

MEMO



To: Mayor and Board of Trustees
From: Nicole Schafer, Assistant Town Manager
Date: 12/10/2024
Re: **BOT 10 - GRANBY MICROTRANSIT / ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER**
7:20 PM
Department: Town Manager
Time of Agenda Item: 7:20 PM
Agenda Request No.

Subject
BOT 10 - GRANBY MICROTRANSIT / ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER
7:20 PM

Summary

In the 2022 Town of Granby Comprehensive Master Plan, an entire chapter was dedicated to Multimodal Transportation. Town staff have continued to investigate solutions that provide service enhancements for our diverse community of residents, visitors, and employees.



MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION

- Work with CDOT to develop concepts and plans to improve Highway 40 and Highway 34 within Granby.
- Work with CDOT to develop a new Highway Access Control Plan.
- Work with other jurisdictions to improve and expand bus transit service around Grand County.
- Explore ideas to implement local shuttle services

Second Survey, Question 5: I am interested in exploring the following types of ideas for providing improved transit service in the Granby area. Please select all that apply.

OPTION	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Increase frequency of buses connecting Granby to Fraser and Winter Park	287
Increase frequency of train service connecting Granby / Grand County to Union Station in Denver	216
Add a trolley or shuttle service to connect Granby Ranch, Grand Elk, and River Run to Downtown Granby	201
Introduce bus service connecting Granby to Grand Lake and Hot Sulphur Springs	197
Call-a-ride shuttle that serves the Granby area	158
Add a circulating shuttle service to connect neighborhoods with community activity centers	138

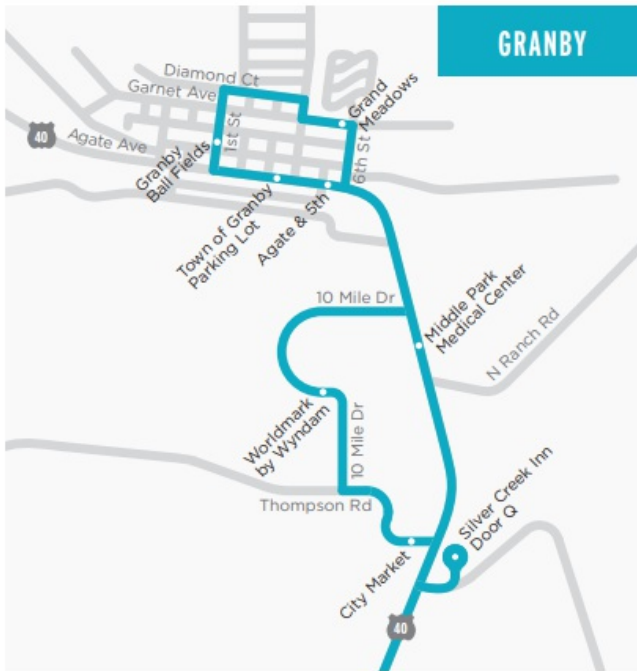
We are grateful that the Board of Trustees has actively supported an expansion of route stops and pick up/drop off times for the LIFT Granby Regional Commuter Line.

Granby Regional Commuter Line November 15, 2024 - April 20, 2025

Winter Park Resort (Lower Circle) Depart	Beaver Village	Vasquez Northbound	Hi Country Drive Northbound	Telemark Drive Northbound	Safeway	Easton Northbound	Fabernash	US 40 & CR 65/87	Snow Mountain Ranch	Winter Park Olympic Village	Inn at Silvercreek	Middle Park Medical Center	Grand Meadows	Granby Ball Fields	Granby Town Parking Lot	5th & Agate	Worldmark by Wyndam	City Market Arrive	City Market Depart	Snow Mountain Ranch	US 40 & CR 5	Fabernash	Easton Southbound	Goranson Station	Telemark Drive Southbound	Hideaway Park Southbound	Vasquez Southbound	Beaver Village	Old Town	Winter Park Resort (Lower Circle) Arrive							
WINTER PARK						TO GRANBY										GRANBY										TO WINTER PARK						WINTER PARK					
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5:55	5:58	6:02	6:05	6:07	6:08	6:12	6:15	6:15	6:22	6:24	6:28	6:33	6:34	6:38	6:41	6:42	6:42	6:46	6:47							
8:15	8:22	8:23	8:27	8:28	8:32	8:36	8:41	8:45	8:47	8:50	8:55	8:58	9:02	9:05	9:07	9:08	9:12	9:15	9:16	9:22	9:24	9:28	9:33	9:34	9:38	9:41	9:42	9:42	9:46	9:47							
12:00	12:07	12:08	12:12	12:13	12:17	12:21	12:26	12:30	12:32	12:35	12:40	12:43	12:47	12:50	12:52	12:53	12:57	1:00	1:01	1:08	1:10	1:14	1:19	1:20	1:24	1:27	1:28	1:28	1:32	1:33							
2:30	2:37	2:38	2:42	2:43	2:47	2:51	2:56	3:00	3:02	3:05	3:10	3:13	3:17	3:20	3:22	3:23	3:27	3:30	3:31	3:37	3:39	3:43	3:48	3:49	3:53	3:56	3:57	3:57	4:01	4:02							
5:00	5:07	5:08	5:12	5:13	5:17	5:21	5:26	5:30	5:32	5:35	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:50	5:52	5:53	5:57	6:00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
6:00	6:07	6:08	6:12	6:13	6:17	6:21	6:26	6:30	6:32	6:35	6:40	6:43	6:47	6:50	6:52	6:53	6:57	7:00	7:03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7:05	7:08	7:12	7:15	7:17	7:18	7:22	7:25	7:26	7:32	7:34	7:38	7:43	7:44	7:48	7:51	7:52	7:52	7:56	7:57							
8:00	8:07	8:08	8:12	8:13	8:17	8:21	8:26	8:30	8:32	8:35	8:40	8:43	8:47	8:50	8:52	8:53	8:57	9:00	9:01	9:08	9:10	9:14	9:19	9:20	9:24	9:27	9:28	9:28	9:32	9:33							
10:00	10:07	10:08	10:12	10:13	10:17	10:21	10:26	10:30	10:32	10:35	10:40	10:43	10:47	10:50	10:52	10:53	10:57	11:00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-						

Regular face = AM; Bold face = PM

Schedule Valid: November 15th, 2024 thru April 20th, 2025



This approach does not appropriately serve other communities of Granby nor does it easily facilitate local travel within the Town.

Because we have a small window of time that our 14-passenger Granby Rec Department vans are not used daily, staff is investigating an opportunity to spearhead a microtransit test running for the next 3 -- 5 months.

HOW IT WORKS

Microtransit systems are on-demand, public transportation solutions that allow passengers to access shared rides in real time.

- Generally, think of a shared ride, Uber solution. The rider downloads an app that acts as the "booking tool" and the driver receives a notification of pick-up and drop-off request. The rider app is also available in Spanish.
- Based on the location of the driver and the pick-up location, an estimated wait time is provided the rider, who can track the location of his or her van.
- Riders who request pick-up or drop-off locations outside the Town of Granby transit range will be redirected to the LIFT app for additional information.
- There is also a phone number that riders who do not use a smart phone can call to arrange a pick-up with a centralized dispatch system. The ride request is then loaded into the drivers' application just like a request made by the rider app would be.

TESTING OBJECTIVES

It would take about 2 -- 4 weeks to set up a microtransit system which includes the development of the Operations Center backbone, fine-tuning the pickup and delivery zone area, and hours of operation. Current thinking

- At a minimum, the zone would include Sun Communities (Smith Creek and River Run), Granby Ranch resort with some local neighborhoods and Middle Park Medical, downtown Granby to include the Train Station and Granby Airport, and Grand Elk to connect with the current LIFT commuter line, and City Market.
- During the testing phase, we would focus on the transportation needs of locals and would run Thursday 5pm -- 10pm, Friday 10am -- 10pm, and Saturday 10am -10pm for a total of 29 ride hours per week.
- We would potentially need to increase maintenance costs to outfit our 2 transit vans .
- This will also require coordinated usage with Granby Rec who needs 2 -- 3 vans on Fridays and during holidays.
- During the test, we will not have a wheelchair accessible vehicle.
- We would need to hire two part-time employees. BambooHR has been helpful with recruiting, and we would look to attract essential workers wanting extra hours and have driver training and experience. A CDL is not required for the vans but experience with passenger transportation will be critical.
- We anticipate there will be a small fee associated with the use of this program. This \$1 - \$2 fee has been shown to be effective in making sure requests for pick-up are valid and the riders more compliant. A voucher number can be developed for individuals to whom we want to offer free rides (seniors, teachers, first responders, etc). We also have the ability to charge a higher price for certain areas that take more time to access (Granby Ranch and Val Moritz for example).
- The app has a user-friendly survey tool that would allow us to receive real time data on the functionality of the system and any changes we need to make.

Financial

Staff have reached out to 2 top Microtransit providers, Via and Downtowner. Both offer similar app functionality for the rider and both a driver and an operation system.

Winter Park is considering a microtransit test from downtown Winter Park to the resort. They are in talks with Via.

Downtowner is offering a lower upfront cost (\$5000 vs \$24,000 with Via). Downtowner would charge an additional \$1,000 once the pilot ended.

Ongoing expenses for the microtransit system are estimated at \$259,376 (\$86/service hour) for 2 vans driving 29 hours per week. This could be offset slightly by charging a fare.

We would also want to purchase 2 vehicles once we are ready to move forward. These would be about \$55,000 each, one of which would be an additional \$16,000 for ADA accessibility.

Testing and Year 1 software costs:

	Downtowner	Via
Testing set up	\$5,000	\$24,000
Additional set up for Year 1	\$1,000	\$0
Annual fee	\$16,200	\$24,000
Vehicle purchase (2)	\$126,000	\$126,000
Year 1 program expense	\$259,376	\$259,376

Recommendation

Staff is prepared to move forward immediately with the microtransit test if the Board believes this is a needed service. A recommendation on which system to use is requested.

We will continue to update the Board throughout the test and, if successful, present a request for supplemental appropriations necessary to make the test permanent.
