

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

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Issue #3

Edmonton

Alberta Community Transit Fund (ACTF)

What was the ACTF?

The Alberta Community Transit Fund (ACTF) was established by the Province in August 2018. Through a grant system, it was going to provide Alberta municipalities with \$215 million in transit funding over five years. In the first three years, \$115 million of that funding was to come from Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan (the former carbon tax.) The ACTF was cancelled by the Alberta government on October 24, 2019.

What did it mean for Edmonton?

In March 2019, Edmonton was awarded \$89.3 million in ACTF funding towards the following projects



- Upgrading Terwillegar Drive to an expressway & purchase of up to nine electric buses (\$24.6 million)
- Transit priority improvements to access Park & Ride facilities (\$20 million)
- Additional purchase of up to 30 electric buses (\$15.5 million)
- Preliminary planning & design of a new bus garage (\$14 million)
- Upgrades at Stadium LRT station (\$11.9 million)
- Preliminary planning & design of a new transit centre and Park & Ride facility at 50 Street & Ellerslie Road SW (\$2 million)
- Preliminary planning & design of a new LRT station at 40 Avenue (\$1.2 million)

What happens now that the ACTF is cancelled?

After the unexpected loss of funding, these projects were put on hold. Council is taking this opportunity to review priorities. The City was able to borrow \$195.1 million for those projects. If any of these projects do not go forward, the City could choose to borrow some or all of that money for other projects instead.

At their November 5 meeting, City Council passed a motion to look at this possibility during upcoming budget adjustments. Some of these dollars may be borrowed for ACTF projects. Some may go to unrelated projects. However, that motion also established that the debt capacity for the Terwillegar Drive expressway project would remain the same — that means the City is still committed to borrowing the same amount for the Terwillegar Drive project to ensure that it can proceed.

Overall, this means that some of these projects may still go forward, but the total funding for the projects would come from different sources than originally planned.

Questions? YEGcitybudget.ca