medium duty 35' bus to address fleet spare ratio issues. There would be no service improvements with this scenario. The net cost to the city with scenario A is estimated at \$66,015. Scenario A focuses on maintaining a reliable transit fleet and therefore a reliable service but does not improve service.

PROPOSED EXPANSION INITIATIVES						
AOA Period	In Service	Annual Hours	Vehicle Requirements	Estimated Annual Revenue	Estimated Annual Total Costs	Estimated Annual Net Municipal Share
2025/26	January 2026	0	2	0	66,015	66,015
		<b>Description</b>	Option A: Additional buses to address fleet spare ratio			

## Scenario B

Scenario B includes two (2) buses for fleet spare ratio issues and improves weekend service on routes 5, 15, 88 and 89 with the addition of 3,550 annual hours. In this scenario one (1) 40' heavy duty bus and one (1) medium duty 35' bus would be utilized. The net cost to the city with scenario B is estimated at \$265,361. In addition to maintaining a reliable transit fleet and transit service, this scenario extends and improves the service span on weekends. Improving weekend transit service was identified as a short-term priority of the Transit Future Action Plan. BC Transit recommends that the city pursue scenario B.

AOA Period	In Service	Annual Hours	Vehicle Requirements	Estimated Annual Revenue	Estimated Annual Total Costs	Estimated Annual Net Municipal Share
2025/26	January 2026	3,550	2	69,861	570,998	265,361
		<b>Description</b>	Option B: Improve weekend service on routes 5, 15, 55, 88, and 89.			

The targeted implementation date for either scenario is January 2026.

### Strategic Priorities:

**Preserve the Environment:** Implement local government actions that advance environmental protection including climate change and adaptation.

### Summary and conclusion:

The Transit Improvement Process is the process in which the city's Transit Future Action Plan can be implemented. Once a decision is made, BC Transit will prepare a memorandum of understanding for the city to consider. BC Transit has requested direction between the two scenarios. BC Transit is recommending scenario B as envisioned in the Transit Future Action Plan.

Respectfully submitted:

Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

PREPARED BY: Daniel Pearce, Transit Planner

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2024-08-19