



Huron Shores *TRANSIT* Steering Committee

Newly formed Transit Committee meets with MTO:

November 30, 2017

At a recent meeting held in Parkhill, the newly formed Huron Shores Transit Steering Committee (HSTSC) met with Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) officials to seek input and guidance on their plans to develop a proposed regional multi-agency public transportation system. The MTO representatives confirmed the potential of another opportunity for municipal government bodies to apply for pilot project funding, and that the proposed mix of business, government, social service and health care agencies partnering on this project was one of the priority objectives for the funding applications. Discussions included regulatory and licencing requirements as well as funding options and availability including gas tax program subsidies for operating and capital costs on an on-going basis.

The next step for the HSTSC is to conduct a survey targeted at employers and residents of the region covering Lambton Shores, North Middlesex, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, South Huron and Bluewater to determine the extent of potential demand for public transit services. In addition the group has secured initial grant funding to develop a terms of reference for a feasibility study to be undertaken in early 2018. The survey will be distributed online, in print and through personal interviews throughout the proposed service area, and the data collected will feed into the feasibility study to determine the parameters of the proposed public transit system including routes, fares, and hours of service, transportation modes and funding options. The survey is expected to be available online in early 2018 and in key community contact points such as libraries, municipal buildings, grocery stores, restaurants and local service agency facilities.

Similar service concepts have been operating in other regions successfully including Norfolk County, Grey County, and the Huron-Perth Easy Ride System.

Once the Feasibility Study is underway, the Committee will approach local governments and agencies for their endorsement and support.

For further information contact Glen Baillie, Steering Committee Spokesperson at 519 238-1472.