



Transportation and Mobility Action Plan – Backgrounder

General

The City is taking a citywide approach to mobility as we prepare for a change in commuting patterns, with up to 65,000 additional weekly trips downtown anticipated by fall 2026. Our focus is on keeping Ottawa moving as travel patterns continue to change.

- The City is getting ready for an increase in traffic this fall as employees increase their in-office presence, regular traffic patterns return post-summer, and students head back to school throughout the region.
- To help move people and goods efficiently across Ottawa, our Transportation and Mobility Action Plan is improving how transportation options work together.
 - The strategy is based on transportation data, travel analysis, and input from Councillors, major employers and regional partners.
- The plan includes a number of enhancements to support your daily commute, grouped into several broad categories.
 - **Prioritizing transit:** The City will enhance transit and Para Transpo service to improve capacity and reliability, including implementing express routes to serve key locations and employment hubs, and improved parking access near transit.
 - **Keeping traffic moving:** The City will continue to optimize traffic flow by monitoring and adjusting signal timing, ensuring efficient incident response and enforcement, and increasing coordination of roadway construction activities.
 - **Promoting more ways to move:** The City will encourage more multi-modal options, like walking and cycling, as convenient alternatives for daily trips, along with encouraging transit, shuttles and Park & Ride options.
 - **Keeping you informed:** The City will provide timely, clear travel information to support the trip planning and system navigation needed to travel with confidence.
- Acting early will help us keep people moving as more employees prepare for an increased in-office presence, and as students head back to school.
- Visit the [Mobility Hub](#) page for the latest updates, tools, and resources to get to know your route and help plan your commute.

Prioritizing Transit

OC Transpo is introducing service enhancements to improve reliability, increase capacity and support anticipated growth in ridership. More frequent O-Train service, enhanced Para Transpo

service, new express bus routes, better Park & Ride connections and additional bus service on key routes will help keep Ottawa moving.

- **Service on O-Train Line 1** will be enhanced, with more frequent service and increased capacity with double-car trains on weekdays.
 - More frequent O-Train service means shorter waits and more space on board
 - Trains will run every 4 minutes at peak times – down from every 5 minutes.
 - Trains will run every 6 minutes during mid-day periods and every 7 minutes in early evenings – down from every 10 minutes.
 - The system will run double-car trains on weekdays.
- **Service on O-Train Line 2** will start earlier, with morning service from the south end beginning at 6 am.
- **New express buses** will provide fast, direct connections with limited stops between Park & Ride lots, O-Train stations and major employment areas.
 - The express service will offer faster travel times for customers, at the same fare as regular service.
- **More frequent service will be added for key routes**, including routes 5, 13, 24, 39, 61, 62, 63, 66, 74, 75, 98, and 256
- **Improved service is planned to major employment centres**, including DND Carling Campus and Kanata North, as well as new trips on Route 13 to Terrasses de la Chaudière in Gatineau
- **Enhanced Para Transpo service** will help strengthen reliability for customers
- **More customer support staff** will be in place to help customers across the transit system
- **The City will deliver more reliable transit service** through improved schedules, ongoing service monitoring, new electric buses and enhanced maintenance

Keeping traffic moving

Traffic operations, transit services and construction activities are being managed together as one system so that, as travel demand increases, we can reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and help people in Ottawa make informed travel choices.

- **To reduce construction impacts**, the City will coordinate construction projects across the city to reduce impacts on your travel.
 - Work is underway to restore or increase road capacity where possible before fall.
 - Construction will be scheduled on evenings and off-peak periods when possible.
 - Lane closures will be limited during busy travel times whenever possible.
 - Projects will be coordinated to reduce bottlenecks and overlapping traffic impacts.

- **To help manage traffic flow**, the City's Traffic Services team will increase monitoring and enforcement in real time, and adjust traffic signals to help keep traffic flowing as conditions change.
 - Improving incident response times will help clear disruptions quickly
 - Adding traffic cameras and targeted enforcement in key areas will help reduce the number and duration of disruptions
 - Reducing congestion during peak commuting times by updating parking and stopping regulations along key community routes to help keep travel lanes clear and free from stationary vehicles
 - Improving pick-up and drop-off options near major workplaces by adding and updating short-term loading zones. These changes will help people get to and from work more easily.

Promoting more ways to get around

Choosing different travel options reduces congestion and improves the overall transportation system. We will share tips with commuters on how to use and combine alternatives to driving, including transit, cycling, walking, and Park & Ride options that can make travel easier for all.

- **Park & Ride** remains one of the easiest ways to avoid traffic and connect to transit. The City is improving transit service to and from its Park & Ride facilities, and has more than 9,000 free parking spaces at Park & Ride lots across Ottawa and nearby rural communities.
- **New connections between parking areas and transit** are underway to help make transfers easier.
- **More flexible parking options** are being introduced and promoted, with greater flexibility for eligible monthly parking pass holders at City Hall, more opportunities for shared or temporary parking, and additional parking in strategic locations to support access to public transit and employment hubs like downtown.
- **OC Transpo's Rack and Roll program** helps customers combine cycling and transit, with bike racks on all buses and connections to cycling pathways across the network.
- **Walking and cycling** offer convenient alternatives for many daily trips, and the City is supporting these active transportation options by improving maps and trip-planning tools, maintaining pathways and bike lanes, and promoting cycling and walking options.

Keeping you informed

The City will keep residents informed regularly about traffic strategies and impacts, with the goal of helping residents make informed choices that will improve their commutes.

- **The City will share updates through multiple channels**, including a dedicated [Mobility Hub](#) page with the latest information and resources, social media updates, regular newsletters and public service announcements.
- **A suite of** tools and resources will be available to help residents plan their trips and explore transit, cycling, walking and carpooling options.
 - [Roadwork and street closures](#)
 - [Transit](#) app
 - [OC Travel Planner](#)
 - [Interactive Traffic Map](#)
- **Feedback from residents** will help identify opportunities for improvement, including through OC Transpo Customer Information Sessions and a feedback survey.
- **Actions will be rolled out in phases throughout the summer and fall**, with ongoing monitoring and adjustments. The City is working closely with partners, including the federal government and local businesses.

Additional Detail - Transit

West transit improvements

- More service from west-end Park & Ride lots to Tunney's Pasture and DND Carling Campus
- New express trips from Tunney's Pasture to DND Carling Campus, with some trips extending to Kanata North
- New express route linking Innovation, Terry Fox and Eagleson Park & Ride lots to DND Carling Campus
- More trips connecting Tunney's Pasture to Innovation Station

East transit improvements

- New express trips from Millennium, Place d'Orléans and Trim Park & Ride lots to Blair Station
- New trip on Route 24 from Chapel Hill Park & Ride to Blair Station
- New morning trip on the E1 Shuttle Express

Central & south improvements

- Better connections from Baseline and Greenboro Park & Ride lots to O-Train Line 1
- More service on Route 5 between Elmvale and Waller
- More service on Route 13 between Tunney's Pasture Station and Gatineau
- More service on Route 98 between Hunt Club and Hurdman Station

Improved reliability

- Improved schedules on 30 bus routes to improve reliability for 50 per cent of riders
- Ongoing monitoring to adjust service where it's needed most
- New electric bus fleet to provide customers with clean, comfortable trips
- Improved maintenance to keep vehicles in service

Trip planning tools and alerts

OC Transpo offers a range of easy-to-use tools to help you plan your trip and stay informed. Whether you're a regular rider or new to transit, OC Transpo's tools make it easier to get where you're going:

- **Transit app:** OC Transpo's official app partner puts live bus information at your fingertips so you know exactly when your ride is arriving.

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- **Travel Planner:** Helps you plan the best trip to your destination or check the latest schedules for your route or stop.
- **Real-time alerts and notifications:** Subscribe for updates on service changes, delays and disruptions.
- **octranspo.com:** Up-to-date schedules, route maps and service updates in one convenient place.

Together, these tools give you the information you need to make confident travel decisions and avoid delays.