

November, 2011

**ACHESON BUS SERVICE**  
A PROPOSAL TO: PARKLAND COUNTY



**Acheson Business Association**  
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## **ACHESON BUS SERVICE - PILOT PROGRAM**

### **SUPPORTING EMPLOYMENT IN ACHESON & PARKLAND COUNTY**

The call for bus service has been long standing for the Acheson Industrial Area and Parkland County. Research and feasibility studies have been completed only to indicate that public transit is neither an attainable or affordable option for Acheson.

The solution seems elusive. Acheson employers continue to make inquiries about bus service especially with an increasingly tight labour environment at hand. Parkland County and the Acheson area are losing valuable residents and potential employees to Edmonton where bus service is readily available. Many of these migrants are in the 18 - 30 year age demographic which is vital to our immediate and future workforce as established in the Parkland County 2009 - 2013 Economic & Business Development Strategy.

Recognizing that resolution to this issue is of the essence, the Acheson Business Association has approached the private sector and procured a practical and affordable solution that not only addresses bussing in Acheson, it supports our local Parkland County economy.

The ABA, in association with Meadowlark Towing, a local Taxi & Towing company located in Spruce Grove, have created a viable bus service from Spruce Grove to Acheson. The Acheson Business Association recommends a pilot program to run over 6 months - 1 year to test and further assess feasibility.

This pilot program service consists of two - 15 passenger busses running two routes in early morning from Spruce Grove to six Acheson companies located in Zones 1, 2 & 3 along with two returning routes in the late afternoon.

Further details are contained herein.

November, 2011

**BUS ROUTE**  
**FROM SPRUCE GROVE TO ACHESON**

**MORNING SCHEDULE**

<u>BUS 1</u>		<u>DEPART</u>
1. WORK FORCE/BREDIN INSTITUTE		5:00 AM
2. SPRUCE GROVE HIGH SCHOOL		5:10 AM
3. ALLIANCE CHURCH		5:20 AM
	→ <u>16A</u> to ACHESON	<u>ARRIVE</u>
4. PRO-V MFG.	Zone 3	5:35 AM
5. FLYNN	Zone 2	5:50 AM
<u>BUS 2</u>		<u>DEPART</u>
1. WORK FORCE/BREDIN INSTITUTE		6:15 AM
2. SPRUCE GROVE HIGH SCHOOL		6:25 AM
3. ALLIANCE CHURCH		6:35 AM
	→ <u>Hwy 16 YELLOWHEAD</u> TO ACHESON	
		<u>ARRIVE</u>
4. NORTHGATE INDUSTRIES	Zone 1	6:50 AM
5. SYSCO	Zone 2	7:00 AM
6. JASPER TANK	Zone 3	7:15 AM

## AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

### Bus 1

### DEPART

1. Work Force/Bredin Institute  
*Westgrove Prof. Bld. 131-1<sup>st</sup> Ave*

3:30 PM

2. Spruce Grove High School  
*Grove Drive Entrance*

3. Alliance Church  
*Century Road*

### → HWY 16 YELLOWHEAD TO ACHESON

4. SYSCO                      Zone 2                      3:50 PM

5. FLYNN                      Zone 2                      4:10 PM

6. PRO-V MFG.              Zone 3                      4:40 PM

7. JASPER TANK              Zone 3                      4:50 PM

### → HWY 16 A TO SPRUCE GROVE

8. ALLIANCE CHURCH                      5:05 PM

9. SPRUCE GROVE HIGH SCHOOL              5:15 PM

10. ALLIANCE CHURCH                      5:25 PM

### Bus 2

Still to be determined depending on volume and shift times.

## OVERVIEW

### PILOT PROGRAM COSTS

The cost for running two busses from Spruce Grove to Acheson four times daily is as follows:

Per Day	\$ 300
Per Week	1,500
Per Month (Per Week x 4.3)	6,450
 Cost over 6 months	 38,700
 <u>Total Cost Over 1 Year</u>	 <u>\$ 77,400</u>

### FUNDING

Starting with the six participating Acheson companies previously mentioned, the estimated number of riders would be 15 - 25 per day. *eachday*

We anticipate that this number will rise over rapidly over the first 6 months as more Acheson companies come onboard.

Meadowlark Towing has agreed to provide busses with larger seating capacity as ridership increases.

The ABA is seeking initial funding from Parkland County for the first 6 - 12 months of this pilot program.

During this time, the ABA will seek further longer term funding for continued operations through Government grants such as the Alberta Lottery fund and any other funds that evoke community enhancement. See attachments - Grant Funding Opportunities.

### BUS PASSES

Monthly bus passes will be sold to Acheson employers through the ABA for a cost of \$80 per rider.

### BUS SHELTERS

Portions of the monies received from grants will be budgeted for the purchase of several bus shelters throughout Acheson.

Proceeds raised from the sale of bus passes will also go toward the purchase bus shelters.

### CONCLUSION

Acheson is the largest economic driver in Parkland County.

The implementation of this pilot project will go a long way to assist in keeping a valuable workforce in our area. Providing transit for Acheson employees particularly during a labour shortage plays an important role in sustaining the economy for all concerned.

Further, establishing an accessible transit service helps contribute to attracting new investment and encouraging economic growth in both Acheson and Parkland County.

The Acheson Business Association looks forward to partnership with Parkland County by providing a solution to this longstanding concern.

4825  
4880  
2000  
20,000

for bus shelters

Sysco  
↳ too much



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Institute**

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YEARS OF  
EXCELLENCE

To All Concerned,

The issues for some of our clients surrounding bus service in the Acheson area are as follows:

There are 2 types of clients that Bredin Institute encounters who are facing barriers with transportation in their job search.

- 1) Those who do not have a vehicle and/or valid license at this time:
  - Many limit their job search to Spruce Grove and Stony Plain because they are unsure if they will be able to get to work reliably otherwise.
  - Many do not have access to rides from friends/family or have very limited **access.**
  - Regular bus service to Acheson would greatly expand the job market that our clients are able to search and increase their overall chances of finding employment.
  - Bus Service would give employers in Acheson access to a larger pool of qualified applicant: we often have clients that have extensive manufacturing/trades experience but do not have a vehicle at this time.
  
- 2) Those who have a vehicle/valid license but do not have the financial capacity to commute regularly at this time:
  - The cost of gas and maintaining a vehicle can seem overwhelming when they do not have a source of income.
  - The vast majority of these clients are willing to make the commute to Acheson once they have the financial capacity to do so but limit their job search to Spruce Grove/Stony Plain where they are more able to meet employers in person.
  - Clients in this position are also reluctant to search outside of Spruce Grove/Stony Plain because they are unsure of their ability to get to work in the first few weeks before their first paycheck.
  - Regular bus service would make it more likely that these clients would search for work in Acheson as they would be able to meet potential employers in person and attend interviews more easily.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Burnette

Employment Developer  
Bredin Institute  
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*“Serving Albertans Since 1976”*



"GROWING YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH ASSOCIATION"

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