

## **BARRIE TRANSIT'S NEW NETWORK**

### **Staff Report Executive Summary**

This staff report is seeking approval to the recommended motions that will support the implementation of a New Transit Network developed through the Transit Vision Project.

Barrie's Transit Vision Project was launched in the winter of 2020. This project was launched primarily to align the transit services with the new Allandale Mobility Hub and Barrie's new Official Plan. Other drivers are a growing need to support surveyed responses indicating a desire for a new transit network with quick and frequent routes. Lastly, with the advancements in technology throughout the transit service industry, new innovative technologies can provide intelligent, accessible, and cost-effective options that this project has utilized both in the planning process and will take advantage of for the New Transit Network.

Throughout this project staff took the opportunity to wholistically evaluate Barrie's current transit network for potential changes to better meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's transit customers. The New Transit Network has been built to move as many people, to as many destinations, as quickly, frequently and reliably as possible to align with key public consultation takeaways.

The New Transit Network was created using the council endorsed service guidelines, the support of new technologies, and an extensive amount of public feedback.

A few of the main highlights that the New Transit Network will bring to the city are listed below:

- **Express Service:** Directly connecting users between RVH/Georgian College, Bayfield Street, Essa Road, and Park Place via a bus route on Highway 400.
- **Frequency:** 70% of existing transit customers with access to a 15-minute frequent route in the New Transit Network for a portion of their trip.
- **Trip Times:** Cross city transit trips reduced by approximately 13%.
- **Employment Access:** Residents have access to approximately 24% more jobs within a 30-minute transit travel time.
- **New Transit Coverage:** Benson, Hanmer, Lakeside Terrace, Amelia, Morrow, Caplan, and King.
- **Capital Budget Reduction:** The peak vehicle requirements for the New Transit Network would see a change in the service vehicle types that would result in over \$10M capital cost reductions for growth or replacement vehicles in the 10-year capital plan.
- **Operating Budget Cost Neutral:** These service changes have been built to be cost neutral in terms of operating hours due to the Transit ON Demand service model, which allows the service to maintain (and add) coverage in an efficient manner across low transit demand areas of the City.
- **Improved Travel Freedom:** The New Transit Network aims to connect as many people as possible to as many destinations as possible so that residents have as many social choices and employment opportunities as possible.