

Meeting Date: June 17, 2019
Department: Chief Administrative Officer
Prepared By: Demetri Makrakos, Economic Development Officer
Reviewed By: Greg McClinchey, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: Community Transportation Grant Update

RECOMMENDATION: That Council receive the progress update on the Community Transportation Grant for information.

BACKGROUND

Strathroy-Caradoc received a grant for \$1,450,000, from the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) for an intercommunity public transportation project that will connect Sarnia, Strathroy, Mount Brydges and London. The Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) has yet to be finalized, but staff are preparing for when that process is completed. There is currently a Request for Interest (RFI) posted with a closing date of June 21.

COMMENTS AND RECENT PROGRESS

Strathroy-Caradoc's Economic Development Officer has been in conversation with Kim Earls at South Central Ontario Region (SCOR) to bring other communities awarded the grant to the table to discuss the potential for partnerships and sharing of resources. These conversations are still being had and for now have led to a Request for Information being put out by SCOR, which includes multiple recipients of the grant; See **Attachment 1**.

The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc has also put out an RFI for servicing only the Sarnia, Strathroy, Mount Brydges and London corridor, which closes on June 21, 2019. After both the municipal and SCOR RFI application periods close, the proposals can be evaluated and compared. An RFP will follow only after the TPA with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario has been finalized.

Strathroy-Caradoc has been reaching out to various transportation service providers to ensure they are aware of Strathroy-Caradoc's RFI as well as the larger SCOR-led RFI. The goal is to have as many options as possible, with specific examples of creative ways to maximize the transportation service while satisfying the criteria set out by the MTO.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Other than certain in-kind costs relating to staff time, no capital has been used or committed to this project to date. No municipal funding will be required for this program over the next 4-years, as all project costs will be funded by the \$1,450,000 grant amount awarded.

Regarding future financial implications, the goal is to use this MTO grant to develop a service that will run with little or no public subsidy in the future. Per Council's instruction, staff are working to ensure the sustainability of the program. This phase is being viewed as a pilot project to determine the establishment of a permanent intercommunity public transportation network connecting communities in Southwestern Ontario to each other and to the rest of Ontario.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Communities in Southwestern Ontario that have been approached to be a part of a larger regional transportation service using the MTO funding.



1 - Strathroy-Caradoc
\$1,450,000

2 - Lambton Shores
\$2,000,000

3 - Middlesex County
\$1,500,000

4 - Norfolk County
\$765,000

5 - Stratford
\$1,450,000

6 - Tillsonburg
\$1,450,000

7 - County of Brant
TBD

8 - Elgin County
TBD

2) Possible route for Sarnia, Strathroy, Mount Brydges, London corridor

