

# MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE



To / Destinataire	Mayor and Members of Council Chair and Members of the Transit Commission	File/N° de fichier:
From / Expéditeur	General Manager Transportation Services Department	Date: February 21, 2020
Subject / Objet	O-Train Line 1 Busking Program Update	

This purpose of this memo is to provide an update on OC Transpo's O-Train Line 1 busking program.

In February 2018, staff brought forward a report to the Transit Commission entitled *Amendments to the Transit By-law for Multimodal Operations*, which was approved by the Transit Commission. One of the approved recommendations was for staff to develop and implement a busking program for Line 1 transit stations to ensure the proper management of busking activities. The program was subsequently established in collaboration with the City's Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department.

The main objective was to create a busking program that defines the selection, approval, registration, scheduling, and on-going management of buskers at Line 1 stations. As a result of best practice research and a benchmarking exercise, the final busking program will contain the following elements:

- Annual application and audition process via a selection committee consisting of local music industry professionals;
- Designated locations with program-specific signage;
- Limited performance time to allow for variety;
- Online scheduling tool for signing-up;
- Restrictions on age, sound levels, instruments, and amplification devices; and,
- A permit (including a photo ID) that provides the conditions in which the busker can perform, as well as the defined consequences for breaching those conditions.

The busking program will bring local musical entertainment, vibrancy and a sense of community to O-Train Line 1 stations, and it will also help to expand City-led music programming. The program falls under the City of Ottawa's #ottmusic initiative and reinforces the Council-approved *Ottawa Music Strategy*.

The program is anticipated to launch in Spring 2020. This Monday, February 24, the online application will be made available on [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca), and a call-out to musicians will go out through City of Ottawa communication channels. The application process will run from February 24 to March 27, 2020 and will be promoted on social media throughout the application period.

Should you have any questions, please contact Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, at ext. 52205, or myself at ext. 52111.

*Original signed by  
John Manconi*

cc: Senior Leadership Team  
Transportation Services Departmental Leadership Team  
Director, Public Information and Media Relations