



# City to cease transit handi-van services in a continued effort to find savings

Services will cease operations by June 30, 2023

**Thursday, February 23, 2023 (Wetaskiwin, Alberta)** — Operation of the City of Wetaskiwin transit handi-van service will cease as of June 30, 2023, if staffing levels remain consistent.

In an effort to reduce the financial strain on the community, Administration was directed by Council to investigate options related to transit services based on the potential savings identified during the priority-based budgeting process, which examines individual services to evaluate their costs and how well they align with the community's priorities, for the [2023 City operating budget](#).

Administration budgets approximately \$325,000 per year for transit handi-van services – equivalent to an approximate two per cent adjustment to taxes. Currently, the City provides transit services to Horizons Centre, the Wetaskiwin and District Association for Community Service, Catholic Social Services, and directly to local seniors at their request for medical appointments. The transit handi-van service averages 125 individual clients annually. This services approximately one per cent of Wetaskiwin's population.

"With any change to a level of service, we know there will be some disruption to some of our residents and business owners," said Mayor Tyler Gandam. "Council has and will continue to find efficiencies and cost saving opportunities. With costs rising and provincial and federal funding being cut, we must look internally to save money where we can."

In March 2022, Council asked Administration to examine the possibility of outsourcing transit handi-van services to an external contractor to see if it was possible to provide the community with cost effective transit services. Administration issued an expression of interest (EOI) in April 2022, followed by a request for proposals (RFP) on [Alberta Purchasing Connection](#) in July 2022. Unfortunately, only one proposal to provide transit services was received, and it did not meet the conditions required to enter into a service agreement with the provider.

This final decision to cease operations of the transit handi-van service by June 30, 2023 was made coming out of a closed session segment of the [2023 budget deliberations on November 9, 2022](#). The discussion took place in closed session under section 29 of the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) related to information that is or will be available to the public.

City Administration is currently exploring opportunities to transition the transit handi-van service to external stakeholders who may be interested in providing transit services to the community. Those who may be interested should contact the General Manager of Community and Protective Services, Paul Edginton, either by phone at 780.361.4458 or by email at [Paul.Edginton@Wetaskiwin.ca](mailto:Paul.Edginton@Wetaskiwin.ca).

*Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts on the levels of service provided by the City by reaching out directly to council. Contact information for mayor and council is available at [wetaskiwin.ca/mayor-council](http://wetaskiwin.ca/mayor-council).*

## About the City of Wetaskiwin





Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community, home to a diverse population of nearly 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

*Keep up with City news and alerts by signing up for text or email notices with [Notify Me](#).*

-30-

**Media contact:**  
**Kristen Hewlett, Communications Manager**  
City of Wetaskiwin

**(p)** 780.361.4415 **(c)** 780.335.2742  
[kristen.hewlett@wetaskiwin.ca](mailto:kristen.hewlett@wetaskiwin.ca)

