Rocky View Regional Handibus Society

Transportation for Community Needs

P.O Box 3235, Airdrie, AB T4B 2B5 Tel: (403) 948-2887 Fax: (403) 948-2802 www.rockyviewbus.ca

1

2007 Report to Stakeholders

March 25, 2008

Prepared by:

Paul Siller, Transportation Manager

Mission Statement:

Provide community transit services for people with special transportation needs in the Municipal District of Rocky View and surrounding area

Manager's Message	2
Major Initiatives	
"Three To Get Ready"	2
Technology Upgrade	3
A Bus for Chestermere/ Langdon	3
Organization	4
History	4
Governance	4
Staff:	4
Overhead	4
Testimonial	
Municipal Activity	5
Airdrie	5
Beiseker	
MD of Rocky View	
Crossfield	5
Chestermere	5
Irricana	
Rocky View School Division #41	
2007 Municipal Activity Summary	
Fund Development	
Capital Funding/Vehicle Replacement Strategy	6
Fleet Details	
Adopt a Family	
Donations and Support	9

Manager's Message

This year was a year of shortages. From January to June, we operated without a spare vehicle after a minor collision wrote off one of our older van (our vehicle was rear-ended). This was particularly challenging as we have a fleet of old vehicles and breakdowns happen frequently. From July to December, we faced a labour shortage as we lost drivers to the demands of family business of labour shortage. Without adequate staffing levels we were forced to defer new activities such as developing new service areas (Chestermere/Langdon) or undertaking our annual fund-raising campaign for operating funds.

Despite the challenges, we managed a respectable showing of ourselves. In 2007, we provided a few more trips than we did in 2006. We now receive improved support from the municipalities of Crossfield, Rocky View and Chestermere. We completed our \$240,000 capital fundraising goal.

We'll be looking at some challenges in the coming year; increased demand for service, staffing challenges of the hot Alberta labour market and a campaign to replace 4 buses will be some of the c

Ray Howden

With sadness, we note that Ray Howden passed away on April 22, 2007. In 1998, Ray gave us a handibus donation. It wasn't just a matter of dropping off a cheque. There were discussions where he found out exactly what we needed. Then one day he dropped off the keys. Ray's generous spirit extended to many organizations in the region, earning him a Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2003.

Major Initiatives

"Three To Get Ready"

In late summer 2006, we started a campaign for two more buses. At the start of 2007, we realized that our modest campaign had to encompass the replacement of a damaged bus.

EnCana, already onboard for capital campaign, graciously supported the expanded goal. The Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic and the Associated Canadian Travellers , both supporters of an earlier bus campaign, jumped back on board. A donation of \$80,000 (our largest single donation ever) came in with the intention to help us establish a full-time bus for the Chestermere / Langdon. A municipality (to be publicly named later) discovered that some left-over provincial infrastructure grant monies (\$65,000) could be made available to us. Then a few modest amounts such as a donation from Burnco Rock Products brought us a bit closer

Finally, an unexpected source of funds appeared. The Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) gave us status as a municipal service and eligibility for 100% GST refund on the bus purchases. This recategorization brought the final \$5,500 needed to complete our goal..

We'll be ordering vehicles soon and have an update on our website. In 2008 we plan to initiate our "Four To Go" campaign



Technology Upgrade

In 2004, the Calgary Foundation, through the Colin Fraser, Daniel Kenneth Fraser and May Shields Fraser fund, supported our technology acquisition research for scheduling software that could be shared amongst four non-profit groups operating in the rural Calgary region. Specialized software can run \$10,000 to \$40,000, obviously a large undertaking for a group such as ours. These funds allowed us to research a document outlining all the background material relevant an informed purchase for our needs

The technology upgrade has been on hold throughout 2006 and 2007 we waited on as implementation of a regional collaboration initiative from the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP). The CRP was to develop a central coordination body, offering a central booking computer system. As of Feb 2008, we are still unclear of the of the Regional Partnership's progress and may re-start our own software acquisition in summer 2008

A Bus for Chestermere/ Langdon

In 2004, we approached the Town of Chestermere to discuss transportation in the Chestermere area. The Chestermere Bus Committee was subsequently formed to assess the situation and make recommendations.

IN March 2007, the town of Chestermere has agreed to commit up to \$30,000 as their part of a jointly funded bus and driver based in the Southeast Rocky View region. In May 2007 The MD of Rocky View agreed to add \$15,000 to our operating grant to assist with the pilot. In June 2007, the Calgary Foundation (again through the Colin Fraser, Daniel Kenneth Fraser and May Shields Fraser fund) donated \$10,000 towards the first year of the pilot project.

No sooner than we had a green light on funding, we encountered a driver shortage. Between Aug 2007 and Feb 2008, we operated with two driver positions unfilled. Although the shortage prevented dedicating a driver to the region, we continued to provide service during our off peak hours (i.e. 10 am - 2 pm). Despite the limited service hours, we were able to provide 350 trips in 2007.

2008 looks promising for staffing. Chestermere and Rocky View remain committed to better service to this region and our bus campaign will help us be assured that we have equipment to dedicate to the region.

	Sor	ith East l	Rocky Vie	PW/	Sub Total	C	nestermer	Sub Total	Gand Total	
Month	South East Rocky View Teducation Medical personal vocation		Total	medical	personal	respite	Total	Total		
January	11		•	4	15		•	•		15
February	11			4	15	2			2	17
March	13			5	18					18
April	10			8	18	6			6	24
May	11			11	22	4			4	26
June	12	4		8	24	2			2	26
July	12	1	54	8	75	6		1	7	82
August	12		8	13	33		6	2	8	41
September	9			21	30		2		2	32
0October	9			11	20	4	4		8	28
November	8			11	19	2			2	21
December	4			8	12	6	2		8	20
Grand Total	122	5	62	112	301	32	14	3	49	350

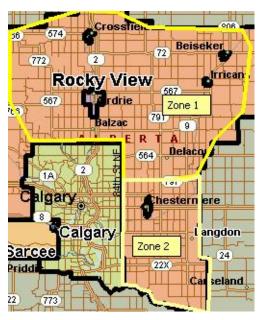
Organization History

The Crossfield, Rocky View, Airdrie, Balzac (C.R.A.B.) Society for the Handicapped was formed to provide a disability resource centre to promote integration of special needs children within the Rocky View School Division. In 1980, parents of rural special needs children solicited the donation of a bus from a Calgary branch of

the Royal Canadian Legion. This bus was used to provide transportation. Within two years, the organization's mandate had expanded to include seniors and adults with disabilities.

In the mid-1990's the organization's focus started to shift away from a resource centre to exclusively focus on transportation. In 1998, the C.R.A.B. Society was renamed **Handi Bus By C.R.A.B. Society**, an organization with five vehicles serving the north and east regions of Rocky View. In 2002, we became the **Rocky View Regional Handibus Society**.

Rocky View Regional Handibus works with some 35 agencies and organizations with passengers in eight municipalities. In 2003, seven drivers provided roughly 10,000 trips for residents of five municipalities. The 2,550 square kilometres service area is 350% the size of Calgary. In 2004, 13,700 trips were provided – a 36% increase over 2003.



Governance

A eight-member Board of Directors meets monthly with the Manager to set policy, review activity and approve finances. Directors live in Crossfield, Calgary, Rocky View, Irricana and Airdrie.

Board of Directors:

President:Albert Hulzebus, CalgaryDirectors:Carmela Hutchinson, IrricanaPast-President:Tim Veenstra, Rocky ViewJo Ann Miller, CalgarySecretary:Sharon George, AirdrieJudi Smith, CrossfieldTreasurer:Geoff Cooke, AirdrieSuzanne Wilson, Airdrie

Staff:

- 2 office staff (Manager, Operations Supervisor)
- 6 drivers (normally have 8 drivers)

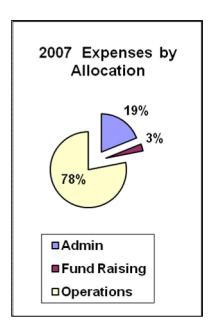
Overhead

Under Canadian Urban Transit Association performance guidelines, we identify our overhead costs (administration and fundraising) to be roughly 19% of our expenses.

Testimonial

"Rocky View is serviced by an efficient and courteous Handibus service. Rocky View Handibus is considered one of the best operated and most customer service orientated in the Province."

http://www.albertafirst.com/profiles/statspack/20700.html



Municipal Highlights

MD of Rocky View

In 2007, Rocky View allocated \$49,000 of their \$79,000 special transportation provider (STP) funding to our operations. In late 2007 we saw big increases in demand from the Balzac and Symons Valley areas as ageing residents began participation in day-hospital programs. With the additional prospect of a full-time bus working in the SERV region, we anticipate a possible 40% increase in activity for Rocky View. With major development underway in most corners of the district, we look forward to increased community transportation interest in Rocky View.

Crossfield

2007 saw a significant decrease in transportation to Calgary destinations and a significant increase to travel to regional destinations such as Airdrie. Support from Crossfield includes a member of Council to sit on our board. For the past nine years Councilor Joel Steenhart has been our Crossfield representative until the Fall of 2007 when he decided not to run for a fourth term of office. Councilor Judi Smith replaces Joel who retires to spend more time with his family. We also appreciate the ongoing support of business such Finnie Trucking and Crossfield Towing

Chestermere

As discussed in our major initiatives section, we have been working to improve service in Chestermere. One great benefit has been the collaboration of the <u>Chestermere Bus Committee</u> who have been both encouraging and patient as our labour shortage prevented us taking on the pilot project for their region. Not content to just provide advice, members of the bus committee have been also helping us talk to donors and stakeholders. One discussion has lead to an \$80,000 donation towards our "Three to get ready" campaign

Irricana

Transportation for Irricana residents has dropped as some residents (seniors) have moved to care facilities in the urban centres. A brief presentation in spring 2007 to Irricana Council has not improved funding support from the municipality especially as there was a major turnover in the council after the Fall municipal election. Obviously more effort is required to keep new council members informed of our work. Once again, we greatly appreciate the support of Tall Taylor Publishing. Their staff have been very helpful in making our story interesting to readers of the Rocky View Weekly.

Beiseker

In 2003, Beiseker provided some financial support and coincidentally enough, Beiseker residents stopped needing the bus. We consider that support as "on account" as we have provided occasional transportation. Recently, Beiseker residents have been requesting transportation to Airdrie for physiotherapy. We see this trend continuing in the coming year.

Airdrie

In March 2002, the City of Airdrie consolidated their public transportation services with Cardinal Coach Lines of Calgary. Five years after the policy change, we still receive weekly enquiries from Airdrie residents wanting transportation to Calgary. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support from the Airdrie Knights of Columbus and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #288.

Rocky View School Division #41

Although not a "municipality," the Rocky View School Division remains one of our strongest collaborators. Working under the provisions of an "independent operator" contract, we provide a quality service at a fair market price to the school division. We also provide resource knowledge on specialized transportation and some charter operation when the special needs students are participating on field trips. The arrangement helps the school board and provides some resources that we can subsequently use to assist our non-student passengers.

2007 Municipal Activity Summary

Municipality	Trips	Transport	Passenger	Municipal	Local	Handibus
	2000	Total Cost	Revenues	Contributions	Donations	Contribution
Airdrie	574	\$25,987.00	\$8,959.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$15,528.00
Beiseker	6	\$248.00	\$48.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Irricana	355	\$15,343.00	\$4,085.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,258.00
Rocky View, MD of	2472	\$87,491.00	\$23,914.50	\$49,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$12,776.50
Chestermere	49	\$7,445.00	\$8 20.00	\$5,400.00	\$77.00	\$1,148.00
Crossfield	1204	\$36,177.00	\$4,509.75	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$21,667.25
Municipal Totals	4660	\$172,691.00	\$42,336.25	\$64,400.00	\$3,377.00	\$62,577.75

Notes

- The cost of transportation in Chestermere includes \$5,950 of start-up costs in addition to \$1,497 in actual transportation costs. Start-up costs include meetings, grant applications, fund-raising, etc for the entire twelve months of 2007.
- Village of Beiseker contributed \$3,000 in 2003. As previously mentioned, demand from Beiseker remained low as compared to several years ago. We have considered that amount to be "on account" toward current and future transportation activity. We estimate that \$1,900 of that amount has carried forward to 2008 as we continue to help Beiseker residents.
- o "Local donations" reflect donations solicited by Rocky View Handibus specifically to support operation in a particular community. Our 2007 local fundraising efforts were hampered by staff shortages
- Contribution from Rocky View Regional Handibus ("Handibus") includes; lottery funds, reserves created from fee for service activities and other general donations not tied to a particular community

Fund Development

Rocky View Regional Handibus fundraises for both operations and capital. Our fundraising strategy asks neighbouring stakeholders to contribute their part of the bigger funding goal. By spreading the work around, we achieve better stability. Despite a lack of designated fundraising resources (staff), we continue to learn how to keep in touch with our donors.

Rocky View Regional Handibus has committed to the Ethical Fund-raising Code of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and is licensed for fund-raising by the Alberta Government.

Capital Funding/Vehicle Replacement Strategy

As mentioned previously, we recently revised our campaign to accommodate the unexpected loss of a bus to a traffic accident. This year we looked at our past success and planned a three year strategy to acquire vehicles.

Year	Goal	Fundraising Target	Campaign Title	Comment
2005	2 buses	\$150,000	Two For The Road	Success- Second bus started service Feb 2006
2006	2 buses	\$160,000	Two More For The Road	Revised to 3 buses target in Dec 2006
2007	3 buses	\$240,000	Three To Get Ready	Fundraising goal achieved Feb 2008
2008	4 buses	\$340,000	Four To Go	
2009	5 buses	\$450,000	TBA	
2010	5 buses	\$475,000	TBA	

Fleet Details

Our buses are equipped to Canadian Standards Association (CSA) D409 specifications. Our vehicles are maintained by licensed mechanics and also inspected semi-annually to Alberta Transportation standards.

Van	Year/Model	Fuel	Seating	Odometer (12-31-07)	Comments
2	1994 Dodge Ram 350	Propane	W/C: 2/Amb: 7	552,125 km	out of service
3	1994 Dodge B250	Propane	W/C: 1/Amb: 7	437,772 km	
4	2000 Dodge B350	Propane	W/C: 4/Amb: 4	383,823 km	
5	1994 Dodge Ram 350	Gas	W/C: 2/Amb: 7	344,808 km	
6	1995 Ford 7.3L	Diesel	W/C: 2/Amb: 5	355,519 km	
7	2005 Dodge Sprinter	Diesel	W/C 1/ Amb: 8	128,938 km	(159" wheelbase)
8	2000 Dodge B350	Propane	W/C: 4/Amb: 4	375,722 km	
9	2005 Dodge Sprinter	Diesel	W/C: 2/Amb: 4	118,992 km	(140" wheelbase)
10*	2006 Ford Freestar	Gas	W/C: 1/ Amb 4	63,937 km	Liberty Motors
11	2005 Ford Freestar	Gas	W/C: 1/ Amb 4	69,649 km	Liberty Motors
12	1998 GMC/Girardin	Gas	W/C: 2/Amb: 7	335,113 km	(Ray Howden bus)

Note: Van 10 was damaged in a car-cattle encounter. Replacement vehicle (Van 14) delivered February 2008

Adopt a Family

Each year, our staff undertakes to adopt a "family-in-need" during the Christmas season. With the assistance of our passengers, we acquired donations of food, presents and cash to support Christmas for a family of five. Donations in excess of the family's needs were used to create an additional 35 presents for teenagers. Our friends at the Airdrie Lioness Club distributed these presents in their Adopt- a-Family hampers.

Municipality/0		Calgary Destinations							Local Destinations							
withicipality/	Sioup	2001	2002	2003	2004		2006	2007		2001	2002	2003	2004		2006	2007
School	Education	1287	1644	2029	2759	3980	4256	3586		2437	1715	2224	4222	3867	4026	5209
Board	Total	1287	1644	2029	2759	3980	4256	3586		2437	1715	2224	4222	3867	4026	5209
Airdrie	Education	2175	1949	1461	908	1080	1205	534		34	68*	138	211	0	0	0
	Medical	323	150*	0	94	269	11	16		626	170*	0	0	0	0	0
* tender awarded to	Personal	351	115	3	1	13	2	24		509	120*	0	0	0	0	0
Cardinal Coachlines	Respite	0	8*	0	0	0	0	0		891	176*	0	0	0	0	0
in April 2002	Work/Vol	265	127	80	0	1	0	0		311	116*	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	3114	2349	1544	1003	1363	1218	574		2371	650	138	211	0	0	0
Crossfield	Education	0	0	141	412	477	0	0		36	4	0	0	0	0	0
	Medical	19	49	64	56	131	39	27		15	22	24	33	46	12	14
	Personal	16	18	4	7	168	124	33		62	80	37	695	775	691	614
	Respite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	6	97	58	0	0	34	172
	Work/Vol	0	0	10	0	0	1	0		0	0	28	0	0	118	344
	Total	35	67	219	475	776	164	60		119	203	147	728	821	855	1144
MD of	Education	458	804	846	1009	665	103	568		0	0	6	0	0	0	0
Rocky	Medical	127	193	258	405	167	49	38		4	26	25	7	0	0	26
View	Personal	85	88	75	6	31	166	68		0	53	140	127	34	37	10
	Respite	11	0	0	2	0	4	0		0	64	204	147	0	58	403
	Work/Vol	665	654	801	767	595	633	695	-	424	400	522	465	479	546	664
	Total	1346	1739	1980	2189	1458	955	1369		428	543	897	746	513	641	1103
Beiseker	Medical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	4	0	0	13	0	6
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	4	0	0	13	0	6
Irricanna	Medical	0	1	0	7	3	50	18		0	0	6	0	0	27	7
	Personal	0	0	0	2	0	0	2		0	0	0	1	0	3	2
	Respite	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		0	94	335	201	243	237	89
	Work/Vol Total	0	0 1	0 0	<u>0</u>	212 215	289 340	165 185	-	0 0	9 4	341	202	276	271	72 170
Chestermere	Education	420	165	0	9	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Onestermere	Medical	0	0	0	0	2	0	28	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Resp/pers	17	0	2	8	7	11	17	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Work/Vol	122	96	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	559	261	2	17	9	11	45		0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Misc	Education	0	0	156	410	429	23	4		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Personal	10	19	68	199	113	275	168		1	30	0	22	0	41	0
	Respite	9	0	0	0	0	3	4		16	10	0	53	3	0	0
	Work/Vol	5	16	99	131	0	3	10		0	2	0	2	0	58	4
	Total	24	35	323	740	542	304	186		17	42	0	77	3	99	4
	Note: Transfe	ers, Charte	ers, pro	bono tra	ansporta	ation, et	C.									
Regional Sub	-Totals	6365	6096	6097	7192	8343	7248	6005		5372	3251	3747	6186	5493	5892	7640
0111414			0000	0000	0001	0005	0000									
SUMMARY	· min · m s \	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007								
Activity (all re	egions)	11737	9347	9844	13378	13836	13140	13645								

Donations and Support

Our is operation is possible because of these generous supporters:

(* indicates multi-vear assistance)

Champions (over \$15,000)

& ACT/UCT Calgary Club & Calgary Foundation* & Colin Fraser, Daniel Fraser and May Shields Fraser Fund* & EnCana* & Nexen Balzac Complex* & Nickle Family Foundation* & Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic

Benefactors (\$5,000-\$14,999)

& Colin Fraser, Daniel Fraser and May Shields Fraser Fund" & Children's Hospital Aid Society* \$ RBC Foundation \$ Royal Canadian Legion #288* & TD Canada Trust* & TransCanada Pipelines

Underwriters (\$2,500-\$4,999)

& Airdrie Knights of Columbus* & Beddington Hall Board* & Bank of Nova Scotia & South Rock Employee Charitable Foundation*

Associates (\$1,000-\$2,499)

& Airdrie Lions Club* & Airdrie Lioness Club* & ATCO Gas Employee Fund* & Burnco* & Calpine Calgary Energy Centre* & Compton Petroleum* & Crossfield Lions & Crossfield Royal Purple. Hulzebos & Sears Young Futures & Southern AB Action Fund for the Disabled Foundation

Sustainers (\$500-\$999)

& Bonavista Petroleum & Bow Valley Credit Union \$ Crossfield Elks #416 \$ Friends of Ray Howden & Irricana Lions Club & Mckee Homes & Maxfield & Optimist Club of Airdrie & Pembina Pipeline Corporation & Lloyd Ralston Memorial Fund & Volker Stevin Contracting & Walton International Group & Yankee Valley Estates Ltd. & Zapata Energy Corp & Zytech Building Systems

Contributors (\$100-\$499)

& Agricore Balzac & Airdrie Kinsmen Club & Airdrie Women in Business & Alberta Agricultural Social Club & Andrews Family & Bow Valley Credit Union & C. Calder & R & G Church & M. Colpitts & Mr & Mrs Combs & EMB Enterprises & Finnie Hauling & Storage & Friends of Balzac Billy & Kinsmen Club Of Airdrie * & B. LaPeare & J.A. Miller & Rocky View Employees Club & Royal Canadian Legion #113

Municipalities

Town of Crossfield MD of Rocky View #44 Village of Beiseker Village of Irricana Town of Chestermere

Affiliations

Canadian Urban Transit Association Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations Imagine Canada

Collaborating Organizations

(We greatly appreciate their advice and cooperation) Airdrie Lioness Club Balzac Business Association Big Springs Seniors Activity Society (Cochrane) Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Calgary Community Network Association Calgary Handi-bus Association Calgary Health Region: Calgary Regional Partnership (Rick Butler) Calgary Transit/Access Calgary Chestermere Bus Committee Claresholm Transportation Society Focus IT Solutions

High River Handibus Association Kahanoff Centre Municipal District of Rocky View FCSS North Rocky View Community Resource Centre Ouest Children's Society Renfrew Educational Services Rocky View Foundation Rocky View School Division #41

S. E. Rocky View FCSS

Suppliers (These folks go above and beyond)

Airdrie Automotive Crossfield Towing (a local hero!) East Lake Automotive High Country Auto and Propane (Calgary) Highfield Diesel (Airdrie) Kirkman Bus Sales OK Tire (Airdrie) Par Auto Parts (Airdrie)

Royal Canadian Legion #288 (Airdrie)