



## The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

### Staff Report

**Report Title: County of Bruce Master Transportation Plan – Accessible Transportation**

**Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk**

**Department: Clerk**

**Date: Oct. 18, 2021**

**Report Number: CLK-2021-10-121**

**File Number:**

**C11 – SMART**

**Attachments: Report CAO-2019-11-42**

#### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby approves Report CLK-2021-10-121 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk AND directs staff to provide comments to the County of Bruce supporting County-Wide Accessible Transportation AND encourage conversations between the County and SMART.

#### **Background:**

At the October 4, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting, staff was directed to bring back a report regarding County of Bruce Master Transportation Plan regarding accessible transportation and how it relates to the services Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART) offers.

Council also requested information on what other accessible transportation options are available to Huron-Kinloss residents.

#### **Discussion:**

In September 2021 the County of Bruce completed the [County of Bruce Master Transportation Plan Study \(MTP\)](#). The purpose of the MTP is to create a safe and reliable transportation system within the County that meets the ground transportation needs of all persons and businesses to the year 2035.

This MTP Study forms the basis to guide future transportation decisions for the development of County roads and trails, cycling facilities, as well as the County's role in public transit services.

The MTP is now placed on public record and is available for a 30-day review period starting September 28, 2021 and ending October 29, 2021.

Key points from the MTP related to accessible transportation:

Section 2.2.3 Transit Services explains that the County does not provide transit services and there is no county-wide public transit service. The existing service is comprised of several independent service providers including SMART.

Generally, service provided by SMART is restricted to those who cannot because of their physical or mental challenges travel by conventional transit or taxi. These challenges include the required use of crutches, a cane, a walker or wheelchair; visual impairments; cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer's and/or developmental challenges. Challenges need not be permanent; they can be temporary and/or seasonal.

Service is only available to residents of member municipalities which include: Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Hanover, Huron-Kinloss, Chatsworth, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, Southgate and West Grey.

Table 2: Summary of Stakeholder Responses notes Lack of Public Transit including reliable, cost effective and accessible transportation is one of the biggest challenges.

Part of the mandate for the MTP is to partner with other government organizations and the private sector to coordinate and fund transportation initiative and services.

During the consultation process of the current review of the County of Bruce Official Plan recommendations were brought forward for a "Stronger role for the County in planning for, implementation, and maintaining a regional transportation network" and "The County should consider adopting policies in its official plan that would establish a mobility-based transportation plan which includes transit and active transportation."

On November 4, 2019, Staff brought forward report CAO-2019-11-42 outlining alternate transportation services which is attached for reference and remains relevant with additional taxi services being provided.

Since there are not many options for our residents for accessible transportation, Council has continued to support SMART over the years.

The MTP recommends investigating partnerships to help fund a County wide transit system or a 2 County transit system. Considering SMART already operates in both Bruce and Grey, staff supports the County to investigate these options further.

Since SMART is already operating within some of the lower tier municipalities, Council could encourage communications between the County and SMART.

### **Financial Impacts:**

The 2021 contribution towards SMART for the Township of Huron-Kinloss is \$44,442.00

### **Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community by being accessible for those with disabilities.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Emily Dance, Clerk

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer