

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report HSAT 12-2020

Council Meeting Date: December 1, 2020

TO: Mayor Weber and Members of Council

FROM: Marina Cajic, Transit Coordinator

RE: Huron Shores Area Transit Update

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report HSAT 12-2020 regarding the Huron Shores Area Transit Update be received.

SUMMARY

This report is an update of the Huron Shores Area Transit Project; an overview of project planning since the selection of Voyago as service provider/contractor and the anticipated service launch date of Monday December 14, 2020.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of February 13, 2018 and following a presentation by representatives of the Huron Shores Transit Initiative, Council adopted the following resolution:

Carried 18-0213-06

THAT the Municipality of Lambton Shores be the named municipality for the Huron Shores Transit application to the Community Transportation Grant Program provided there is no cost to the municipality associated with the application; and

THAT there is no commitment to proceed after the completion of the feasibility study.

In January 2019 the Provincial Government confirmed that a \$2 mil grant would be awarded to Lambton Shores for this initiative. \$1.5 mil is allocated to “regional” transit initiatives enabling transportation between Lambton Shores and neighbouring communities and \$500,000 is allocated to “local” transit initiatives within Lambton Shores.

At its meeting of July 16, 2019 Council received CAO Report 04-2019 and adopted the following resolution:

THAT Lambton Shores agrees to receiving and being responsible for the Community Transportation Grant Program funds from the Province of Ontario; and

THAT By-law 62 of 2019 be approved; and

THAT staff be authorized to award the Request for Proposal for the supply of a Transit System Feasibility Study at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00 in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy #88 with all funding coming from the Community Transportation Grant Program.

Mr. Wally Beck of Transit Consulting Network attended the December 17, 2019 meeting of Council in order to present the findings of the requested feasibility study. Council approved the following resolution 19-1217-04:

THAT Report CAO 11-2019 accompanying a presentation by Wally Beck of Transit Consulting Network be received; and

THAT Council supports the findings of the Feasibility Study and supports the identified implementation steps that are supported by Community Transportation Grant Funding; and

THAT Transit Consulting Network be authorized to undertake Phase III of their study being:

- To finalize the transit route, service plan and budgets for the Local and Long-distance Transit services
- To work with the Municipality of Lambton Shores in securing the services of both a transit coordinator and a qualified transit service provider; and

THAT financial and ridership status updates be received in December of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

At its meeting of May 12, 2020, council received CAO Report 03-2020 of and approved the following resolution regarding Transit Service Provider proposals:

THAT the contract for Transit Services be awarded to the highest rated and lowest cost bidder 947465 Ontario Ltd., O/A Voyago at the annual contract price of \$372,401.18 inclusive of HST and excluding fuel costs; and

THAT Lambton Shores staff be authorized to enter into an agreement with Voyago to supply public transportation services to March 31, 2023 and that said agreement will not exceed the Provincial Community Transportation Grant Funding

This report is to provide Council with an update of the project planning since the selection of transit service provider Voyago, and plans to commence service launch on December 14th, 2020.

The attached PowerPoint Presentation will address:

- Covid-19 safety measures
- Information on routes, schedules, and fares (including smart card technology)
- The establishment of HSAT Advisory Committee
- Website details and marketing plans
- SCOR / SCT membership
- Future plans relating to demand-responsive service, ridership analytics, and expansion of service

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

This report is an update on the Huron Shores Area Transit pilot project. The recommended action is for council to receive this update and all pertinent information about the current status and projection of the public transit system.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total Grant authorization is for \$2,000,000. The cost of the Feasibility Study and further undertakings of Transit Consulting Network is accommodated in the grant allocation. There is no specific financial commitment required from Lambton Shores or any of the neighbouring benefitting communities (Kettle Point, South Huron, Bluewater, North Middlesex) at this time.

CONSULTATION

Wally Beck, Transit Consultant
HSAT Advisory Committee
Kevin Williams, CAO
Janet Ferguson, Treasurer