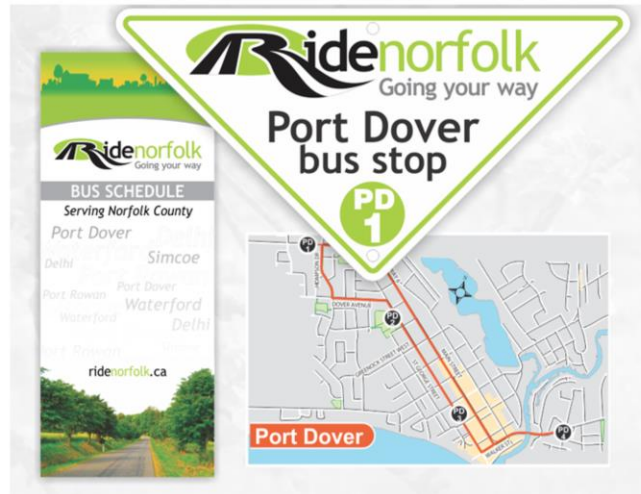


# HURON SHORES TRANSIT

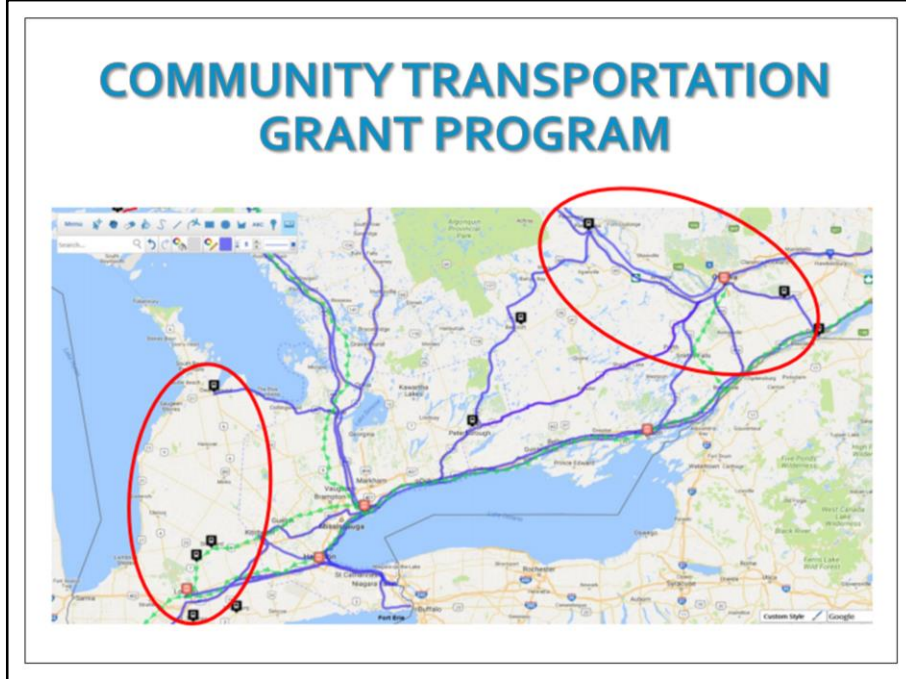


Community Transportation Initiative

## THE INSPIRATION...



Norfolk County identified a need for a public transit service to meet residents' and tourism needs. Using the provincial gas tax program, they developed a scheduled, accessible transit service that added approx. \$4 to each municipal property tax bill.



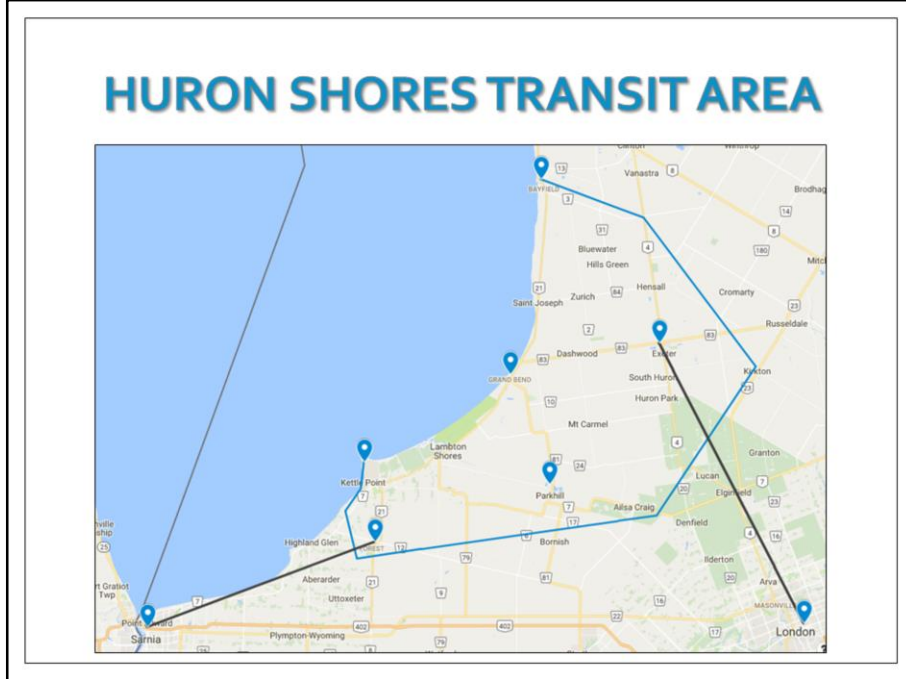
The Ministry of Transportation is releasing a new round of funding for community transportation initiatives. The new Community Transportation Grant Program – Municipal Stream (CT Program) builds on the two-year Pilot Program established in 2015, to fund the development of community transportation solutions to address local transportation needs. The new program is also expanding to fund the development of intercommunity bus services to link communities across counties and regions. The total funding available is \$30 M for a 5 year program. The maximum individual grant is \$500,000 for local community transportation projects **and** \$1.5 M for intercommunity bus projects. Huron Shores Transit can apply for both funding streams.

The new CT Program is an opportunity for municipalities to develop new transportation service or improve existing service to Ontario communities that are not served or are underserved by regular transit and intercommunity bus service. The program emphasizes improving mobility options for the whole community and those who experience transportation barriers, including older adults, people with disabilities, youth, and persons living on low income. The program emphasizes partnerships, coordination, and a collaborative approach to service delivery.

The Ministry is seeking initiatives that can meet growing regional and intercommunity travel demand by:

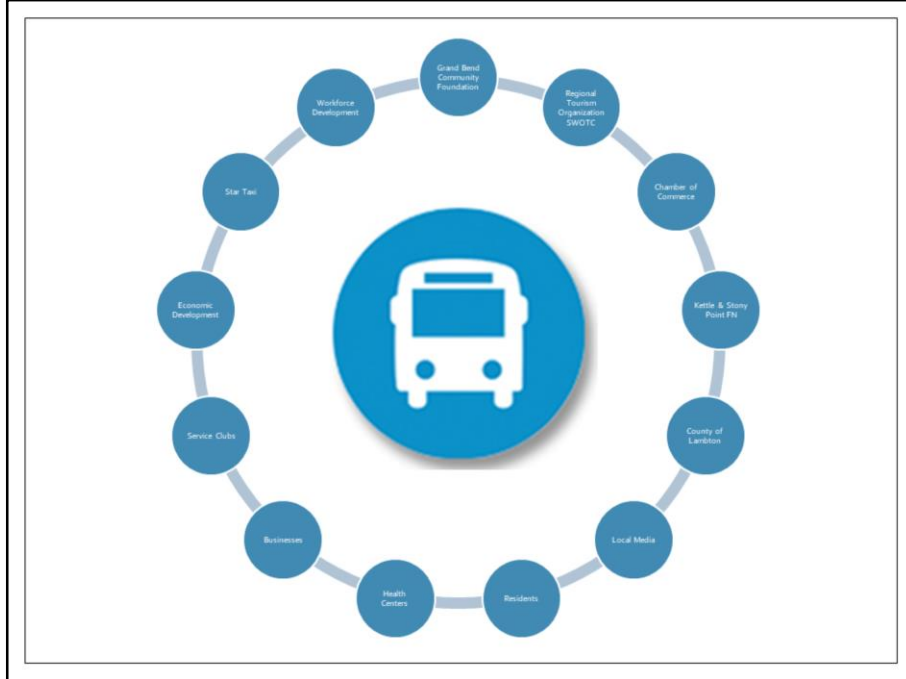
- Developing long-distance intercommunity bus services in priority areas
- Providing local community transportation services that connect to existing, new or planned intercommunity bus routes and other transportation systems; and
- Creating and supporting local transportation hubs to connect passengers safely and conveniently to transportation services.

The deadline for submitting the full application is February 28, 2018



The proposed Huron Shores Transit area includes four municipalities (Lambton Shores, Bluewater, South Huron and North Middlesex) and a First Nation (Kettle and Stony Point).

Important Note: The Ministry of Transportation has clearly identified the Huron Shores Transit area as a Priority Area that needs access to public transportation. The Ministry sent three representatives to a steering committee meeting in October 2017 to provide the Community Transportation Grant criteria and strong encouragement to submit an application for funds.

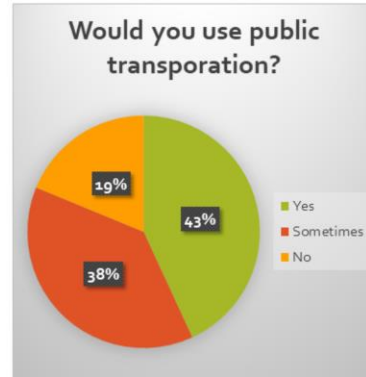
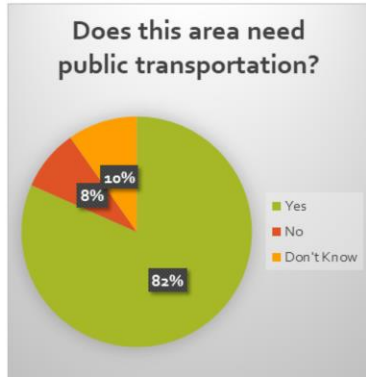


A steering committee was formed in August 2017. It includes:

- Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
- Grand Bend & Area Chamber of Commerce
- Zurich Chamber of Commerce
- County of Lambton
- Blackburn Radio
- Local residents
- Community Health Centers
- Local businesses
- Area service clubs
- Municipal economic development departments
- Star Taxi
- County workforce development boards
- Grand Bend Community Foundation (seed funding)
- Regional Tourism Organization SWOTC (matched seed funding)

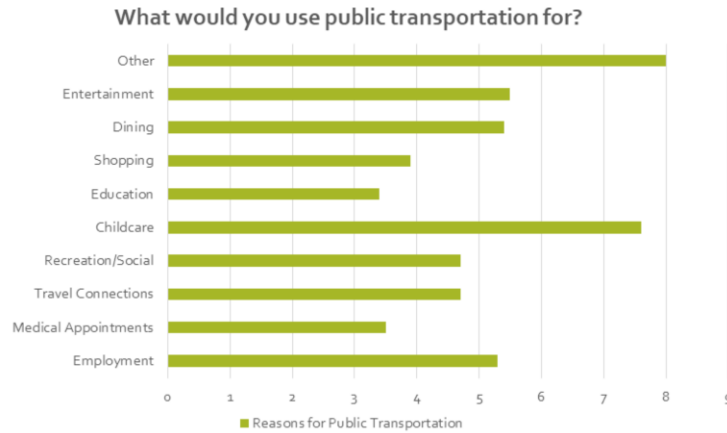
The committee has been meeting regularly and has hired a contract administrator to facilitate the initiative and community transportation grant.

## THE COMMUNITY SAYS...



A 23-question survey was deployed in the Huron Shores area on January 15, 2018. By January 29<sup>th</sup>, there were 725 responses.

## THE COMMUNITY SAYS...



Over 100 respondents commented on this question. They offered many more good reasons for why they would use public transportation, including: visiting family, volunteering, environmental sustainability, sight seeing and tourism, and (of course!) golf.



# PLEASE SUPPORT HURON SHORES TRANSIT



Provide a Letter of Support



Distribute the Survey



Include on Your Website

## NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINES...

-  February 28: Submit grant application
-  April 2018: Funding announcement
-  Summer 2018: Feasibility work
-  Fall 2018: Staged implementation
-  2022: Continuance planning

Work has begun on the Community Transportation Grant application, which is due February 28, 2018.

The Ministry of Transportation will announce successful funding applicants in April 2018.

Pending the receipt of funding, the Huron Shores Transit Steering Committee will begin feasibility work, and operations planning for a staged implementation beginning in the fall of 2018. The transit system must be operational within one year of receiving grant funds.

The transportation system can receive Community Transportation Grant funding for four years. A continuance plan is to be filed at the end of the fourth year of operation.

# HURON SHORES TRANSIT



Community Transportation Initiative

## FAQ's

**Q: Will there be a cost to municipalities?**

A: Yes, there is generally a cost to municipalities. Based on the Ride Norfolk model, a \$4 per household cost is anticipated.