



Subject: *Fixed Route Transit Service Public Engagement*
To: Corporate and Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: December 1, 2025
Related Motions: C25(300)
Prepared by: Graham Scott, Manager Economic and Business Development
Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services

Summary

In September staff provided a financial modeling plan to Council for a fixed route transit service. Council provided direction to proceed with Public Engagement. Prior to moving forward with the engagement plan, staff committed to returning to Council for input.

This report outlines the public engagement plan for the fixed route transit service.

Financial Impact Statement

The current Council approved budget remaining for the Transit Project is \$24,219. Completing the proposed public engagement would use the remainder of the budget. If additional funding is required there is funds available from the transit project reserve (G306 Municipal Vehicles - Transit Study).

Recommendation

To proceed with the public engagement plan for a fixed route transit system.

Recommended Motion

That Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that staff proceed with the engagement plan for a fixed route transit service as presented in the December 1, 2025 staff report and if additional funding is required, a maximum of \$5,000 is allocated from the transit project reserve (G306 Municipal Vehicles - Transit Study).

Background

In September, 2025 Staff committed to bringing a report back to Council that would outline a public engagement program for the proposed Fixed Route Public Transit Service. The public engagement program will be structured to:

- Clearly communicate the details of the developed service plan, including its operational implications for the tax rate.
- Gather feedback from community members regarding their preferences and perceived gaps in the proposed service.
- Assess the level of public interest in and perceived value of the transit service for the community.
- Provide information on the social and environmental advantages of public transit, with emphasis on opportunities enabled by battery-electric technology.

Discussion

Public engagement for the potential transit service is proposed to involve four in person sessions and two virtual sessions. One in the Uniacke Rawdon Region, One in the Fundy Shore Central Region and two in the Corridor Region. Locations will be secured closer to the engagement dates. All four sessions will be completed in April and May 2026.

In addition, during this time period an online survey will be available for residents and businesses. The survey will provide questions that directly address resident's opinions and perceptions of the Public Transit plan for East Hants as well as their willingness to use and pay for the service. A direct mailout to residents will also be completed with directions on completing the survey, information on the service and support available for those without internet access. A final report will be produced that analyses the engagement sessions feedback, and survey results, and presents a comprehensive overview of the information to help inform future decisions.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Strategic Plan - Economic Prosperity - 3. Explore investments in local and regional transit that support accessibility, workforce and investment attraction and connecting people to essential services

Economic Development Plan - Build Resilient Communities - Continue to explore and implement public transportation as a service for the community.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The current Council approved budget remaining for the Transit Project is \$24,219. If additional funding is required there is funds available from the transit project reserve (G306 Municipal Vehicles - Transit Study).

Alternatives

None.

Attachments

None.