



**TRANSIT AND PARKING
MEMORANDUM**

Page: 1
File:
Pending #:

TO: MAYOR, J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: B. FORSYTH, DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT AND PARKING

NOTED: R. JAMES-REID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ACCESS BARRIE

RE: TRANSIT SERVICE LEVELS

DATE: JUNE 27, 2022

The purpose of this Memorandum is to inform members of Council that staff are not planning to return to pre-pandemic transit service levels in 2022. Transit's operating budget is heavily impacted by both inflation and fuel costs, compounded with reduced revenues as ridership is currently trending around 85% of pre-pandemic levels. Throughout the pandemic, funding was provided by both the federal and provincial governments to allow Barrie Transit to continue to operate at a reduced service level without impacting the tax rate. However, at this time, there is no current indication of additional funding from the upper levels of government to support ongoing revenue shortfalls, high fuel costs, or the extreme inflation the City is facing.

Currently, Routes 2,3,4, and 7 are operating at approximately a 60-minute service frequency during peak service times, from Monday through Saturday. Prior to the pandemic, these routes were operating at 30-minute service frequency during these times. Detailed information on these service reductions is available under transit notices section on the City's website.

Staff were tentatively planning to have these routes back up to pre-pandemic levels in the fall of 2022. However, with an uncertain financial outlook due to rising inflation and record high gas prices, this added service will be postponed. Maintaining the reduced service levels will assist in offsetting the budget pressures for 2023. As part of the 2023 Budget, an intake form will be presented to Council for consideration to reinstate these service reductions. Unless Council directs otherwise, Barrie Transit will continue operating on at a reduced service level until Council can consider the financial implications as part of the 2023 Budget.