



LAND PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Date: May 16, 2017

Subject: Bus Bay Turn-outs and Transit Shelters on Thickwood Boulevard and Confederation Way

APPROVALS:

Robert Billard, Director
Annette Antoniak, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Administrative Recommendations:

THAT the following be recommended to Council for approval:

1. THAT the 2017 Capital Budget be amended as outlined in Attachment 1 (Capital Budget Amendment Bus Bay Turnout & Transit Shelter – Thickwood Boulevard and Confederation Way – Pre-design) dated April 24, 2017.
2. THAT the 2017 Capital Budget be amended as outlined in Attachment 2 (Capital Budget Amendment Bus Bay Turnout & Transit Shelter – Thickwood Boulevard and Confederation Way –Design) dated April 24, 2017.
3. THAT the 2017 Capital Budget be amended as outlined in Attachment 3 (Capital Budget Amendment Bus Bay Turnout & Transit Shelter – Thickwood Boulevard and Confederation Way – Construction) dated April 24, 2017.

Summary:

The change of scope for this project is to have 2 bus bay turn-outs for multiple buses as major transfer points, instead of the original project that was to construct 28 separate stops with heated shelters spaced along Confederation Way and Thickwood Boulevard. With the scope change, the Confederation Way turn-out would have secure washroom facilities for operators, three heated shelters for patrons, and 6 -7 bus bay turn-outs. A second area by the Casman Centre, would have 5 bus bay turn-outs and 2 heated shelters for transferring patrons, and washrooms for operators.

This capital project request was presented to Council during Capital Budget Delegations at the December 2, 2016 Special Council meeting and the following motion was made and carried unanimously:

“Moved by Mayor M. Blake that a Transit Bus Shelter Improvement Project, to include shelter decorations, the completion of all clear and heated bus shelter, and appropriate pull outs on Thickwood Boulevard and Confederation Way be approved”.

Background:

The original project was slated to have 28 bus bay turn-outs spaced along Confederation Way and Thickwood Boulevard with heated shelters. Upon further review, a potential for pedestrian safety concerns was identified and also having buses leaving and entering the traffic flow in this area of high traffic volumes is disruptive to traffic.

Budget/Financial Implication:

This project was approved by Council during the 2017 Capital Project deliberation as an unfunded project. This project has since been fully funded, with \$10M granted by the Provincial and Federal Governments; the Province of Alberta through the GreenTrip Funding Program will contribute \$6.55M and the Federal Government will contribute \$3.45M through the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF).

The proposed scope changes have been submitted to the funding parties to ensure these changes would not impact our ability to receive these funds.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The original project was deemed to have the potential to create possible safety concerns and an impediment to good traffic flow. Two major transfer points are considered an alternate option to provide heated shelters, washroom facilities for operators and for transferring patrons of the Municipality; as buses at this time, do not stop roadside on Confederation Way and Thickwood Boulevard. The Bus Bay Turn-outs would fully remove buses from the traffic flow keeping a boulevard between traffic and stopped buses. Changing the project scope from 28 to 2 Bus Bay Turnouts, would provide a safer transportation environment for patrons transferring from various locations and decrease the impediment to the traffic flow in these high volume areas.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

Pillar 1 – Building Responsible Government
Pillar 2 – Building Balanced Regional Services
Pillar 5 – Building a Reliable Transportation System
Pillar 6 – Building a Sustainable Region

Attachments:

1. Capital Budget Amendment Bus Bay Turnout & Transit Shelter – Thickwood Boulevard and Confederation Way – Pre-design
2. Capital Budget Amendment Bus Bay Turnout & Transit Shelter – Thickwood Boulevard and Confederation Way – Design
3. Capital Budget Amendment Bus Bay Turnout & Transit Shelter – Thickwood Boulevard and Confederation Way – Construction