

Department 25 – Community Transportation Services (Transit)

Overview

This Department provides for the costs and revenues for the transportation pilot.

The Province's original commitment of \$1.48 million to support a transportation pilot through the Ministry of Transportation Community Transportation Grant was increased by \$884,625.78 for a total commitment of \$2.36 million. An extension for the pilot was also granted to March 2026.

General Service Description

- ✓ 5 days per week (Monday to Friday)
- ✓ Service commenced in May 2021
- ✓ Operates 250 days
- ✓ City of Peterborough – Operator
- ✓ Two Routes Route 31: Lakefield/Curve Lake First Nation and Route 32 Bridgenorth/Ennismore
- ✓ Ability to transfer to City of Peterborough Transit (at Trent U.)
- ✓ Ability to transfer to GO Bus (at Trent U)
- ✓ Partners include: Curve Lake First Nation, Community Care and the City of Peterborough.
- ✓ Trent Central Student Association (TCSA) – partner since 2021
- ✓ Sir Sandford Student Association – partner since 2023

Revenue

The major source of revenue for this department will be derived from the Provincial Ministry of Transportation grant.



There is also revenue allocated from fares from those using the bus service. In 2021, the TCSA entered into an agreement with the Township to provide bussing services for Trent students. The Association currently contributes \$75,000 annually to the service. In addition, an agreement with the Sir Sandford Fleming Student Association is also in place with a contribution of \$50,000 added to revenues.

No taxation support is required to support this pilot.

Expenditures

The City of Peterborough is the contractor for the service. Partners and riders are very pleased with this arrangement. The service is reliable, it offers several route options and it provides for a transfer at Trent University allowing riders to transfer onto the City's transit system as well as connecting to the Metrolinx Go Bus. Expenses for the contract with the City of Peterborough have been allocated into the budget.

Department 25 – Community Transportation Services (Transit)

Expenses have also been allocated for the costs of route maps, advertising, staff support etc... The majority of expenses are covered by the MTO grant with a small transfer from the Community Transportation Reserve to cover ineligible expenses such as insurance.

Activity Update – Beyond Budget and Dollars and Cents

Ridership Stats

Since launching in 2021, ridership has grown significantly each year. For instance, in 2021 the average number of monthly rides was 537, and in 2024 the average number of monthly rides was 1,991. This is a 32% increase from the monthly average of riders in 2023. Our highest number of rides in one month to date was 3,002 rides in March 2024.

The month-by-month comparison in ridership between 2023 and 2024, is consistently positive for both routes in 2024, with months like January having a 198% increase in ridership for Route 31. Ridership numbers for the months of September to December in 2024 have slightly decreased over 2023.

From January 2024 to December 2024, 23,888 trips were made on the Link, including:

- 13,856 trips on Route #31 (Lakefield – Curve Lake)
- 10,032 trips on Route #32 (Bridgenorth – Ennismore)

Students from Trent University and Fleming College account for approximately 79% of trips taken on The Link bus.

An evaluation of the service has been completed (November 2024). This study examined the long-term feasibility of The Link, as well as outlining opportunities for service improvements or expansion. The Study recommended continuing the service beyond the pilot. Council will be provided with options to consider continuing the service in the second quarter of 2025.



Connecting You With Opportunity

**The Corporation of the Township of Selwyn
Budget Worksheets 2025**

Department 25 - Community Transportation (Transit)

Description	2023 Year to Date Actuals	2023 Approved Budget	2024 Year to Date Actuals	2024 Approved Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
Revenues					
Grants and Receipts	358,994	416,915	452,585	390,361	369,145
Operating Sales - Revenues & Fees	175,051	138,521	158,829	172,873	177,660
Transfers In	4,500	17,529	4,500	4,500	4,500
Total Revenues	538,545	572,965	615,914	567,734	551,305
Expenses					
Salaries & Benefits	86,660	87,793	93,146	89,174	93,915
Admin & Overhead	29,298	68,350	34,402	52,034	20,090
Transit Operations	422,586	416,822	488,366	426,526	437,300
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	538,545	572,965	615,914	567,734	551,305
Balance	0	0	0	0	0