

What We Heard Report

Beaumont Local Transit Feasibility Study

Engagement Phase 2

Project Overview

The City of Beaumont is exploring the need for local transit within the community. The feasibility study explored the challenges and opportunities for creating a local transit system. The Project Team is taking into consideration existing roads, land uses, policies, and future plans. Four different transit delivery options were explored and a one-year pilot project for on-demand transit is now being considered.

This report summarizes the input from Public Engagement Phase 2 in April 2023.

Purpose of Engagement

A two-phase public engagement process was designed for this study to inform the feasibility study. In the first phase of engagement, the public was asked to share feedback on the needs and desire for local public transit, as well as future/potential destinations and routes. A survey ran from September 23 to October 11, 2022. The second phase of engagement in April 2023 asked the public to share their level of support for the four outlined transit delivery options.

Engagement for both phases was carried out at the Consult level of the International Association for Public Participation's spectrum with the intent to obtain feedback and perspectives to be taken into consideration for the study. The decision-making process uses several sources of input, including technical requirements and information, direction from City policies and council, and feedback from the public.

Project timeline



Council direction to start the study

Phase 1 Engagement

- Pop-up Event at Taste of Beaumont
- Online Survey

Feasibility Study

- Review current land use, roads, policies, and plans
- Explore opportunities and constraints

Phase 2 Engagement

- Project video
- Online survey on Transit Models and Pilot Project

Final report



- Transit option review

How we informed and engaged

Information and engagement activities were available from April 5 to 19, 2023 and included the following:

- A short project video was posted on the project webpage. The video was created to share the project information and findings for the Local Transit Feasibility Study with participants. The video was viewed 260 times.
- An online survey was used ask about level of support for the one-year pilot program and to gather feedback. It was shared on the project webpage and participants were encouraged to watch the short video before completing the survey. More than 250 participants completed the survey.

To promote the project and engagement opportunities, the following communication methods were used:

- Print advertising in the Beaumont News.
- Project information shared on social media.
- A project webpage that was updated and hosted both the project video and online survey to share information about the study. More than 790 participants visited the project webpage from April 5 to 19, 2023.

Results of Engagement - What We Heard

The survey asked three questions.

Question 1: Rank the local transit delivery model from most supported to least supported.

The rank of 1 equals the most support and the rank of 4 equals the least support. The results indicating the average rank from 1 to 4 for each transit delivery model is shown in the following figure.

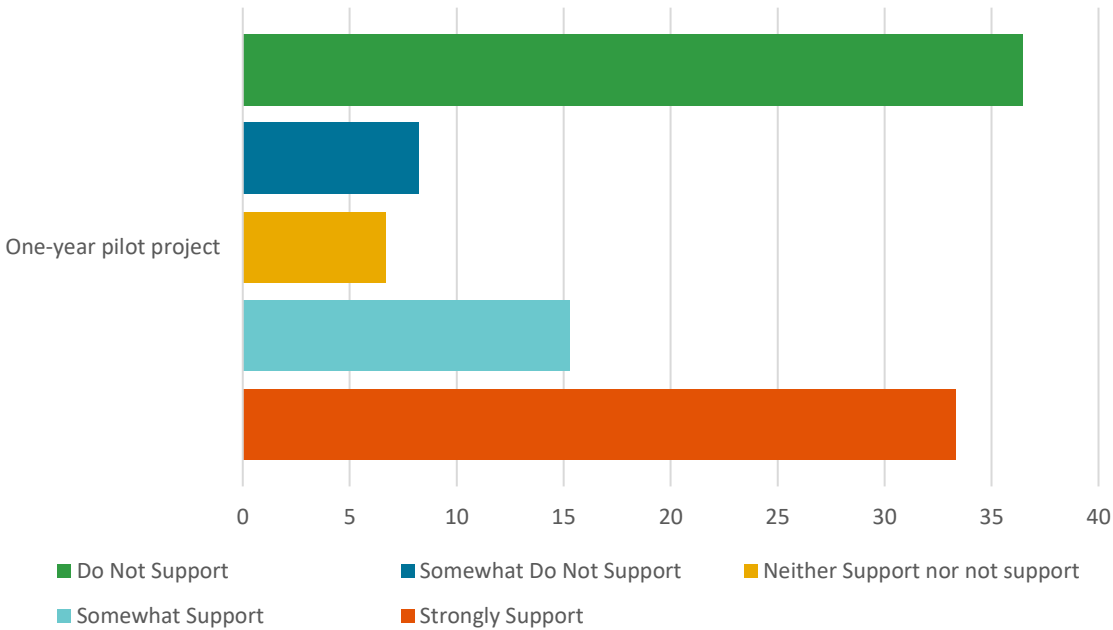
Ranking	Number of Responses			
	Status Quo	Fixed Route	Hybrid	On-demand
1 – Most Supported	105	60	28	57
2	22	72	92	64
3	21	62	101	66
4 – Least Supported	102	56	29	63

The detailed results in the above table indicate the following:

- **Status Quo:** There is about a 50/50 split in support for maintaining the status quo.
- **Fixed Route and On-demand:** Support for fixed route and on-demand is similar.



Question 2: What is your level of support for a one-year pilot project for a local on-demand transit service?



The survey question resulted in the following level of support for the on-demand pilot project:

- 85 (33.33%) participants strongly support
- 39 (15.29%) somewhat support
- 17 (6.67%) neither providing support nor not support
- 21 (8.24%) somewhat do not support
- 93 (36.47%) strongly do not support.

Question 3: Is there anything else you would like to share with the project team about local transit?

Key themes arising from participants who **Strongly support and somewhat support:**

- Great for seniors, students and others who do not drive
- Beaumont's population is growing and there is an interest in local transit
- Beaumont needs a local transit system and improved regional transit
- On-demand works well in other municipalities of similar size in Alberta
- Great alternative to walking in winter conditions
- Concerns about the cost of local transit for both users and taxpayers
- The inner loop/ring road would be a great route for transit in Beaumont



Key themes arising from participants who **Strongly do not support and somewhat do not support:**

- People who live in Beaumont should know they need a car
- It is a small enough city that people can walk
- Taxes are too high; money should not be used to support transit for a few people
- On-demand transit is a government-funded solution that the private sector already services (Uber, taxis, etc.)
- Improve transit to Edmonton before bringing in local transit

Additional Responses

Additional responses not specific to a local transit service included comments on the regional transit services as follows:

- To Edmonton
 - Expand services including destination (to Mill Woods and Century Park) and times (later in the mornings and evenings)
 - Expand the stops in Beaumont to include stops along 50 Street or the inner loop/ring road
 - Heritage Valley drop-off not supported as it adds time between connections to other Edmonton Transit Services (LRT)
 - Concerned about crime coming into Beaumont from Edmonton on the bus
- To Leduc, the airport and area
 - Integrate Beaumont transit with Leduc and Nisku
 - Add services to the airport and the shopping district at the airport

Next Steps

This information will be included in the report for the feasibility study that the project team is preparing. The Project Team will present all the findings of the Local Transit Feasibility Study to Council in July 2023.

