



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report number: CAO2019-11-42

Prepared by: Michelle Goetz, Community
Development Officer

File Number: 100-SMART

Subject: Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit

Date: Nov. 4, 2019

2 Attachments:

[SMART Minutes of September 27, 2019](#)
[SMART 3rd Quarter Operational Report](#)

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO2019-11-42 prepared by Michelle Goetz, Community Development Officer/Executive Assistant.

Background:

Staff was provided direction by Council to investigate transportation options for the residents of Huron-Kinloss.

As of October 23, 2019, according to Saugeen Mobility, there are 37 individuals that utilize the SMART transportation services. 8 clients reside at R-Villa, 12 at Pinecrest and there are 17 others not associated with a facility. In September of 2019, a strategic plan was authorized by the SMART board and includes a capital project to upgrade the current aging fleet. SMART has also provided their most recent minutes and the 3rd quarter operational report, for Council's information.

The path forward is to leverage funds received from the Federal and Provincial governments (\$563,037) with partner funding. SMART plans to spend \$300,000 in 2020, \$305,000 in 2021 and \$180,000 in 2022 to update their fleet.

The Township of Huron-Kinloss contributed \$53,097.50 for SMART operations in the 2019 budget. The additional request, pending Federal approval of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, is approximately \$17,000.00 over the next 3 years to upgrade the SMART fleet. Using the current ridership, the current cost to the Township per user is \$1,435.07 in 2019 and would increase to \$1,588.20 per user in 2020 with the capital investment and no changes to ridership.

A comparison of transportation services is provided below:

SMART

SMART transportation is only available to residents from member Municipalities:

Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Hanover, Chatsworth, Southgate and West Grey. Clients must meet certain physical and/or mental challenges to use the service, this can include: the inability to walk up three steps, the inability to walk 175 metres unassisted (570 ft.). Challenges can also include; visual impairment, crutches, walkers, cognitive impairments, or developmental challenges; the challenges need not be permanent.

Clients pay a user fee of \$2.00 + \$0.50/km per ride.

Home and Community Support Grey Bruce

Movin'GB is a service provided to residents of Grey and Bruce Counties for medical or social outings. Users must be over the age of 18 and must be a client of Home and Community Support Services Grey Bruce. To become a client, an intake/assessment is done prior to scheduling a ride. No physical or mental challenges must be present in order to schedule a ride through this service; however, if a Huron-Kinloss resident with a wheelchair requires transportation they must use SMART (Home and Community Support Services Grey Bruce does not provide their own wheelchair accessible bus to Huron-Kinloss).

Clients pay \$0.45/km per ride or a \$10 flat fee for in town rides.

One Care Home and Community Support Services

Huron-Kinloss residents may access this service when traveling from Huron-Kinloss to Huron or Perth Counties. Travel within Bruce County is not provided. The service is provided to seniors (65+); adults with disabilities, individuals with short term or long term disability (broken bone), or an individual that requires specialized transportation.

Clients pay a user fee of \$0.45/km. There may be other subsidies available.

Voyageur

Transportation service for clients going to medical appointments. Will provide services to those with wheelchairs or without. Base rate for our region is \$110.87 one way. Most costly option; a quote from the Municipal Office in Ripley to the Kincardine Hospital roundtrip is \$265.36.

Fred's Cabs

Flat rates are available for Huron-Kinloss residents that are traveling to Kincardine as follows:

- Ripley to Kincardine: \$40
- Lucknow to Kincardine: \$70
- Kinloss to Kincardine \$50
- Point Clark to Kincardine \$40

Comments:

The Township is aware of the shortcomings for rural transportation and understands the

importance of such services to Huron-Kinloss residents. There are multiple options for residents to travel from Huron-Kinloss to medical appointments or social outings; SMART is the only option that requires an investment from the municipality but seems to be the only economical option for Huron-Kinloss residents that use a wheelchair and require transportation within Bruce County.

The only option for clients with wheelchairs in Bruce County, other than SMART, is Voyageur, the most costly option. However, clients traveling to Wingham or Goderich hospitals would be eligible for One Care Home and Community Support Services at \$0.45/km. Clients that do not require wheelchair accessible transportation would be eligible for any of the above mentioned services.

Financial Impact/Budget Implications:

Council will need to decide whether or not to support the additional capital funding request for 2020 and beyond.

Alignment to Sustainability Plan Goals and Directions:

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission. The recommendations contribute to the goals in achieving an accessible community.

Respectfully submitted:
(original signed by)
Michelle Goetz, Community Development Officer

Reviewed by:
Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer