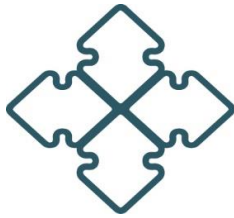


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### **Proposed Budget Cuts on Transit in the 2020 Multi-Year Budget**

According to the City's 2020 budget, these are the list of service reductions and cuts on transit.

- Proposed transit cuts is capped at 2% annual increase.
- To fit within the 2% target, Transit would need to reduce its operating budget in 2020 by \$5.8 million; by \$5.5 million in 2021; by \$8.4 million in 2022; and \$9.2 million in 2023.
- The cuts in 2020 alone would
  - End evening service over an hour earlier, at 12:15am
  - End peak hour service at 5:45pm
  - Eliminate the free Downtown Spirit bus
  - Eliminate the DART service
  - Eliminate BUStxt (a real-time information service)
  - Reduced shelter cleaning
  - Reduce interior bus cleaning
  - Eliminate paper printed schedules which are distributed to libraries and other public centres
  - Eliminate community grants such as Christmas Cheer Board, Green Action Centre and Winnipeg Harvest.
  - Reduce its advertising budgets.
  - Reduce transfers to the bus replacement program
- Starting in 2021, where there would be more significant cuts would include
  - End weekday and Saturday services at 24:15am
  - End peak hour service at 17:45pm
  - Widespread service rationalization (shuttering or reducing neighbourhood routes that feed onto major arteries; some neighbourhoods wouldn't have any feeder route service at all, while some passengers would have to walk farther to their stop).
- Transit cuts also calls for seven fewer full-time equivalent positions in 2020, 74.5 fewer in 2021, 97.5 fewer in 2022 and 103.5 fewer in 2023.



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- The cuts also leaves funding questions about new Transit programs, such as the low-income bus pass slated for implementation in April 2020. Transit says it factored in some costs for **LIBP (\$236,000)** initiative but not the expected lost revenue.
- On the capital side, reductions in bus replacements would see Transit attempt to make its buses last 21 years, instead of 18. That would put the city on track to add 180 buses over six years, instead of 250.
- The proposed cuts and changes above according to Transit are needed to save a combined \$5.9 million of operating funds and \$12.8 million in capital costs in 2020, in order to meet the 2% cap.

### References

- City of Winnipeg (2019). 2019 Preliminary Operating Budget 2019 Capital Budget and Five-Year Capital Forecast. Retrieved from <https://www.winnipeg.ca/interhom/Budget/2019Budget/pdfs/2019TransitPreliminaryOperatingCapitalBudget.pdf>
- City of Winnipeg (2019). 2020 Operating and Capital Budget on Transit. Retrieved from [https://www.winnipeg.ca/interhom/Budget/2020Budget/pdfs/2020-Multi-year-Budget-Presentation Transit 20191113.pdf](https://www.winnipeg.ca/interhom/Budget/2020Budget/pdfs/2020-Multi-year-Budget-Presentation%20Transit%2020191113.pdf)