

*April 20, 2011*

## **GreenTRIP provides \$13.6 million for Strathcona County transit terminal**

### ***Strathcona County and capital region residents gain more public transit opportunities***

*Edmonton...* Strathcona County's plans to build a new park and ride transit terminal in Sherwood Park will receive \$13.6 million in capital funding from the Alberta government's Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP).

"GreenTRIP is about this government's commitment to supporting communities as they plan for the future, making transit more accessible and better connecting municipalities," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "I commend the municipalities of the Capital Region for working together on this new Strathcona Park and Ride Terminal, which will allow more transit users to easily travel throughout the region."

The \$2-billion GreenTRIP program provides one-time capital funding to support new and expanded public transit throughout Alberta. The program helps make transit more accessible and will provide Albertans with a wider range of public transit alternatives for local, regional and intermunicipal travel.

"We recognize the vital role public transit plays in building a world-class transportation system, promoting vibrant communities and enhancing Albertans' quality of life," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. "Adding more public transit in the province will get cars off the road and help foster Alberta's growth in a responsible, environmentally-conscious way."

The Strathcona County project involves a new integrated bus terminal and park-and-ride lot. It will have a large passenger waiting area, more than 1,200 parking stalls, a passenger pick-up and drop-off area and pedestrian/bicycle access. The facility will be built on County land according to LEED standards. Ground breaking is expected to take place in late 2011, with completion in mid-2013.

"The new transit terminal is a great project and will benefit the county as well as the Capital Region," said Iris Evans, MLA Sherwood Park. "This is a good example of how the province partners with municipalities to develop effective infrastructure solutions for Albertans."

Dave Quest, MLA Strathcona, also acknowledged the benefits the facility will provide. "When the transit terminal is completed, it will be easier for many more residents to use public transit. This access to affordable transportation will help promote Strathcona County as a vibrant place to live."

"As a rapidly growing community, Strathcona County prides itself on finding innovative and

responsible ways to meet the needs of our residents,” said Mayor Linda Osinchuk. “I am so pleased the new transit terminal has received the support of the provincial government, as it is a forward-thinking initiative that will have a positive impact on the community for many years to come.”

Over the duration of the GreenTRIP program, \$800 million in funding is available for transit projects in the Capital region; \$800 million for the Calgary region; and \$400 million for other Alberta municipalities.

The Alberta government is working to build a better Alberta by fostering economic growth, strengthening our health and education systems, investing in infrastructure, supporting safe and strong communities and ensuring a clean and healthy environment.

-30-

## **Backgrounder: Strathcona Park and Ride Terminal and GreenTRIP program**

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## **Strathcona Park and Ride Terminal and GreenTRIP program**

### **Strathcona Park and Ride Terminal**

#### **What is the total estimated cost of the Strathcona Park and Ride Terminal project?**

The total project cost is estimated to be about \$20.4 million. For additional information about the project, contact Matt Carpenter, manager, Strathcona County Transit, ph. 780-417-7181 or go to [www.strathcona.ca/transit](http://www.strathcona.ca/transit).

#### **How much funding will GreenTRIP provide for the Strathcona Park and Ride Terminal project?**

Strathcona County will receive a GreenTRIP grant of two-thirds of the estimated eligible project costs, or up to a maximum of \$13.6 million for the project. Strathcona County's final grant amount will be based on the actual eligible costs at the time of project completion.

#### **How will the GreenTRIP funding be allocated for the project?**

GreenTRIP funding is allocated on a "pay-on-progress" basis and the payments will be allocated to the County as progress on construction is made.

### **GreenTRIP program**

#### **Which groups are eligible to apply for GreenTRIP funding?**

The program is available to owner/operators of public transit services, which may include municipalities, regional entities, non-profit organizations, Métis settlements and the private sector. (Ineligible applicants include individuals, federal government departments or agencies and First Nations, which are under federal jurisdiction.)

#### **What kinds of transit projects would qualify for funding?**

Some examples of eligible capital projects include:

- construction of light rail transit (LRT) and inter-city commuter rail systems;
- planning for and acquisition of transit or commuter rail corridors;
- park and ride facilities (as a component of a larger transit project submission);
- construction of bus terminals;
- purchase of public transit vehicles (e.g., LRT vehicles, hybrid buses, accessible buses); and
- installation of transit intelligent transportation system components.

#### **Project submissions must demonstrate that a project can help advance government priorities. What are these priorities?**

The Alberta government's priorities include:

- implementing the 20-year Strategic Capital Plan;
- investing in priority projects that contribute to a safe and world-class transportation system that supports regional and provincial economic development and provides Alberta with some of the most advanced infrastructure in North America;
- supporting the province's return to prosperity and creating a strong foundation for continued economic strength;

- implementing the provincial Land-use Framework, which supports regional planning for key infrastructure, such as transit; and
- advancing the province’s climate change strategy by getting cars off roads to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### **How does GreenTRIP fit with Alberta’s climate change strategy?**

GreenTRIP is a good example of how the province is investing in green initiatives that will help contribute to Alberta’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The emphasis of GreenTRIP will be to support regional transportation initiatives that make public transit more accessible to Albertans, reduce the number of vehicles on Alberta’s roads and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Alberta government will continue to take advantage of opportunities to foster Alberta’s growth in a responsible, environmentally-conscious way.

### **How can I gain additional information about GreenTRIP?**

For additional information about GreenTRIP, go to [www.transportation.alberta.ca](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca).

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