



## REQUEST FOR DECISION

**MEETING DATE:** February 26, 2024

**TITLE:** C-1303-24 - 2024 Fees and Charges Amendment - Transit Fees - All Three Readings

**DIVISION:** Corporate Services

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### **SUMMARY:**

At the January 22, 2024, Regular Council Meeting, Council passed a motion directing Administration to amend C-1280-23 - 2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw to permit free ridership for mandatory attendants when accompanying an Accessible Transportation Services (ATS) client on Spruce Grove Transit.

C-1303-24 - 2024 Fees and Charges Amendment - Transit Fees is being brought forward for all three readings for Council's consideration.

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### **PROPOSED MOTION:**

THAT first reading be given to C-1303-24 - 2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment.

THAT second reading be given to C-1303-24 - 2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment.

THAT unanimous consent be given to proceed with third reading for C-1303-24 – 2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment.

THAT third reading be given to C-1303-24 – 2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment.

### **BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:**

The City's Fees and Charges Bylaw sets the fees and charges for the provision of administrative and tax, utility, cemetery, and transit services provided by the City, and authorizes fines and penalties for certain offences, past due property tax, and utility account balances.

C-1280-23 - 2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw was passed on November 20, 2023, and was subsequently amended on December 11, 2023, to update the Sanitary Sewer utility rate for 2024.

At the January 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, Council passed a motion directing Administration to amend C-1280-23 - 2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw to permit free ridership for mandatory attendants when accompanying an ATS client on Spruce Grove Transit.

As directed, Administration is bringing forward Amending Bylaw C-1303-24, which will be consolidated into the City's 2024 Fees & Charges Bylaw.

The following definitions have been added:

3.25.1 "Mandatory Attendant of Passengers with a Disability" means a mentally competent person of legal age (18+ years) who is responsible for the actions and assistance of a transit passenger that requires assistance due to a medical condition and/or behavioral concern. Persons requiring support must have a valid Needs Assessment registration card.

3.27.1 "Needs Assessment Registration Card" means a card issued to authorize a Mandatory Attendant of Passengers with a Disability to ride the transit service for free when accompanying the person requiring care.

Schedule D - Transit Fares has also been amended for Commuter and Local Fares, for a Mandatory Attendant of Passengers with a Disability to be "Free".

### **OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:**

Council could choose not to approve C-1303-24 - 2024 Fees and Charges Amendment.

### **CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT:**

As outlined in the January 22, 2024 Request for Decision, consultation and engagement has occurred with regional agencies and municipalities. These agencies allow mandatory attendants to ride for free. The regional partners, Stony Plain and Parkland County, are also in agreement with adopting the policy of allowing mandatory attendants to ride for free.

### **IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATION:**

A Communications Plan outline has been developed and is attached.

**IMPACTS:**

Free ridership for mandatory attendants when accompanying an Accessible Transportation Services (ATS) client on Spruce Grove Transit will promote accessibility.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

It has been determined that allowing mandatory attendants free ridership when accompanying their client will not have a discernible impact on transit revenue or costs.