

Received Date	August 18, 2021
Meeting Date	August 23, 2021
Open or Closed	Open Session

Mayor Donna Noade Reardon and Members of Common Council

Subject: Capital Funding for Transit Fleet Tracking System

Background:

Public transportation through the form of a transit system is an critical service within our City. Our community has a large number of low-income families who cannot afford other modes of vehicular transportation. Yet, we have a City that is larger in size than Fredericton and Moncton combined; with facilities, services, shops and work locations dispersed to the point where vehicular transportation is a necessity. Public transportation also reduces overall greenhouse gas emissions and reduces infrastructure costs associated with road maintenance.

The City has made a clear commitment to improve public transit. As a first step, the legislation that governs the Transit Commission was amended to allow new approaches. The composition of the Transit Commission has also seen an increase in the number of Councillors to place more emphasis and City-focus on the needs of public transportation. A managerial services agreement has now been approved whereby the entirety of the City staff will be available to deliver the operations of the transit system on behalf of the Commission, as of 1 October 2021. A Transit Review has been conducted but the results of that review are problematic due to the lack of data on passenger usage. The City staff have programmed \$650k in the draft 2022 Capital Budget to acquire and deploy a proper user tracking system on the entire fleet of vehicles. However, with the Capital Budget approval anticipated only in late October, we are losing valuable time in the procurement and installation of this vital tool. Without the necessary data, informed decisions based on ridership are very difficult.

Motion:

That Common Council approve the expenditure of up to \$650,000 for the investigation and purchase of a technology system that would provide real time vehicle locations, automatic passenger counting and alternate payment options. Further, that this capital expenditure be funded as part of the 2022 General Fund Capital Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,
(Received via email)

Joanna Killen
Councillor
City of Saint John

