

FIVE-YEAR TRANSIT OUTCOMES

Issue

The Five-Year Transit Outcomes Report (2026-2030) is provided to support the planning, maintenance, and growth of Okotoks Transit Services over the next five years.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That the Five-Year Transit Outcomes Report be used as a planning tool to guide the delivery of transit in Okotoks.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

Over the next five years, Okotoks Transit aims to develop a responsive, accessible, and sustainable transit system to meet the evolving needs of the community. The future vision is focused on supporting diverse travel patterns and ensuring the service meets the needs of all residents, whether they are commuting, accessing essential services, or requiring flexible mobility options. A core objective is to enhance the overall rider experience.

These key goals and desired outcomes are strategically aligned with broader community guiding plans, including the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), Environmental Master Plan (EMP), Climate Action Plan (CAP), and the Social Needs Assessment.

Alignment with these plans drives several desired outcomes:

- Promoting sustainable growth, environmental responsibility, and enhanced community well-being by providing viable alternatives for residents to access employment, services, and amenities.
- Increasing access to efficient transportation alternatives.
- Contributing to environmental targets through reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and environmental impact, supporting a decrease in emissions and enhanced air quality.
- Addressing community transportation as a top social priority, recognized as vital for residents, particularly seniors and individuals without private vehicles, to maintain independence and community connections.
- Supporting community connectivity and fostering a resilient, livable town.

Decision-making will be guided by the quadruple-bottom line framework:

- Purpose: Ensures that transit initiatives reflect broader community impacts and values, extending beyond operational outcomes.
- People: Prioritizes improved connectivity, accessibility, and equity for all residents, supporting social inclusion.
- Planet: Focuses on minimizing environmental impact and promoting sustainable travel choices.

- Profit: Emphasizes long-term financial sustainability through efficient resource management and innovation.

Decision-making will continue to be evidence-based, using data, rider feedback, and performance metrics to drive continuous improvement. This framework allows for transparent evaluation of trade-offs, priority setting, and alignment with community needs and values.

Ultimately, by providing an affordable, reliable, and accessible transit system, the Town aims to empower every resident to participate fully in community life and foster a connected, inclusive town where opportunity and well-being are within everyone's reach.

Strategic Plan Goals

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Responsibly Managed Growth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrated Environmental Leadership
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strong Local Economy		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organizational Excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Culture & Community Health

Equity/Diversity/Inclusivity Impacts and Strategy

Transit options are essential to ensuring all residents, regardless of economic status or mobility challenges, can access healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. Okotoks Transit plays a key role in reducing mobility barriers that contribute to social and economic inequities. The Social Needs Assessment further highlighted this, listing transportation as a top five (5) social priorities under accessibility and inclusive services. Furthermore, feedback highlights that access to essential services, such as transportation, is vital for residents, particularly seniors and individuals without private vehicles. Many rely on public transit to maintain independence and community connections, yet current transit options can be unreliable.

Environmental Impacts

The Resilient Okotoks Climate Action Plan 2021-2033 outlines the Town's target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, with a key goal of improving access to regional and local transit to increase trips made by transit or active transportation. Promoting the use and availability of alternative transportation can decrease car dependency, increase shared rides, and play a role in reducing GHG emissions. The introduction of fixed routes is expected to increase transit usage, thereby reducing GHG emissions, and enhancing efficiency.

Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements

n/a

Community Engagement Strategy

n/a

Alternatives for Consideration

n/a

CAO Comments

This report provides a five year plan to both maintain and grow transit. This plan will guide the evolution of the program and will form the basis of the next annual and four year budget cycles.

Attachment(s)

1. Five-Year Transit Outcomes Report (2026-2030)

Prepared by:
Cassidy Stillie
Transit & Mobility Technician
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