



Joint Media Release – For Immediate Release March 21, 2018

Input Encouraged On Handibus Options

Area residents can help shape the future of handibus service in the region.

An upcoming series of open houses and a survey launching April 3 are part of a feasibility study being undertaken by Watt Consulting Group, hired by six area municipalities to determine the feasibility of a regional handibus service.

The City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie, the Towns of Wembley, Beaverlodge and Sexsmith, and the Village of Hythe initiated the project to improve mobility options primarily for seniors and disabled residents to attend to basic needs such as medical and dental appointments, shopping, and social outings.

Grande Prairie Regional Handibus Feasibility Study Open Houses			
Tuesday, April 10	9:00am – 10:30am	Grande Prairie	Montrose Cultural Centre, 9839 103 Ave.
	11:30am – 1:00pm	Wembley	Silver & Gold Pioneer Club, 9816 101 St.
	3:30pm – 5:00pm	Beaverlodge	Neighbourhood Resource Centre, 400-10th St.
	1:30pm – 3:00pm	Hythe	Hythe & District Pioneer Home, 10103 100 St.
Wednesday, April 11	9:00am – 10:30am	Grande Prairie	Grande Prairie & District Golden Age Centre, 10222 101 Ave.
	11:30am – 1:00pm	Sexsmith	Sexsmith & District Seniors Association, 9702 97 Ave.
	2:00pm – 3:30pm	Clairmont	Clairmont Senior Citizens Centre, 9801 100 Ave.

The consultant project team visited communities involved in the project in February, interviewed stakeholder groups and examined existing services. Interviews by phone were also conducted. Results of information gathering was used to develop a preliminary summary of transportation needs and opportunities in the region as well as draft options for service. Input collected at the open houses and through the survey will be added to what has already been heard from area stakeholders. This commentary will be used to refine final service proposals.

The consultancy will provide its recommendation to the project steering committee which, in turn, will share findings with respective Councils for consideration. The project is due for completion by June. It is being funded by a \$67,500 Alberta Community Partnership grant obtained by the Town of Wembley.

For more information on the study, please visit cityofgp.com/handibusstudy.

Residents or stakeholders with enquiries about the study can contact the project team at HandibusStudy@wattconsultinggroup.com or 780-800-2957, Ext. 434.

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