

## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Operations Committee  
**Report From:** Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services  
**Meeting Date:** February 19, 2026  
**Report Code:** OP-26-003  
**Subject:** FlixBus Transit Service Use of Owen Sound Transit  
Terminal Platform Agreement Extension to April 2027

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### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-003 respecting an Agreement Extension to April 2027 for FlixBus Transit Service use of Owen Sound Transit Terminal Platform, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with Flixbus Transit Service for the use of the City of Owen Sound Transit Terminal platform as outlined in the report.

### Highlights:

- Staff are recommending approval of the second one-year extension to the agreement, which would continue the service through April 30, 2027.
- Tickets for FlixBus service are available exclusively through the FlixBus website [FlixBus: Cheap Bus Tickets in Canada](#) or by mobile app.

### Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: The recommendation contributes to core service delivery or a corporate initiative that enables service delivery for one or more strategic priorities.

## **Previous Report/Authority:**

[OP-25-013 Flixbus Transit Service – Use of Owen Sound Transit Terminal Contract Extension](#)

[OP-24-007 – Flixbus Transit Service Use of Owen Sound Transit Terminal Platform](#)

## **Background:**

On February 26, 2024, Council approved the Operations Committee minutes authorizing an agreement between the City and FlixBus for use of the Owen Sound Transit Terminal platform. FlixBus began intercity service in Owen Sound on May 30, 2024, operating five days per week (Thursday to Monday, including holidays). The service includes one arrival and one departure per operating day, for a total of 10 weekly stops. Buses are scheduled to arrive at 1:30 p.m. and depart at 3:15 p.m., providing a two-hour layover that allows passengers access to terminal amenities.

The current FlixBus route connects Owen Sound with Toronto Union Station, with stops at Pearson Airport, Barrie, Collingwood, Thornbury, and Meaford. In the summer of 2025, the route was expanded to include additional stops in Port Elgin and Sauble Beach; this additional service ended in October and may continue in the Summer of 2026. Tickets are sold through the FlixBus website.

The original agreement took effect on April 29, 2024, with an initial term ending April 30, 2025, and included provisions for up to two one-year extensions. Under the agreement, FlixBus pays the City a monthly platform usage fee of \$500. On April 14, 2025, Council approved the first one-year extension. Staff are now recommending approval of the second one-year extension to ensure continued intercity bus service.

## **Analysis and Options:**

Following consultation with City Staff, FlixBus has confirmed its intent to exercise the second one-year extension option under the existing agreement. As a result, Staff are recommending approval of the second one-year extension, which would extend the agreement term to April 30, 2027.

## **Resource Alignment:**

### **Financial Resources**

The City will continue to receive a monthly fee of \$500, plus HST, from FlixBus for terminal use, generating approximately \$6,000 annually.

FlixBus has been advised that Sunday and holiday transit terminal access is contingent on the continuation of the GOST agreement through to August 31, 2026. Transit staff do not provide operational support to FlixBus; their presence allows riders to access transit terminal facilities, including washrooms, during open hours. Should FlixBus request facility access beyond the end of the GOST agreement, arrangements would need to be discussed, including a review of the monthly fee for continued transit terminal access and staff presence.

### **Human Resources**

It is anticipated that approximately 2–3 hours of staff time will be required to prepare, coordinate, and administer the necessary agreements. No additional administrative support is required, as all bookings are completed online. Transit Terminal staff and the Supervisor of Environmental Services do receive periodic inquiries about the service.

Should FlixBus require the transit terminal to remain open on Sundays and holidays beyond August 31, 2026, extending staffing would require discussions with FlixBus and an adjustment to the monthly facility usage fee to ensure full cost recovery.

### **Time and Scheduling**

N/A.

### **Technology and Infrastructure**

N/A.

### **Climate and Environmental Impacts:**

The recommendation supports both the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the City's Climate Mitigation Plan.

## **Communication and Engagement:**

A Media Release advising of the extension will be issued. Information on purchasing FlixBus tickets can be found on the City's Conventional Transit [webpage](#).

## **Report Developed in Consultation With:**

N/A.

## **Attachments:**

None.

## **Reviewed by:**

Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services  
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering

## **Submission approved by:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services at [hjennen@owensound.ca](mailto:hjennen@owensound.ca) or 519-376-4440.