

SAUGEEN MOBILITY and REGIONAL TRANSIT

October 20, 2023

Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit
603 Bruce Road 19, Box 40
Walkerton, ON
N0G 2V0

Kenneth Craig, Mayor; and Council
Municipality of Kincardine
1475 Concession 5 Rd
Kincardine, ON
N2Z 2X6

Subject: Proposal for Enhancing Accessible Transportation Services in Kincardine

Dear Mayor Craig,

The purpose of this letter is to present to you a proposal to upgrade the current accessible transportation services within the Municipality of Kincardine with the Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART) program. This initiative seeks to respond to the request by the Kincardine Accessibility Advisory Committee to improve the level of service provided by SMART to people in the Municipality of Kincardine.

Plan Overview

The proposal is to add an additional vehicle, fully-equipped for accessible transit services, and a professional driver, specifically dedicated to the municipality. We have reviewed the potential impact of this addition, and estimate that we would be able to increase the accessible ride capacity by approximately thirty percent. The vehicle and driver would be working Sundays from 10am to 10pm, and Monday through Thursday evenings from 6pm to midnight, which is a schedule that we have found aligns with the greatest demand periods.

This would be in addition to the regular weekday 6am to 6pm, Friday 6am to midnight and Saturday 7am to midnight service.

Financial Breakdown

The total cost associated with this proposed expansion is \$250,000, with the vehicle itself accounting for \$180,000 of this amount, and the balance being driver salary, fuel, insurance and administration.

We propose two options for the amortisation of these costs, tailored to suit the budgetary and operational needs of the municipality. They are outlined as follows:

1. One year Contract: this option involves amortising the total cost over a one-year period. To recuperate the totality of the cost, an initial \$180,000 would be provided to Saugeen Mobility to cover the vehicle purchase. For the remaining \$70,000 as well as normal ride fees, we propose a cost of \$2.50 per kilometre. This approach may be suitable if the municipality is ready to make a full investment in the immediate enhancement of accessible transportation services
2. Four year Contract: this option allows for spreading the cost over a longer period of four years. An initial payment of \$100,000 would be required. The cost per kilometre for the first year would be \$2.50 per kilometre. For the remaining three years, there would be a yearly payment of \$50,000 to SMART. The per-kilometre cost would be dynamically adjusted to ensure full recovery of the vehicle's value and associated costs over the contract period. This plan provides flexibility for the municipality, and smooths the impact on budget allocations.

Note: The above noted proposal cost will be borne by the municipality to provide the additional vehicle and driver etc. for the enhanced level of service.

The rider will still pay the normal fee per ride of \$2.00 plus \$0.55 per kilometre subject to a minimum fee of \$7.50 per ride and a wait fee of \$22.00 per hour – the first hour of wait is no-charge, and there is no wait time charge for dialysis patients. Please note that these standard rates are subject to change.

Conclusion

This proposal is an opportunity for an investment that supports the mission of inclusivity, and builds on our commitment to serve the Municipality of Kincardine and its residents. We invite you to consider this proposal, and the potential it carries for an enhanced accessible transportation system. We welcome any opportunity to discuss this proposal further and to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and could you please forward to us a response within the next 60 days? We look forward to continuing to serve the Kincardine community in an even more impactful way.

Best regards,



Ed McGugan

President, Board of Directors

Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit