

Stephan Labelle
General Manager
Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART)
603 Bruce Road 19, Box 40
Walkerton, ON, N0G 2V0

December 6, 2024

Cheryl Grace (via email)
Councillor
Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Dr.
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

Dear Councillor Grace,

2025 Budget Contribution Request for Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART)

I am writing to provide you with SMART's budget request for 2025 and to express our gratitude for the Town of Saugeen Shores' ongoing support. Your contribution has been instrumental in enabling SMART to fulfil its mission of providing essential transportation services to individuals with physical and/or cognitive challenges.

For 2024, Saugeen Shores generously allocated \$131,003.29 to support SMART's operations. For the upcoming year, we are requesting an increase to **\$143,448.60**. This increase reflects the rising costs of delivering our services, including vehicle maintenance, fuel, and the need to replace aging fleet vehicles to ensure safety and reliability.

For your information, the municipal contribution is determined using a formula that incorporates both service utilization and population size. Specifically, the calculation is based on data from the previous year, where 70% of the contribution is weighted by the total number of rides provided, and 30% is weighted by the population of the municipality. This approach ensures a balanced consideration of both usage and demographic factors when determining each municipality's financial contribution.

Saugeen Mobility serves some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, ensuring access to healthcare, education, social programs, and other vital services. With the continued financial partnership of towns like Saugeen Shores, we can maintain and expand these critical services, ensuring no one is left behind.

We appreciate that budgets are always a balancing act, and we are committed to delivering the highest value for the resources entrusted to us. The requested increase will help ensure the continued viability of SMART, aligning with our shared goal of supporting equitable and inclusive communities.

If you have any questions or require further information, I would be happy to meet with you or provide additional details. Thank you for considering this request, and for your dedication to improving the lives of Saugeen Shores residents.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender. There are some faint blue ink marks above and to the left of the box.

Stephan Labelle
General Manager, SMART
stephan@saugeenmobility.ca