



## **COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT**

**Meeting Date:** 21 April 2026  
**Subject:** Airdrie Transit Master Plan  
**Directorate:** Strategic Growth and Investment

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### **Issue:**

Council is being asked to endorse the proposed Airdrie Transit Master Plan (2026–2035) to guide the planning, development, and delivery of transit services and infrastructure over the next ten years.

### **Policy / Council Direction:**

**Social Policy:** Transit has strong connections to the four social well-being principles as outlined within Council’s endorsed Social Policy. This includes diversity and inclusion (public transit embodies this principle as a service for all residents throughout the region), connectedness (public transit provides a means of mobility to access employment, education, recreation and culture throughout the region), equitable access to quality services and proactivity (a vibrant community is prepared for the future and prevents social problems at the earliest opportunity).

### **Background:**

Council approved the City’s previous Transit Master Plan in 2016, providing strategic direction for transit services from 2016 to 2026. That plan was guided by a formal policy framework consisting of three core principles:

1. Transit will connect people with place
2. Transit will plan, design, and implement sustainable and accessible transit infrastructure and services
3. Transit will balance growth with affordability and efficient operations

Over the past decade, these principles have shaped transit decision-making and investment, supporting the development of a more responsive, accessible, and operationally sustainable transit system.

The previous Transit Master Plan achieved several intended outcomes, including improved connectivity between residential areas and key destinations, investments in accessible vehicles, transit bus stops, and customer-focused service improvements, as

well as service adjustments and operational practices that balanced service growth with financial sustainability.

A renewed long-term strategy is required to guide the next phase of transit development as the City continues to grow and evolve, and as the planning horizon of the 2016–2026 Transit Master Plan ends. The creation of a new Transit Master Plan ensures continuity of services while positioning Transit to meet future demands along with enhancing transit over the long-term.

The proposed Transit Master Plan is a deliverable under the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) program for Q1 2026 – supporting Council’s commitment to enabling housing growth through integrated land use and transit planning.

The proposed Transit Master Plan (2026–2035) has been developed by Dillon Consulting through a comprehensive planning process that included data analysis of the existing transit system, policy review, growth forecasting, and close collaboration with City staff. The Plan reflects local and regional conditions while incorporating industry best practices.

The proposed Transit Master Plan identifies transit solutions responsive to community needs by prioritizing the planning and delivery of transit services and infrastructure to be accessible, inclusive, environmentally responsible, and in support of long-term community well-being. This plan provides the tools for administration to develop transit options with easy access to jobs, schools, appointments and activities. The plan will respond to population growth and changing travel patterns as Transit continues to play a key role in improving mobility and access across the community. Recognizing fiscal realities, the Plan emphasizes operational efficiency and phased growth to ensure transit services remain affordable and sustainable for both users and the municipality.

Following Council endorsement, the Transit Master Plan (2026–2035) will be used to:

- Guide annual service planning and operational decisions
- Inform future operating and capital budget deliberations
- Support grant funding applications and partnerships
- Provide a consistent framework for evaluating transit initiatives

The proposed Transit Master Plan (2026–2035) provides a strategic framework to guide the evolution of transit services over the next decade. Endorsement of the Plan will provide clear direction for future service planning, investment, and decision-making.

### **Council Committee Routed Through:**

In order to meet federally mandated Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) deliverable timelines, this report is being advanced directly to Council for approval.

### **Administration Recommendation:**

That Council endorses the Airdrie Transit Master Plan (2026–2035) as the guiding document for the planning, development and delivery of transit services and infrastructure over the next ten years.

**Alternatives/Implications:**

**Alternative #1: Council could choose to endorse the proposed Transit Master Plan, subject to any modifications.**

The implications of Alternative #1 could result in delays to finalization and implementation of service recommendations depending on the scope of the requested changes. Significant changes may also impact the consistency of the plan and could result in further delays of services.

**Budget Implications:**

Implementation of Plan recommendations will be considered through future budget processes and brought forward to Council for approval as required.

**Communications and Engagement:**

Transit Staff will work collaboratively with Corporate Communications to develop Communication Plans associated with the recommended implementation plan. In addition, copies of the Transit Master Plan will be made available on the City’s website.

**Recommendation:**

That Council endorses the Airdrie Transit Master Plan (2026–2035) as the guiding document for the planning, development and delivery of transit services and infrastructure over the next ten years.

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Attachments:	#1: Airdrie Transit Master Plan – Final Report