

SAUGEEN MOBILITY

and REGIONAL TRANSIT

November 27, 2024

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

Kenneth Craig
Mayor of 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 \$230,000 for an accessible 9-passenger van, with the vehicle itself accounting for \$160,000 of this amount, and the balance being driver salary, maintenance, fuel, insurance and administration. The total cost for the same project but with an accessible minivan would be \$180,000, with the cost of the minivan being \$110,000.

We propose two options for this project, one with an accessible 9-passenger van and one with an accessible minivan; they are outlined as follows:

9-PASSENGER VAN: this option involves amortising the total cost over a one-year period. To recuperate the totality of the cost, an initial \$200,000 would be provided to Saugeen Mobility to cover the purchase of an accessible 9-passenger van, for insurance, fuel, administration, driver salary and maintenance costs. For the remaining \$30,000 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. After the first year, and provided that the \$30,000 is recovered through rides, the vehicle would belong to the Kincardine municipality outright.

MINIVAN: this option involves amortising the total cost over a one-year period. To recuperate the totality of the cost, an initial \$150,000 would be provided to Saugeen Mobility to cover the purchase of an accessible 9-passenger van, for insurance, fuel, administration, driver salary and maintenance costs. For the remaining \$30,000 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. After the first year, and provided that the \$30,000 is recovered through rides, the vehicle would belong to the Kincardine municipality outright.

Please note that the above noted costs are separate from the normal costs to Kincardine for the regular weekday SMART service. The above noted costs would be for the enhanced service only. The daily service costs would remain the same - dependent of course on the number of rides.

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. Please also note that this is a proposal for Kincardine's consideration. Should this proposal be accepted, we would need to engage professional expertise in drafting a formal agreement between Kincardine and SMART.

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
Chair, Board of Directors
Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit