



FOR RELEASE
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Secondary school students to ride city transit in expanded pilot project

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government and the City of Whitehorse have announced the expansion of a pilot program that will provide Whitehorse secondary school students with an opportunity to get to school using the city's public transit system for free.

"This expanded program will allow us to determine if riding public transit to school is an option that works for students and their parents," Education Minister Scott Kent said. "We are interested in learning how this program is received and are very excited to cooperate with the city to increase ridership among young people in Whitehorse."

The project will provide free transit passes for up to 100 students each month from December 2012 to the end of June 2013. Transit passes will be purchased by the Government of Yukon at a discounted rate and provided to students who live in subdivisions along Hamilton Boulevard and attend F.H. Collins or Vanier secondary schools. Existing school bus services will not be changed during this period.

To enable the project, the City of Whitehorse has agreed to add an additional bus to the #2 loop between Copper Ridge and Riverdale South. The new bus timetable will correspond with the start and end times of the school day at the two secondary schools.

"The city's new loop system has been well received to date, and we are always looking for ways to encourage more people to take public transit," Mayor Dan Curtis said. "The city is pleased to be working with the Department of Education on this very important initiative."

Besides providing a more sustainable way to get to and from school, the passes will provide students with an option for transportation if they stay late for after-school activities and if they are going to places other than home, such as the Canada Games Centre.

Last spring, a smaller pilot project that encouraged high school students to use transit during the months of May and June was a success. The positive feedback from students spurred planning for a longer pilot program for this school year.

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