

A black and white photograph of a light rail train, likely a C-Train, moving through an urban environment. The train is white with dark horizontal stripes. Passengers are visible through the windows. The background shows city buildings and bare trees. A large teal graphic overlay, consisting of several overlapping triangles, covers the right and bottom portions of the image.

**THE
CALGARY
PARTY**

TRANSIT TOOLKIT



Transit service that respects the rider

Each year, more Calgarians rely on transit to get them to school, work and other activities. Over the last few decades Calgary has made significant investments in Calgary Transit, particularly in our LRT system, which is one of the most successful in North America, and in the MAX bus rapid transit system. However, despite those investments, too many Calgarians don't see transit as a viable option for their lives. For them, the system isn't frequent enough, doesn't get them to where they need to go, or doesn't feel safe for them or their family members.

As our city approaches a population of 2 million, we need to ensure that Calgary Transit becomes the preferred choice of more Calgarians in order to avoid the traffic congestion that plagues other Canadian cities. You just need to look at Toronto to see what happens when a city stops investing in its transit system.

It's time for City Council to make transit a priority and put riders first. We can do this by delivering on critical transit projects like the Green Line and new MAX bus rapid transit routes, increasing frequency of service along those routes and by restoring safety and public confidence in our transit system.



KEY CHALLENGES

1. Population growth

- As Calgary's population approaches 2 million, there will be significant demands on our road system. If all those new Calgarians drive private vehicles everyday, our city will face considerable traffic congestion, which will adversely affect everyone's quality of life.
- Improving transit today so that it becomes the preferred choice for Calgarians is critical to avoiding traffic congestion in the future. A safe, frequent and reliable transit system is critical to keeping our commute times low and maintaining our quality life.

2. Transit Safety

- Social disorder on transit vehicles and transit stations has led to a perception that transit is unsafe. Ensuring Calgarians feel safe on Calgary Transit, enables us to maximize the benefits of a strong transit system.

3. Transit Service

- Our transit system needs to serve all Calgarians, not just those who work downtown. Transit needs to allow Calgarians to travel reliably to destinations throughout the city, in a timely and reliable manner.

Tomorrow's transit cannot look like today's. We need to introduce a bold plan that focuses on improving the system for transit riders. In other words, a system that takes you where you need to go, when you need to get there.

The Green Line

- As we build the first phase of the Green Line to Victoria Park, it will be critical to ensure that this project proceeds on time and on budget. We will work with our funding partners to restore the original downtown portion of the project, which was by far the preferred option of Calgarians, particularly those who live and work downtown.
- Residents of north Calgary need rapid transit. We will work with our funding partners to secure funding to build the north leg of the Green Line as soon as construction of the downtown portion is completed in order to serve the residents of north Calgary who need and deserve rapid transit.

Airport Connector

- Calgary lags behind other cities by having no rail access to our airport. We will work with our funding partners to secure funds to connect the Blue Line to the Calgary International Airport now and preserve the option to connect to the Green Line in the future.

MAX Bus Rapid Transit

- We will continue to fund the expansion of the MAX bus rapid transit system to create more crosstown routes both North-South and East-West, resulting in more convenient connections for Calgarians, regardless of where their day takes them.

Small Upgrades for a Big Difference

- We will invest in simple improvements to improve the reliability of the transit system, such as signal priority and queue jumps at busy intersections so buses can stay on schedule.

BUILDING A BOLD FUTURE



SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

A transit system that respects the rider

Not every improvement needs to be a new route. Some of the most important improvements will come at a system level. Here are the system improvements The Calgary Party will develop:

- **Increased frequency:** The number one driver of transit system usage is frequency of service. Where we can increase frequency and predictability we must. Riders don't want to wait 15 or 20 minutes for a bus. With frequent service we can make transit more convenient and increase ridership.
- **Reliability:** Use data to audit where reliability is an issue and implement effective treatments such as queue jumps, signal priority, and more.
- **Multi Modal Connections:** Improve transit as a trip extender and connector, particularly walking and wheeling, by improving pathways, wayfinding, and bicycle parking at and around stations.
- **Systematized Upgrades:** Develop a series of thresholds that, if met, would call for automatic service improvement and infrastructure improvements.
- **Open Data:** Good data leads to good decisions, Calgary Transit's data should be easily accessible and available, creating a transparent decision making process.
- **Improved Transit Access & On Demand Service:** Using improved data collection and sharing, we will improve these key services to ensure all Calgarians can get around the city as they need.

We will create a safe and welcoming transit service that all Calgarians will feel comfortable using at any time of the day.

We will do this by:

- **Safe for Transit Users:** Ensure transit platforms, stops, and stations are safe and secure for transit users at all times.
- **More Peace Officers:** Increasing the presence of peace officers riding transit and patrolling stations. This will allow for more rapid response to incidents and will help connect people to the social service supports they may need to keep transit safe for transit users.
- **Operator Safety:** Work with Calgary Transit and the employee union to develop solutions to improve employee safety and increase mental health support for employees.
- **Transit Oriented Development:** Increased development around transit stations will put more “eyes on the street”, resulting in a safer experience for riders.
- **Better Lighting:** Improve lighting at and around stops for increased visibility.
- **CCTV & Help Posts:** Ensure major stops and stations have resources accessible to transit riders.
- **Safety from All Angles:** Many safety problems on Calgary transit reflect failures in Calgary’s public safety and housing policy. By addressing these underlying problems through our public safety strategy and housing first policy, The Calgary Party will make transit work better for all Calgarians.

SAFETY BY DESIGN





MAKE TRANSIT EASIER TO USE

Calgary Transit has been working hard to make it easier for customers to use transit. The following are some key priorities to improve service for riders:

- **Increase Frequency on LRT and Max Bus Rapid Transit Lines:** Calgary's goal is to have transit services running on the LRT and Max lines 10 minutes or less at least 15 hours a day, 7 days a week. This way customers can use transit without having to adhere to a fixed schedule. We will develop a funding strategy so that we can reach this level of service within the next five years.
- **Increase Real Time Arrival Information:** Expand live tracking information displays to more transit stations and bus stops. Also, allow all smartphone apps to access live tracking information. We also need to alert riders of detours caused by snow or construction so that riders can adapt their plans.
- **Improve Station Area Maps:** Improve signage and wayfinding in and around stations.

Safe. Easy to use. Comprehensive. Connected.

Let's make Calgary Transit the preferred choice for getting around Calgary. We need to increase the frequency of service along LRT and MAX lines to meet the City's objective of having trains or buses at least every 10 minutes, 15 hours a day. We need to prioritize safety, by ensuring that riders feel safe and welcome at Calgary Transit stations and stops. We need to continue to invest in expanding transit.

That means:

- building the Green Line Calgarians want, including a tunnel in the downtown core,
- working with the provincial and federal governments to secure funding to connect the Green Line to Calgary's northern neighbourhoods,
- connecting the existing Blue Line to the Calgary International Airport, and
- expanding the MAX bus rapid transit system with more crosstown roots, that will make it easier for Calgarians to get around the City, and not just downtown.

We also need to make it easier to use Calgary Transit. That means sharing data with more third party applications so riders can see the best route and plan their day and providing real time arrival information at transit stops.

Although we will need to reallocate resources over time to support these service improvements, some of those costs will be recouped by the revenues generated by an increase in passengers.

With smart investments and better service, we can keep Calgary moving, stay ahead of the gridlock that's slowed other cities, and make sure transit connects people to work, school and opportunity.

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