

**For Immediate Release
August 8, 2017**

New Transit System Design Improves Services

Route, schedule and bus stop changes in effect Sept. 5

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat will implement changes to the Transit system on Sept. 5, 2017, providing improved services for riders in a more cost effective manner.

“The current system is outdated, under-utilized and costly,” said Howard Snodgrass, General Manager Community Development. “Careful consideration has gone into designing the new system, balancing transit planning expertise, local needs, overall utilization and cost effectiveness.”

The new system features two core routes for primary service and three feeder routes during peak use times. All routes are bi-directional with multiple connection options, helping riders to reach major destinations more easily and quickly.

“We are hopeful the new two-way direct routes, transfer points and hours of service will better serve existing customers and attract more people to choose public transit as a relatively inexpensive and environmentally friendly way to travel,” said Snodgrass.

In addition to improving service, it is expected the changes will reduce Transit’s annual operating costs by \$650,000. The public ranked Transit Services as one of the highest preferences for service adjustments to offset property tax increases as part of the Financially Fit survey in 2016.

A series of public information sessions will be held to help educate about the new system.

- Aug. 10, Family Leisure Centre, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Aug. 16, Family Leisure Centre, noon to 4 p.m.
- Aug. 19, Co-op Mall, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Aug. 23, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, 9 a.m. to noon
- Aug. 26, Medicine Hat Mall, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Aug. 29, Co-op Mall, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Aug. 30, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, 9 a.m. to noon
- Sept. 5, Esplanade, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

“The new system includes changes to bus routes, hours of operations, transfer points, stops and schedules,” said Simon Amos, Manager Community Access. “All Transit users should familiarize themselves with the routes and schedules they will need to use to reach their destination.”

A temporary helpline, 403-525-8900, will be available from Aug. 14 to Sept. 15, 2017, to provide information and answer questions.

Special Transit services are not impacted by route and schedule changes.

For more information, including the updated Ride Guide, visit www.mhtransit.ca.

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For media interviews, please contact:

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