Grey County

Community Transportation Update
Feb 22, 2018
Agenda

• Recent Community Transportation History in Grey County
  o 2014 Community Transportation Study
  o 2015 Community Transportation Pilot
  o Current needs
• MTO Community Transportation Grant Program
• Proposed Solutions
Community Transportation History in Grey
Community Transportation History in Grey

- 2014 Community Transportation Study
  - Common needs for transportation:
    - Training and education opportunities
    - Employment
    - Health services
    - Retail: groceries, pharmacies and others
  - Groups in highest need for transportation
    - Persons living in poverty
    - Youth
    - Seniors
    - Persons with disabilities
  - Recommended:
    - Technology to coordinate rides and to centrally dispatch vehicles and drivers
    - Single point of contact for residents
Community Transportation History in Grey

2014 Community Transportation Study

2015 Community Transportation Pilot
- Received 2-year pilot funding from the Ministry of Transportation
- Home and Community Support Service Grey Bruce (HCSS) was chosen as the lead agency
- HCSS provides
  - Transportation services
  - Call centre
  - Transportation coordination software

Present
Since the announcement of the MTO grant opportunity in Dec 2017, Grey County has:

- Engaged key stakeholder to gain different perspectives on transportation needs
  - Employers
  - Municipal representatives
  - Neighbouring Counties
  - Service providers
- Issued a public survey to understand transportation needs
  - Over 360 responses to completed
- Hosted a community transportation focus group
Present – Overall Findings

Similar to the findings from 2014 community transportation study:

• There is no suitable transportation option for those who cannot afford their own vehicles
• Affordable housing and transportation are the two most fundamental and interconnected barriers to community well-being
• Migration from GTA to Grey County and areas: Dundalk, Shelburne
• Affordable housing tend to be in the outskirts of population centres
• Need to have cross-boundary connections
Present – Employers

- Recruitment and retention have been an increasing challenge
- 2017 has been the most challenging by far
- Challenging to attract entry-level workers (e.g., cooks, PSWs, cleaners, retail, lift operators, etc.)
  - High-skilled workforce typically have access to vehicles
- Entry-level workers are commonly youth or people in the lower income brackets
  - Youth: a mix of those who are able to have their parents to drive them and those who reside in areas with affordable housing
  - Low income individuals: resides in areas with affordable housing
Individuals seeking entry level employment are having difficulties finding jobs.

Grey County and surrounding regions have an unemployment rate of approx. 4.5% (Ont 5.5%).

This suggests prolonged employment challenges lead to individuals dropping out of the labour pool.

Those in the workforce without own vehicles, paying half a day of wage for one taxicab ride simply is unaffordable.
Present – Health System

- Current funding from the Health system only provides transportation support for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Transportation for cancer treatment for adults is entirely volunteer-based and volunteer recruitment and retention is an increasing challenge.
- A lack of transportation options for adults and youth to access health services incentivizes behaviours leading to greater health care cost (e.g., using ambulance and ER system).
- In Grey County, health services are centralized in population centres; not all services are available in every population centre.

2014 Community Transportation Study

2015 Community Transportation Pilot

Present
Present – Social Services

- Services like the Launch Pad Youth Activity and Technology Centre is becoming a hub for youth programs
  - However, the attendance is limited to those residing in the same community
  - 67% of youth survey respondents indicate transportation a barrier to access services
- Areas with the highest youth needs for transportation:
  - Brockton (Bruce County)
  - Dundalk and Southgate (recent housing development and influx of residents)
  - Hanover (has high need for social and community services)
- Most youth programs run after school
MTO Community Transportation Grant Program
MTO Community Transportation Grant Program

- MTO announced a new community transportation funding in Dec 2017
- 2015 Pilot Program demonstrated effectiveness in coordinating services and maximizing resources to meet transportation needs
- Emphasis on serving those facing transportation barriers including:
  - Seniors
  - Persons with disabilities
  - Youth
  - Persons living on low income
- There is also emphasis on partnerships, coordination and collaboration
- Grant application guide highlighted regions in Ontario that face the greatest transportation challenge. Grey County is one of the regions.
# MTO Community Transportation Grant Program

## Local Community Transportation
- New project that coordinates transportation services or resources
- Project previously funded by the Pilot Program
- Project that enhances existing services
- Max $500,000 over 5 years

## Long-distance Scheduled Transportation
- Fixed route and fixed scheduled
- 5 days a week, 2 round trips/day
- Charges a fare
- Capacity of 10+ passengers
- Provides service to the expiry of the Pilot Program
- Max $1.5M over 5 years

Municipalities can apply for either or both levels of funding
Proposed Solution – Long Distance Route 1

- AM and PM Run
- Departing from Owen Sound to the Blue Mountain area to meet employment needs
- Connects to the Bus running from The Blue Mountains to Collingwood
- Serves communities along Hwy 26
- Returns to Owen Sound at the end of the run
Proposed Solution – Long Distance Route 2

- AM and PM Run
- Operates from Owen Sound to Shelburne
- Provides access to health services in South East Grey Community Health Centre and clinics in Shelburne
### Proposed Solution – Long Distance

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<td><strong>5 Year Total Deficit</strong></td>
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**Ministry 5 Year Max Funding**: $1,500,000
Proposed Solution - Local

- Serves 2 high needs areas identified
- Secure and deploy transportation resources (vehicle and driver) in the proposed region
- Residents request rides through Movin’ GB or self-booking portal
## Proposed Solution - Local

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Proposed Solution – Total Coverage

- Covers major population centres in Grey County
- Addresses vulnerability identified in research
- Aligns with housing affordability, and current travel patterns
- Includes potential for future enhancements (e.g., additional local services or connections to major transportation hubs)
Thank you!

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