

Information Report

Title: Saugeen Mobility – Enhanced Services Agreement Update

Report Number: CAO General-2025-06

Director: Chief Administrative Officer

Manager: Manager.

Meeting Date:

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Executive Summary:

Staff are working on a draft agreement for a trial of enhanced transportation services in the Municipality of Kincardine with the Saugeen Mobility & Regional Transport (SMART). Staff are currently reviewing an option that provides flexibility during a one-year pilot period using an existing SMART 9-person van for the enhanced service.

Context and Background Information:

Council supported a proposal for enhanced services from Saugeen Mobility in response to requests for increased hours of service.

Municipal staff have been working with Saugeen Mobility staff on a draft agreement. Through discussions staff have explored a variation on the original proposal, while still aiming to accomplish the intended outcomes.

Saugeen Mobility staff and municipal staff are exploring a one-year pilot project which would include the following:

- SMART to hire and provide drivers for the services for eligible residents in Kincardine during the following service hours, Monday to Thursday 6pm to midnight and Sunday 9 am to 9 pm;
- SMART and the assigned driver would be responsible for dispatch services;
- SMART would create a website for the new services in Kincardine;
- Kincardine residents would be eligible for the enhanced services;
- Services would be restricted to Kincardine residents;
- SMART would be responsible for the hiring, training, and management of drivers assigned to Kincardine. It is expected that two would be hired to ensure availability

- The drivers would be employees of SMART;
- SMART would maintain comprehensive general liability;
- SMART would provide Kincardine with quarterly updates on ridership statistics and financial performance, which would help provide evidence to support decision makers at the end of the one-year pilot;
- Proposed costs for 2025 would include sums for the following:
 - the use of an existing SMART 9-passenger van (estimated to be \$10,000),
 - Driver salary, administration, maintenance of vehicle, insurance and fuel costs (estimated to be \$40,000)
- If at the end of the one-year period the pilot is deemed successful by both parties, Kincardine would provide funds for the purchase of a new vehicle (estimated at \$150,000); and
- The pilot project agreement could be terminated at any time.

SMART will continue to provide day transportation services Monday to Thursday and day and evening services on Fridays and Saturdays using its existing network and agreement.

While the draft agreement is a slight modification to the proposal, staff are confident that it continues to meet the aim for a pilot project for enhanced SMART services within the community, but are open to additional comments and feedback prior to presenting an agreement to Council for consideration.

Consultation Overview:

Saugeen Mobility staff

Origin:

Council direction:

Moved: Andrea Clarke

Seconded: Mike Hinchberger

That Council direct Staff to work with Saugeen Mobility & Regional Transport (SMART) to draft an agreement for a trial of enhanced accessible transportation services in the Municipality of Kincardine as outlined in Option #1 of the proposal submitted by SMART on November 27th, 2024, for Council's approval; and

That Council allocate \$200,000 in the 2025 Operating Budget to fund the trial, with \$40,000 to fund operating costs through addition to the tax levy, and \$160,000 to fund the purchase of the 9-passenger van to be funded via a contribution from the Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund into the Operating Budget; and

That the agreement referenced above include the considerations outlined in the SMART proposal, as well as confirmation of ownership of the 9-passenger van with the

Municipality of Kincardine, and reporting of trial statistics to assist Council in assessing effectiveness going forward.

Result: Carried.

Attachments: N/A

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