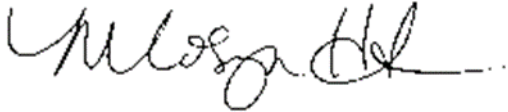




# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	September 30, 2024
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Canada Public Transit Fund – Permanent Baseline Funding (PW24058) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Tanya Detmar (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1855
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Maureen Cosyn Heath Director, Transit Division Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

N/A

## INFORMATION

On July 17, 2024, the Federal Government announced the launch of the Canada Public Transit Fund (previously known as the Permanent Transit Fund). The Canada Public Transit Fund will provide municipalities and transit agencies three billion dollars per year in permanent, predictable public transit and active transportation infrastructure, beginning in 2026-2027.

The funding will be delivered through three streams:

- Baseline Funding – this fund will require multi-year capital plans in order to secure funding. These capital plans will ensure projects are part of a long-term investment plan that aims to improve transit service and supports positive housing and environmental outcomes.
- Targeted Funding Streams – this fund will target specific federal priorities through targeted funding intakes, including active transportation, rural and remote transit,

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

transit solutions in Indigenous communities, as well as electrifying public transit and school transportation.

- Metro-Regional Agreements – this fund will offer substantial significant and predictable funding in regions with the highest funding demand and most complex public transit networks. Funding will support diverse projects, both from planning and feasibility studies to major capital expansion projects, based on priorities identified in an Integrated Regional Plan.

The Baseline funding stream is a \$500 million annual fund allocated across Canada based on a formula that considers both ridership and population metrics. The funding will provide predictable long-term funding to communities with existing transit systems to support routine capital and non-capital investments (feasibility studies, stand-alone design), with an expected focus on projects of a relatively small-scale, including, public transit expansions, improvements and state of good repair (replacement vehicles to maintain capital asset management principles.)

To ensure all communities have the opportunity to receive support, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada launched an Expression of Interest process to apply for Baseline Funding. This mandatory application was due by September 16, 2024 and the City met this obligation. The information contained in the Expression of Interest was to assist with determining eligibility. The following information was provided:

- Organization and nature of transit services offered (conventional, on demand and specialized through a contractor).
- 5 years of ridership statistics from 2019–2023 and population statistics covering the same timeframe.
- Capital investments broken down by Municipal, Provincial and Federal spending for the timeframe of 2019-2023.
- Investment Planning – assesses the applicant’s readiness and capacity to maintain and support routine annual capital investments.

The Expression of Interest stage will be followed by a confirmation of eligibility, communication of a notional allocation and an invitation to submit a capital plan application.

Capital plan applications will be reviewed by Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada to ensure applicants meet the program requirements and commitments prior to determination of final Baseline funding allocations.

Baseline Funding Agreements will provide up to 40% for capital projects and up to 80% for non-capital and may be up to ten years in term.

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Transit will build its application on the Transit Growth Plan, expected to be presented to Council in January of 2025. The growth plan has been developed based on the HSR (re)Designed map presented at Public Works Committee in April of 2023 through Report PW23021. The purpose of the growth plan is to continue Hamilton’s commitment to building its transit system to shift mode share, including building out the BLAST network, and to be “rail ready” in advance of LRT operations.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A