



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: February 24, 2025
To: Mayor and Council
From: Mike Mousley, Manager of Transit
Report Number: COU25-018
Attachments: None

Title: Community Transportation – Partnership Agreements between the City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys, and Municipality of North Perth

Objective: To seek Council approval to enter into a transit agreement and a local partnership agreement (LPA) with the Town of St. Marys and the Municipality of North Perth to continue to financially support the continuation of the Community Transportation Pilot Project known locally as PC Connect, until December 31, 2025.

Background: PC Connect is an equal partnership with the City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys and the Municipality of North Perth and presently have an LPA to support servicing three routes that service centres such as Stratford, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Listowel, and St. Marys. This LPA amongst the three partners expires March 31, 2025.

The City continues to advocate for increased community transportation program funding but does not anticipate any further funding commitments from MTO.

Municipal investment in 2024 and through 2025 will be approximately \$200,000 for each of the three partners, that in combination with the remaining funding from the Province, will extend the program until the end of 2025.

Beyond 2025, discussions with all three partnered Councils will need to take place. Over the next several months, a plan for the future of the service requires to be discussed which will create additional financial budgetary challenges for all Municipalities going forward, especially if there is no funding component from the Province.

Analysis: This report includes information on monthly ridership numbers in 2024.

Ridership to Date:

Financial Implications:

| Funding Period | Route A: Perth County North | Route 1: KW to Listowel | Route 2: KW to St. Marys | Route 3: London to Stratford | 2024 TOTALS | 2023 TOTALS | +/- |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| January 2024 | 542 | 458 | 379 | 281 | 1660 | 964 | +696 |
| February 2024 | 641 | 462 | 426 | 299 | 1828 | 952 | +876 |
| March 2024 | 637 | 370 | 494 | 328 | 1829 | 1470 | +359 |
| April 2024 | 678 | 501 | 484 | 351 | 1914 | 1291 | +982 |
| May 2024 | 767 | 468 | 525 | 374 | 2134 | 1464 | +670 |
| June 2024 | 636 | 394 | 542 | 384 | 1956 | 1723 | +233 |
| July 2024 | 747 | 551 | 534 | 426 | 2258 | 1785 | +473 |
| August 2024 | 739 | 516 | 581 | 516 | 2352 | 1831 | +521 |
| September 2024 | 652 | 406 | 552 | 447 | 2057 | 1886 | +171 |
| October 2024 | 723 | 479 | 576 | 559 | 2337 | 2014 | +323 |
| November 2024 | 636 | 490 | 501 | 561 | 2188 | 1918 | +270 |
| December 2024 | 636 | 453 | 343 | 373 | 1805 | 1649 | +156 |
| | | | | | | | |

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

There is no impact to the current year operating budget.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

To be determined.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Enhance our Infrastructure

Improving ways to get around, to and from Stratford by public transit, active transportation, and private vehicle.

Work Together For Greater Impact

Partnering with the community and strengthening Stratford’s economy by developing, attracting, and retaining a diversity of businesses and talent. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Travel and Transport

Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport.

Staff Recommendation: THAT Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford approve the entering into of a further Local Partnership Agreement with the Town of St. Marys and the Municipality of North Perth for the Intercommunity Transportation Project (PC Connect) to December 31, 2025;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the further Local Partnership Agreement;

AND THAT city staff be authorized to prepare a plan for Council's consideration regarding the future of PC Connect.

Prepared by: Michael Mousley, Manager of Transit
Recommended by: Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer