

Public Infrastructure to Support Community Growth (Public Transportation)

Renewed 2025

ISSUE:

Many residents of Lloydminster, including college students, seniors, low-income individuals, and immigrants, rely on public transportation to access education and employment opportunities. With a population of 31,582¹, the city would benefit from a public transit system. To address this need, a small-scale pilot project should be introduced.

BACKGROUND:

1. Several organizations have voiced their support for an alternative transportation model. These organizations include: The Learning Council, Lakeland College, Inclusion Lloydminster, Social Services, Pioneer Lodge, Bea Fisher Centre, and the Native Friendship Centre. These organizations have clients and employees who require public transportation.
2. Other communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan of similar size or smaller have public transportation, including: Banff/Bow Valley (pop. 8,305), Cold Lake (pop. 17,031), Fort Saskatchewan (pop. 26,580), Hinton (pop. 9,817), Leduc (pop. 34,094), Spruce Grove (pop. 37,645), Whitecourt (pop. 9,721), Moose Jaw (pop. 33,665), and Prince Albert (pop. 37,756).
3. Public transportation has a positive economic impact on communities. Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates approximately \$5 in economic returns.²
4. The retail and hospitality service sector has expanded significantly in the past decade; these industries employ lower-income workers who may find the lack of public transportation a barrier to employment.
5. The lack of sidewalks on many main streets makes it dangerous for students, seniors, and others who must rely on walking. A public transportation system would provide a safe and reliable alternative, especially in winter.
6. A made-in-Lloydminster pilot project could be introduced. For example, starting with three used 24-passenger buses, with two operating on routes.
 - It may be beneficial for the City to partner with an organization such as Border City Connects, which could offer the services under a lean, cost-efficient model with City support.
7. Available grants for public transit:
 - The Rural Transit Solutions Fund offers \$250 million in federal funding over five years to support transit solutions in rural communities.
 - Eligible applicants can seek grants of:
 - Up to \$50,000 for planning and design projects.
 - Up to \$3 million for capital costs (e.g., vehicle purchases, digital platforms).
 - Up to \$5 million for zero-emission transit solutions.³

¹ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=lloydminster&DGUIDlist=2021S0504840&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&HEADERlist=0>

² <https://www.apta.com/news-publications/public-transportation-facts/>

³ <https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/cptf-ftcc/index-eng.html>

- Additional federal transportation grants can be found here: [Government of Canada Public Transportation Grants](#)
 - 8. 2024 Transportation Master Plan:
 - Since this policy was last updated, the City of Lloydminster has completed a Transportation Master Plan (2024), which outlines strategies for improving mobility and transit options.
 - This plan provides a foundation for future transit development and should be considered in the implementation of a pilot public transportation program.
 - The full 2024 Transportation Master Plan can be accessed here: [Lloydminster Transportation Master Plan](#)
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RECOMMENDATION:

The Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce recommends that the City of Lloydminster launch a small-scale pilot public transportation program, aligned with the 2024 Transportation Master Plan, to assess feasibility and community impact.