

Staff Report

Presented By: Morgan McCulloch, Deputy Clerk

Meeting Date: January 26, 2026

Subject: Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit – Host Municipality – Gas Tax

Attachment(s): Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit Correspondence - December 23, 2025

Recommendation

That Council adopt By-law 10-2026, a By-law to authorize the County of Bruce to Collect the Dedicated Gas Tax Funds Allocation from the Ministry of Transportation.

Report Summary

The Town has received a request to approve a By-law to authorize the County of Bruce to collect the Gas Tax Funds from the Ministry of Transportation on behalf of Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit. The Authorizing By-law is included in the By-laws section of the Council Agenda.

Background/Analysis

Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit (SMART) provides specialized public transit services for individuals with physical, mental, visual, and/or cognitive challenges in the municipalities of Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Chatsworth, Grey Highlands, Hanover, Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, Southgate, and West Grey.

The Ministry of Transportation requires a single designated host municipality for regional transit partnerships to manage provincial funding. Historically, the Town of Hanover has served as the host municipality for SMART, receiving Dedicated Gas Tax Funds on behalf of participating municipalities, and the County of Bruce has agreed to assume these responsibilities.

On December 23, 2025, the Chair for SMART provided correspondence indicating that the County of Bruce agreed to assume responsibility for managing the provincial gas tax program. This includes applying for, receiving, holding, and administering allocations from the Province of Ontario's Public Transportation Fund.

The SMART Board of Directors has formally endorsed this appointment, noting it will strengthen funding administration and service delivery. SMART has requested all participating municipalities adopt a by-law to confirm this arrangement.

The Town entered into an agreement with SMART and surrounding municipalities on March 16, 2013. A condition of the agreement is that a by-law authorizing the “host” municipality to collect and manage the dedicated gas tax funds allocation from the Ministry of Transportation be passed. [By-law 32-2013 Collection of Gas Tax Funds for SMART](#) was passed on April 8, 2013, for the previous host municipality, which was the Town of Hanover. Uniform adoption by all municipalities will ensure compliance with provincial requirements and facilitate seamless access to funding for SMART’s ongoing operations.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 3: Building Valued Relationships
- Business Plan Alignment: CAO Business as Usual

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

No costs or revenue is associated with this report.

Prepared By: Ashlynn Kennedy, Licensing and Records Clerk

Reviewed By: Jim Bundschuh, Director, Corporate Services

Approved By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer