

SAUGEEN MOBILITY

and REGIONAL TRANSIT

603 Bruce Road 19

Box 40 Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

519-881-2504 1-866-981-2504

saugeenmobility.ca

March 26, 2019

Dear Member Council,

As a transportation service, Saugeen Mobility needs to purchase new vehicles every year.

For 2019, SMART needs to purchase at least 3 (preferably 5) new adapted minivans to replace aging vans but cannot because 97% of expected 2019 MTO Gas Tax funding has been budgeted for operational costs with nothing budgeted for capital purchases. In addition to not having funds for vehicle purchases, SMART has no reserves for any contingencies.

SMART has a fleet of 27 vehicles including 3 spares ranging in model years 2006 to 2018. Eight of these vehicles have over 300,000 kms on them with some now approaching or exceeding 400,000 kms. Another seven have more than 200,000 kms on them.

Keeping vehicles up to date and reliable is critical to the safe transportation of our vulnerable clients.

After considerable discussion at the March 22 general board meeting, the directors of SMART approved the following motion:

"That SMART send a request to all participating municipalities requesting a total of \$250,000 contribution from recently announced provincial funding allocation in support of SMART's aging fleet replacement and that the contribution amount be relative to current contributions."

Using the same contribution spreadsheet as 2019 contributions, the breakdown looks like this:

Arran-Elderslie	\$18,358.51
Brockton	\$32,721.70
Chatsworth	\$15,162.39
Hanover	\$51,914.73
Huron-Kinloss	\$20,035.54
Kincardine	\$29,883.29
Saugeen Shores	\$43,175.86
Southgate	\$ 9,974.31
West Grey	\$28,773.67

Your municipal representative will provide more information.

For 2020, SMART will need to purchase 3 9-passenger buses at a cost of \$80,000 each as well as a new 18-passenger bus at a cost of \$130,000.

local and personal since 1977

It is true that over the past decade, SMART's operational costs have grown due to a variety of factors including more rides and longer rides which has driven fuel costs and wage costs, an aging fleet which has driven up maintenance costs, a wage grid for employees and various other costs that have just increased over time.

In spite of that, SMART remains one of the most efficiently operated specialized transit services in the province with 'per vehicle' operational costs well below the average for its peer group.

I hope you will give this request serious consideration. It is critical that SMART have enough money available to replace vehicles before 'in service' breakdowns begin putting the safety of our clients at risk.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cook', written over a horizontal line.

Roger Cook
Manager

SAUGEEN MOBILITY

and REGIONAL TRANSIT

603 Bruce Road 19

Box 40 Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

519-881-2504

1-866-981-2504

smart@hurontel.on.ca

SMART is one of 22 specialized public transit services serving local populations of 50,000-150,000.

SMART is almost unique among transit services in that it will transport clients anywhere in Ontario they wish to go. Most services never leave their municipal borders.

As can be seen in the accompanying chart (which is based on data from 2016), SMART has the lowest population density of its peer group. Population density has a direct effect on operational efficiency and, by extension, operational costs.

SMART's minimum individual user fee of \$7.50 is the 4th highest "Adult Cash Fare" and is well above the peer average of \$4.70.

SMART's expenses per vehicle are the second lowest in its peer group and less than half the average of its peers (Milton does not report).

SMART's municipal funding, in 2016, covered 42.57% of operating expenses, well below the average of its peers at 76.24%. On a per capita basis, SMART's municipal funding was \$7.35, well below the peer average of \$9.76.

These statistics clearly show that SMART is operated very efficiently, providing a high level of service to its clients at very low cost to the municipal partners and their taxpayers.

SMART is much more dependent on its clients for operating funds than its peers. It is also heavily dependent on MTO Gas Tax funding, something that is not sustainable given the capital investments that need to be made each year.

local and personal since 1977

2016 SPECIALIZED PUBLIC TRANSIT STATISTICS - PEER GROUP (50000 - 150000 population)

	Population	Area sq km	Density Pop/sq km	TOTAL Expenses	Municipal Contributions	Adult Cash Fare	Total Vehicles	TOTAL Expenses Paid by Mun.	EXPENSES per Vehicle	MUNICIPAL \$\$ per capita
GUELPH	131794	87.0	1514.87	\$ 1,907,059	\$ 1,833,968	\$ 3.00	10	\$ 96.17%	\$ 190,705.90	\$ 13.92
BARRIE	142000	100.0	1420.00	\$ 1,075,621	\$ 761,295	\$ 3.00	14	\$ 70.78%	\$ 76,830.07	\$ 5.36
ST CATHARINES	131400	97.0	1354.64	\$ 1,497,444	\$ 1,399,507	\$ 3.00	11	\$ 93.46%	\$ 136,131.27	\$ 10.65
BRANTFORD	97496	75.1	1298.22	\$ 1,767,810	\$ 1,576,121	\$ 3.00	17	\$ 89.16%	\$ 103,988.82	\$ 16.17
PETERBOROUGH - CITY	81000	67.4	1201.78	\$ 1,191,146	\$ 918,073	\$ 2.50	10	\$ 77.07%	\$ 119,114.60	\$ 11.33
SUDBURY	138000	152.6	904.33	\$ 2,983,355	\$ 2,654,455	\$ 3.10	17	\$ 88.98%	\$ 175,491.47	\$ 19.24
WELLAND	50631	86.0	588.73	\$ 412,815	\$ 378,649	\$ 2.75	5	\$ 91.72%	\$ 82,563.00	\$ 7.48
THUNDER BAY	146048	323.0	452.16	\$ 2,205,707	\$ 1,765,879	\$ 2.75	23	\$ 80.06%	\$ 95,900.30	\$ 12.09
SARNIA	72125	167.3	431.11	\$ 849,224	\$ 771,263	\$ 2.75	7	\$ 90.82%	\$ 121,317.71	\$ 10.69
NIAGARA FALLS	88071	212.0	415.43	\$ 522,891	\$ 473,138	\$ 2.75	7	\$ 90.49%	\$ 74,698.71	\$ 5.37
SAULT STE MARIE	69900	223.5	312.75	\$ 1,145,602	\$ 752,733	\$ 2.50	11	\$ 65.71%	\$ 104,145.64	\$ 10.77
MILTON	110128	380.0	289.81	\$ 302,437	\$ 257,729	\$ 3.50	7	\$ 85.22%	\$ 36,707.78	\$ 2.34
KINGSTON	123363	451.2	273.41	\$ 2,374,555	\$ 2,039,985	\$ 2.75	21	\$ 85.91%	\$ 113,074.05	\$ 16.54
NORTH BAY	53651	314.9	170.37	\$ 695,108	\$ 595,492	\$ 3.00	5	\$ 85.67%	\$ 139,021.60	\$ 11.10
CALEDON	66502	647.0	102.79	\$ 715,071	\$ 13,132	\$ 4.00	8	\$ 1.84%	\$ 89,383.88	\$ 0.20
QUINTE WEST	54014	722.0	74.81	\$ 705,277	\$ 213,190	\$ 2.00	10	\$ 30.23%	\$ 70,527.70	\$ 3.95
WATERLOO - RURAL	59000	843.0	69.99	\$ 1,470,158	\$ 1,458,031	\$ 3.25	6	\$ 99.18%	\$ 245,026.33	\$ 24.71
LEAMINGTON	52072	759.5	68.56	\$ 274,738	\$ 21,012	\$ 12.00	4	\$ 7.65%	\$ 68,684.50	\$ 0.40
LANARK	77585	3043.0	25.50	\$ 873,733	\$ 81,500	\$ 15.00	16	\$ 9.33%	\$ 54,608.31	\$ 1.05
PETERBOROUGH - COUNTY	81032	3769.3	21.50	\$ 156,064	\$ 64,555	\$ 20.00	2	\$ 41.36%	\$ 78,032.00	\$ 0.80
HALTON HILLS	59008	280.0	210.74	\$ 997,226	\$ 361,052	\$ 2.00	5	\$ 36.21%	\$ 199,445.20	\$ 6.12
TOTALS & AVERAGES	1884820	12800.8	147.24	\$ 24,123,041	\$ 18,390,759	\$ 4.70	209	76.24%	\$ 115,421.25	\$ 9.76
<i>HANOVER</i>	<i>78918</i>	<i>4300.8</i>	<i>18.35</i>	<i>\$ 1,362,397</i>	<i>\$ 580,000</i>	<i>\$ 7.50</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>42.57%</i>	<i>\$ 56,766.54</i>	<i>\$ 7.35</i>