

A ride that benefits everyone



**Free transit connects us
to work, school, care, and family.**

www.yapc.ca

Free Transit Moves Us All Forward

The Free Transit Program has already made a big difference for people across our community. It makes it possible for people to get to work, attend medical appointments, buy groceries, go to school, and take part in local events. When transit is free, affordability improves for the people in our community who need it most, and our city becomes more connected and inclusive.

As one of the larger distributors of passes and tickets through the program, YAPC hears from many people each month about the impact the program has on their lives—but we also hear their frustration. We see bus passes run out, people being sent from one location to another, and no consistent system to ensure that there are enough government-run locations or passes to meet community demand.

For example in the first two days of October, YAPC distributed more than 125 passes and fielded over 30 calls from residents trying to find more information about pass availability. Non-governmental organizations like YAPC have taken on much of the distribution workload—without funding and without knowing what will happen when it ends in November.

Meanwhile, under the direction of the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA), the Yukon government allocated \$1.5 million to support free transit. We have asked for details on how funding has actually been spent on passes and tickets, but to date, no financial information has been provided.

We've seen what's possible when governments and community partners work together. The Free Transit Program has proven that accessibility and equity go hand in hand—and that it's a straightforward, practical way to improve affordability. It keeps our community connected, our workplaces staffed, and our families supported.

Free transit moves us all forward—and it deserves a continued and expanded future.

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How the Yukon Government and the City can Support Free Public Transit

While the City of Whitehorse operates the buses, manages routes, and provides the day-to-day transit service, the Yukon government funds and oversees the Free Transit Program through the CASA agreement, replacing lost fare revenue. The Yukon government also manages the pass distribution system and will decide whether the program continues beyond November 2025.

The City still has an important role to play—it can support accessible transit in its budgets, help coordinate distribution sites, share data about ridership and demand, and publicly back the continuation of free transit.

Because the Yukon government controls the funding and the City controls the operations, long-term success depends on both governments working together.

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Yukon Government & City of Whitehorse:

- **Publicly commit to continuing the Free Transit Program beyond November 2025.**
- **Ensure an adequate number of government-run distribution sites with enough passes to meet demand.**
- **Be transparent about how the \$1.5 million transit budget is being spent and how the program is being evaluated. (Yukon Government)**
- **Center dignity and accessibility in all transportation decisions.**

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