



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Presentation of the results of the study on public transit for the regions of Edmundston, Haut-Madawaska, and the Maliseet First Nation

Edmundston, July 19, 2023 - In 2022, an advisory committee on public transit was formed for the regions of Edmundston, Haut-Madawaska, and the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation. At that time the stakeholders around the table authorized the Edmundston Chamber of Commerce to conduct a study on the real public transit needs. In January 2023, the Northwest Regional Service Commission (NWRSC), like all the other regional service commissions (RSCs) in New Brunswick, received the mandate for regional public transit, and thus took over to continue the study. The results of the first part of the study, conducted by the Vector 5 consulting firm, were sent to the NWRSC and the various partners in early June. It is these results, showing the need to establish a route linking the communities of Haut-Madawaska, Edmundston, and the Maliseet First Nation that are being revealed publicly today.

Hence, the NWRSC, with the support of the advisory committee on public transit for the Edmundston, Haut-Madawaska, and Maliseet First Nation regions, wants to move ahead with the plan to roll out the service. I invite you to refer to the attached document for a summary of the results of the study in question. Over the next few months, it will be a matter of examining the various options for the deployment plan, applying for grants, and looking at the different potential funding options for the public transit service, including seeking partnerships and carrying out education and promotion efforts related to the service that will be offered in our area.

This study was made possible by the following financial partners: City of Edmundston, Town of Haut-Madawaska, Maliseet First Nation, WorkingNB, ACOA, and the Local Immigration Partnership.

It should be noted that a second study is currently under way for the rest of the NWRSC area, that is, Vallée-des-Rivières, Grand Falls, and Saint-Quentin. The Vector 5 personal mobility firm expects to be able to table the report of this study in January 2024.

Stéphanie Beaulieu, Transportation Coordinator at the NWRSC, was hired on April 24, 2023 by the NWRSC to advance the public transit file.

For more information or Interviews, please contact:

Stéphanie Beaulieu
Transportation Coordinator (NWRSC)
Email: s.beaulieu@csrno.ca
Telephone: 506-388-6750

Northwest Public Transit Service

The Northwest Regional Service Commission (CSRNO) has shared the results of a study relating to the creation of a public transportation system on the territory of the communities of Edmundston, Haut-Madawaska and the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation. The organization plans to implement a transit system based on the results of the study conducted by Vecteur 5, with a focus on two major components:

- An on-demand taxibus service dedicated to serving the city of Edmundston with approximately 200 localized stops to allow for easy access to residential areas and points of interest between the Rivière-Verte and Saint-Jacques areas, at frequencies varying according to the sector, but ranging between 5 and more than 25 departures per day. A personalized service, adapted to the needs of people with reduced mobility or with disabilities will also be offered at a frequency of 3 to 6 departures per day throughout the territory of the City of Edmundston.
- A bus service providing three round trips per day and connecting approximately 48 km of high priority commute areas within the City of Edmundston and the Town of Haut-Madawaska. Some sixty bus stops will be offered along the route, including at the commercial sector of Victoria Street, the Edmundston Regional Hospital, the campus (CCNB & Université de Moncton) and the Carrefour Assomption.

These two services will be designed to be complementary and will allow citizens to more easily move throughout the service area in order to more easily access academic institutions, get to work, run errands, visit relatives or participate in leisure activities.

The study suggests that users could be able to travel for an estimated cost ranging from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per trip. Reduced rates may be offered for certain clienteles or through the purchase of a monthly pass.

*See the back of this page for the proposed route map.

