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Municipalities Ask for Feedback on County Connector Transit Service

County Connector transit service partnering municipalities are asking the public to weigh in with their feedback on the service. The County Connector has been operational for eight months and is part of a two-year Government of Alberta pilot project.

“It’s important that the project aligns with the needs of local residents,” says County Reeve Leanne Beaupre. “Now that we’ve been operational for several months, we want to hear from the public what is working well and what aspects of the service can be improved.”

A short survey will be available from September 9 to 30, 2019. The public can complete the survey online at www.countygp.ab.ca/countyconnectorsurvey or complete a paper copy in person at the County of Grande Prairie Administration Building, Grande Prairie City Hall or City Service Centre, in municipal offices in the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Wembley or the Village of Hythe or on a County Connector transit bus. Both riders and non-riders are encouraged to complete the survey to provide feedback on the service.

In Monday’s County Council meeting, Administration reported on the first seven months of transit operations, from December 2018 to June 2019. Highlights included almost 1,500 riders boarding the bus, with adults making up most of the ridership at 83 per cent. Changes made during the first seven months of operations included removing a stop in the Town of Beaverlodge and adding two stops in the City of Grande Prairie to accommodate travel to other participating communities.

A preliminary survey in June of County Connector riders showed general satisfaction with the service. While participant numbers were limited, results showed that the most common uses of the transit service were to visit family or friends, attend medical appointments and access shopping.

The County Connector is part of the two-year Rural Transportation Pilot Program funded by the Government of Alberta to look at ways to expand transit options and enhance access in rural communities. The program is supported by the County of Grande Prairie, the City of Grande Prairie, the towns of Sexsmith, Beaverlodge and Wembley and the Village of Hythe.

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