



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the General Committee**

**From:** **Cynthia Fletcher**  
**Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services**

**Meeting Date:** **October 7, 2019**

**Subject:** **Report IPSTR19-021**  
**Pre-Commitment of Capital Funding to Purchase New**  
**Community Buses**

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## **Purpose**

A report to recommend a pre-commitment of funding in the 2020 Capital Budget to accommodate the purchase of new transit buses.

## **Recommendation**

That Council approves the recommendation outlined in Report IPSTR19-021 dated October 7, 2019, of the Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services, as follows:

That \$800,000 in 2020 Capital funding be pre-approved for the purchase of new Community buses required to support delivery of the Selwyn Transit pilot program and the existing Community Bus program within the City.

## Budget and Financial Implications

A pre-commitment of \$800,000 of the 2020 Capital Budget is required to fund new Community bus purchases.

Based on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Transit Stream program, the \$800,000 cost estimated for these transit buses would be shared, with \$320,000 received from the Federal Government, and \$266,400 received from the Provincial Government. The \$213,360 City contribution would be funded from the Transit Reserve fund, which will have an uncommitted balance of \$28,920 remaining. Operating profits from the delivery of the Selwyn Transit pilot program, if approved, will be directed to the Transit Reserve fund to recoup a portion of these costs.

## Background

In April 2019, the Federal and Provincial Government announced the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Transit Stream (ICIP), which will provide up to \$57 Million in Transit Infrastructure funding to the City over the 2020-2027 period. Federal contributions of 40% of eligible project costs and Provincial contributions of 33% must be matched by Municipal contributions of 27% to be eligible for receipt of funding approval. The expansion of the Conventional Bus Fleet was one of 5 projects submitted in May 2019 as part of the City's 1st funding intake for this funding program. The intention is to purchase up to 15 new Transit buses of various sizes over the 2020-2022 period to facilitate service enhancements and expansion of service. Provincial approval for this application has been received, and staff are awaiting federal approval of the projects submitted.

The \$800,000 pre-commitment of the 2020 Capital Budget will provide a portion of the total funding required for the ICIP application and would support the purchase of 4 additional Community Bus style vehicles. Two of these vehicles would be used to deliver the pilot Selwyn Transit service (Report IPSTR-19-019, dated October 7, 2019).

A third bus is required to provide a spare vehicle in the fleet, to support the Selwyn Transit pilot program plus the existing Community Bus route in the City. The City's Community Bus Service, introduced in April 2018, was also established as a pilot program and has shown great success in improving access to transit and community services for residents. Given that this service was launched as a pilot program, a spare vehicle was not purchased at the time, requiring the use of a Handi-van or Conventional Bus when the Community Bus was off the road for scheduled maintenance.

The fourth bus in this proposed purchase would provide flexibility for the City to consider potential expansion of the City Community Bus program, subject to finalization of the ongoing Transit Route Review and Long-Term Growth Strategy. If Council does not approve the delivery of transit service for the Selwyn pilot program, the bus order would be scaled back to 2 buses.

The pre-commitment of capital funding will allow for bus orders to be placed prior to final approval of the 2020 capital budget, ensuring that the City can take advantage of 2019 pricing vehicle availability in time to support the start of services to the Township in 2020.

In 2016, the City joined the Metrolinx Transit Procurement Initiative which allows for joint procurement of various transit related vehicles and equipment under favourable contract terms and delivery schedules, due to the large buying power of many transit agencies across the province coordinating on one procurement process. The City will place an order for the new vehicles under this contract to shorten the time for new vehicle procurement and ensure new vehicles are delivered to allow for service to the Township to begin in spring/summer 2020. Current vehicle delivery timelines for these buses are between 9-11 months.

### **Timelines**

If the recommendations are approved, orders for the new buses will be placed as soon as approval is obtained for the federal portion of the ICIP funding application.

### **Summary**

In April 2019, the Federal and Provincial Government announced the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Transit Stream, which will provide up to \$57 Million in Transit Infrastructure funding to the City over the 2020-2027 period. The expansion of the Conventional Bus Fleet was one of 5 projects submitted in May 2019 as part of the City's 1st funding intake for this program.

The pre-commitment of \$800,000 in the 2020 Capital Budget will provide a portion of the total funding required for the ICIP application, which will support the purchase of 4 additional Community Bus style vehicles to support the delivery of a pilot transit service to Selwyn Transit (Report IPSTR-19-019) and the potential expansion of the City's Community Bus Service.

The pre-commitment of capital funding will allow for bus orders to be placed prior to final approval of the 2020 capital budget, ensuring that the City can take advantage of 2019 pricing and to ensure vehicle availability in time to support the start of services to the Township in 2020.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Fletcher  
Commissioner of Infrastructure and Planning Services

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