

MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release Monday, December 17, 2018

Phase Two of the County Connector Will Start February 4

The second phase of the Rural Transportation Pilot Program, the County Connector, will begin service to the west side of the County on February 4.

Following the successful launch of Phase One earlier this month, County Council along with the Councils for the Town of Wembley, Town of Beaverlodge and the Village of Hythe approved agreements to launch Phase Two of the project. The second phase will expand current routes, offering service to the towns of Wembley, and Beaverlodge three days per-week and to the Village of Hythe once per-week.

“We are excited to be working with the towns of Wembley and Beaverlodge and the Village of Hythe to introduce Phase Two of the County Connector, extending service to people living in the west area of the County,” said Kathleen Turner, County Family and Community Support Services Director. “We know from the launch of Phase One this service can tremendously improve quality of life for people in the area by providing a safe and affordable means of transportation to access a larger centre.”

On Monday and Friday, Phase Two of the County Connector will travel from Beaverlodge to Wembley then the City of Grande Prairie and back. On Wednesday, the service travels from Hythe to Beaverlodge, Wembley and the City of Grande Prairie before returning the same way. The service does not operate on weekends or statutory holidays. The fare will be \$5 each way, with children ages 11 and under ride for free. The Phase Two partners are exploring park and ride locations along the route.

The project has received \$640,000 in operational funding, over two years, through the Alberta Transportation Rural Transportation Pilot Program, plus GreenTrip funding to help purchase a bus. The City of Grande Prairie will be operating the service for the County over the duration of the pilot program.

The public is encouraged to visit www.countygp.ab.ca/connector for more details on the County Connector service.

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Media contacts:

Kathleen Turner
County Family and Community Support Services
Director
780-532-9727

