



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: TRIAL PERIOD - FREE TRANSIT FOR SENIORS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

On December 10, 2019 Councilor Watkins provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 3/2018 of his intention to make the proposed motion below.

In order for Council to debate the motion, it must be formally moved.

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

That St. Albert citizens 65 years and older be provided free transit for a trial period of one year. At the end of the one-year period the trial should be assessed based on items such as cost to the municipality, ridership numbers etc. Furthermore, the estimated cost of \$44,700.00 be funded from the Stabilization fund.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #3: Building a Transportation Network: Integrated transportation systems.

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Conventional Fixed Route Transit Services – LOCAL ONLY - Provision of convenient, affordable and effective public transit services within St. Albert.

Handibus Services – LOCAL ONLY - Specialized, shared ride, "to- the-door" transit services for residents of St. Albert, age 16+ who are unable to utilize conventional transit due to a physical or cognitive disability.

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

N/A.

BACKGROUND:

Trial period assessment would be evaluated with similar processes as used to estimate costs. StAT does not conduct daily passenger counts on the local conventional network.

Local ridership counts are conducted every three years as part of the system performance review. The most recent was in 2018.

This comprehensive review identifies local-only ridership, local-to-commuter, and commuter-only. Proportions and ratios, based on commuter ridership counts (which are conducted regularly), are used to calculate ridership for non-review years. Product sales figures and Handibus registrations are also used to estimate ridership.

If free local travel on St. Albert Transit were extended to residents of senior age (65 and older), the anticipated impact on StAT revenues would be as follows:

Conventional Transit System

- Senior Pass sales reduced by; \$7,800.00
- Seniors Tickets sales reduced by; \$7,900.00

Handibus Transit System

- Local trip cash / trip ticket revenues reduced by; \$29,000.00

Total Revenue Impact

Conventional	\$15,700.00
<u>Handibus</u>	<u>\$29,000.00</u>
Total	\$44,700.00

Report Date: January 13, 2020
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