



## Calgary

Jeromy Farkas, Mayor

2026 February 12

Honourable Jason Nixon, M.L.A.  
Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services  
227 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Nixon,

**Re: Request for Increased Provincial Commitment for Calgary’s Low-Income Transit Pass**

As directed by Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2025, I am writing a letter on behalf of City Council to advocate for changes to funding model, for the Low-Income Transit Pass program.

First, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Government of Alberta for your partnership to date. Since 2017, the Low-Income Transit Pass collaboration between the province and The City has provided critical transportation connectivity to employment and educational opportunities for Calgarians living with low incomes.

The Low-Income Transit Pass is an investment that unlocks access to the community for those who need it most. The pass increases affordability and access to essential services for everyday citizens and fosters economic growth. Investing in Low-Income Transit supports shared provincial-municipal infrastructure, enabling municipal service delivery to advance provincial social services outcomes.

The annual cost to maintain the Low-Income Transit Pass for 2025 was approximately \$58 million, driven by rising demand and rapid population growth. The province’s contribution was \$6.3 annually, just over 10 per cent.

Single-year funding commitments are financially challenging for The City of Calgary and create uncertainty for citizens who rely on the program. Long-term sustainable funding will not only secure the program's future but also reinforce our shared commitment to building more inclusive, connected, and financially stable communities across Alberta.

To ensure long-term, sustainable funding, The City of Calgary is seeking a more predictable and enhanced provincial funding commitment for the Low-Income Transit Pass program, including exploring longer-term governance and funding models in collaboration with the Government of Alberta.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss options for establishing a stable, multi-year funding framework.

Thank you for your partnership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeromy Farkas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

His Worship Jeromy Farkas  
Mayor, City of Calgary

cc: City Council  
The Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Doug Morgan, General Manager, Operational Services

## Attachment 1: The City of Calgary’s Low-Income Transit Pass Information

### Background

In 2000, a committee of interested Calgarians, with the encouragement of an Alderman, proposed a discounted transit pass program focused on the transportation needs of Calgarians receiving Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH). In 2002, Council directed Administration to develop a Low-Income Transit Pass Strategy. In 2005, the Low-Income Transit Pass was introduced at half the price of the full-priced adult monthly pass. Calgarians whose income was 75 per cent of the Low-Income Cut Off (LICO) were eligible.

Since 2005, the program has seen several structural changes, including increases in qualifying income, the inclusion of a broader range of income verification documents, and participation in the Fair Entry application process. In 2017, City Council introduced a three-tier sliding scale discounted pass based on household income.

The Government of Alberta has been a funding partner for the Low-Income Transit Pass since 2017, at the following funding levels:

- 2017-2022: \$4.5M annually
- 2023-2025: \$6.2M annually

### Discount structure

Calgary offers a unique three-tier low-income discount structure on its adult monthly transit pass ensuring Calgarians of all income levels can access employment, medical appointments, and their communities. Qualifying customers are eligible to receive discounted passes in three categories based on income:

2025	Monthly Pass Cost	% Discount	Income Range Qualification
<b>Band A</b>	\$5.90	95%	Less than \$15,632 for 1 person household. *
<b>Band B</b>	\$41.30	65%	\$15,633 - \$26,574 for 1 person household. *
<b>Band C</b>	\$59.00	50%	\$26,575 - \$31,264 for 1 person household. *

*\*Income thresholds increase with the number of people per household and are based on the Alberta Low Income Cut Off which varies from year to year. For more details, please see <https://www.calgary.ca/social-services/low-income/sliding-scale-transit-fare.html>*

The estimated \$58 million program cost of The City of Calgary’s Low-Income Transit Pass for 2025 is determined by revenue foregone by offering discounted fares instead of the regular fare.

## Pass enrollment and sales

As of September 2025, 110,561 eligible Calgarians have been approved for the Low-Income Transit Pass. Those eligible customers collectively bought 492,922 monthly Low-Income Transit Passes year-to-date as of October 2025. In 2024, 440,843 monthly Low-Income Transit Passes were sold throughout the entire year.