



WEEK OF
September 5, 2024

Municipal Matters

cochrane.ca f t i y

Cochrane Council

Regular Council Meeting

Monday, September 9 | 5:30 p.m.

Committee of the Whole

Monday, September 16 | 6 p.m.

cochrane.ca/council

We're hiring

Maintenance Operator - Utilities

Closing date: September 12

Community Resource Worker (Part time)

Closing date: TBD

cochrane.ca/jobs

Bid opportunities

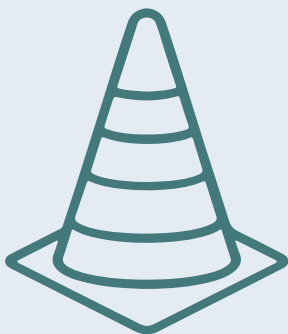
Forestry Consultant for FireSmart Vegetation Management

Closing date: September 12

cochrane.ca/rfp

Work continues this week

Various construction projects are currently underway.



Learn more about current projects:

cochrane.ca/construction

Connect With Us!

@townofcochrane

Administration 403-851-2500

Waste & Recycling 403-851-2277



Thank you seasonal Parks staff!

For making our community beautiful and maintaining the parks and pathways. Cochrane proudly maintains over 500 hectares of land as parks and open spaces. Residents and visitors also enjoy over three dozen parks (many with playgrounds), summer fishing in trout ponds, outdoor skating in winter and over 80 kilometers of pathways all year round.

More info on Cochrane parks and pathways visit: cochrane.ca/parks

Your town. Your transit.

Visit [Letstalkcochrane.ca/transit](https://letstalkcochrane.ca/transit)



Help shape the future of transit in Cochrane.

In this next round of engagement, we're digging deeper into potential transit solutions.

The survey is available September 4-15.

Visit: [Letstalkcochrane.ca/transit](https://letstalkcochrane.ca/transit) or scan the QR code

School's back. Keep our community safe.

As students return to school, please prioritize safety by watching for children, adhering to speed limits and exercising caution in school zones.

Here are some important back-to-school road safety tips:

- Be mindful of school zones and strictly adhere to speed limits.
- Stop for school buses when loading and unloading.
- Plan your route and allow extra time.
- Exercise caution near schools, bus stops, streets and parking lots.

cochrane.ca/trafficsafety



Be bear aware



Bears can be active from April 1-November 30. Put out waste, recycling and organics carts in the morning before collection, not the night before to avoid inviting bears for a midnight snack.

More: cochrane.ca/wasteandrecycling



Exploring Future Possibilities

Cochrane is conducting a transit study to review the current COLT service, explore options to improve the service and make recommendations to Council in the fall of 2024. Earlier this year we gathered your feedback to understand what you expect from COLT and how you feel about the service. Now we’re digging deeper into potential transit solutions. **To help us shape the future of transit in Cochrane, please fill out this 5-10 minute survey.**

Your town.
Your transit.



Transit Objectives

1. Please select the option that best describes you.

- ☐ I currently ride COLT
- ☐ I have ridden COLT before, but not in the past year
- ☐ I have not ridden COLT, but I intend to try it sometime in the next year
- ☐ I do not plan to ride COLT but would like to have my voice heard

2. Rank the following objectives in terms of how importantly they are to you, from 1 to 5. (With 1 being the **most important**, and 5 being the **least important**)

- ___ Improve the reliability and usefulness of the transit service so that all Cochranites can depend on it when they need it
- ___ Support safe, age-friendly, and accessible travel through Cochrane
- ___ Provide a transit service that is financially sustainable and appropriately scaled for the community
- ___ Ensure that transit is part of the planning process to meet the growing and diverse needs of the community
- ___ Connect transit to broader community planning outcomes

3. Are there any other transit objectives that are important to you that have not been captured in the previous question?

4. Rank the following service principles in terms of your preference, from 1 to 3. (With 1 being the **most preferred**, and 3 being the **least preferred**)

- ___ **Frequency** (Measures how often buses arrive at stops. Higher frequency means shorter wait times, with buses arriving more frequent. These fixed routes are shorter and more direct but does not cover as large an area.)
- ___ **Coverage** (Measures the extent of the area served by the transit system. Greater coverage means more neighbourhoods and areas are accessible. This fixed route covers more area with a longer and winding route. It would not be as frequent.)
- ___ **Span** (Measures the total hours of operation of the transit service. A longer span means the service is available more hours, including evenings and Sundays.)

5. Please elaborate on why you chose to rank the service principles as you did.

6. Is there anything from the current COLT service that you would like to keep?

Making Transit Sustainable

The next few questions seek to understand how you believe transit service should be funded to ensure it is financially sustainable and appropriately scaled for Cochrane. Across Canada, public transportation is funded largely by local property taxes. Cochrane is no exception to this funding model. Cochrane currently spends 1.4% of its budget on public transportation services. This includes funding COLT and Rocky View Paratransit. The public transit budget represents approximately \$56 per year of property taxes on the average home in Cochrane, of which approximately \$41 per year funds the COLT service directly.

7. Please indicate how much you agree with the statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The amount of my property taxes that fund COLT is reasonable.					
If the COLT system in Cochrane improved frequency , I would be willing to pay a little more in property taxes.					
If the COLT system in Cochrane improved coverage , I would be willing to pay a little more in property taxes.					
If the COLT system in Cochrane improved span , I would be willing to pay a little more in property taxes.					
I would not be willing to pay a little more in property taxes to support transit improvements.					

8. Would you support a modest increase to annual property taxes (for example, \$5 per property) to invest in improvements to the COLT system?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

9. If you responded “Yes” to Question 8 above, how would you like that investment to be spent? (Please rank the following options based on how important they would be to you, with 1 being the **most important** and 6 being the **least important**. The current COLT system operates 6 buses Monday to Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and 2 buses Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

- ☐ Add one bus in service during peak times on weekdays (around 8 a.m.)
- ☐ Add one bus in service midday on weekdays (around 3 p.m.)
- ☐ Add one service on Sundays (same service as Saturday)
- ☐ Extend service until 10 p.m. with two buses on weekday evenings
- ☐ Reduce the cost of rider fares for COLT
- ☐ Add one bus in service on Saturdays and extend service until 7:30 p.m.

Rider transit fares also fund public transportation in Cochrane. The COLT bus’s single-ride fare is **\$2.50** or **\$50.00** for an adult monthly pass. This is lower than the fares charged for service in nearby communities, including Airdrie, Okotoks and Calgary.

10. Please indicate how much you agree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The fare price to ride COLT is reasonable and should remain the same.					
The fare price to ride COLT is costly and should be lowered.					
If the COLT system in Cochrane improved frequency , I would be willing to pay a little more for my fare.					
If the COLT system in Cochrane improved coverage , I would be willing to pay a little more for my fare.					
If the COLT system in Cochrane improved span , I would be willing to pay a little more for my fare.					
I would not be willing to pay a little more for my fare to support transit improvements.					

11. Would you support a modest increase to transit fares (for example, \$1 per trip) to invest in improvements to the COLT system?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

12. If you responded “Yes” to Question 11 above, how would you like that investment to be spent? Please rank the following options based on how important they would be to you, with 1 being the **most important** and 6 being the **least important**. (The current COLT system operates 6 buses Monday to Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and 2 buses Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

- ☐ Add one bus in service during peak times on weekdays (around 8 a.m.)
- ☐ Add one bus in service midday on weekdays (around 3 p.m.)
- ☐ Add one service on Sundays (same service as Saturday)
- ☐ Extend service until 10 p.m. with two buses on weekday evenings
- ☐ Reduce the cost of rider fares for COLT proportionately
- ☐ Add one bus in service on Saturdays and extend service until 7:30 p.m.

Tell us about you

The next few questions are optional. The information helps us understand whether we have surveyed a diverse demographic in Cochrane. It will not be used to identify you and will only be shared in general (for example, 20% of survey respondents were over the age of 65).

13. What is your age group? Please select one.

- ☐ Less than 18
- ☐ 18 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 and over

14. How would you describe your gender? Please select one.

- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Non-binary or gender-fluid
- ☐ Prefer to self-identify
- ☐ Prefer not to say

15. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Please select one.

- ☐ Employed full-time (30 or more hours per week)
- ☐ Employed part-time (less than 40 hours per week)
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Not employed, looking for work
- ☐ Not employed, not looking for work
- ☐ Full-time caregiver/Stay-at-home parent
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____
- ☐ Prefer not to say

16. Please select any statements that apply to you.

- ☐ I identify as a visible minority
- ☐ I identify as LGBTQIA+
- ☐ I am Indigenous, Aboriginal, First Nations, Metis, Inuk (Inuit)
- ☐ I have moved to Canada in the last 5 years
- ☐ I have moved to Cochrane in the last 5 years
- ☐ I or someone in my household has a disability
- ☐ I or someone in my household has mobility challenges
- ☐ There are children (under 18) in my household
- ☐ There are seniors on my household
- ☐ I have limited English proficiency

17. Do you regularly have access to a car, van or truck as a driver, or passenger for the trips you make?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

18. If you do have regular access to a car, van, or truck as a driver or passenger for the trips you make, do you foresee this changing in the next 5 years? (e.g. due to medical or health reasons, financial situation, downsizing)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Your feedback will be used to shape the concept options we'll share with Council in the fall of 2024.

Thank you for helping us shape the future of transit by completing this survey! **Your response will remain entirely confidential.**

Survey available online:

[Letstalkcochrane.ca/transit](https://letstalkcochrane.ca/transit), closing September 15.

Your town. Your transit.



SCAN HERE



Drop completed surveys off before September 15 at:

- The Station (360 Railway Street W)
- Cochrane RancheHouse (101 RancheHouse Road)
- Cochrane FCSS (209, 2nd Ave W)