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To: Warden Aitcheson and Members of Council  
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020  
Prepared By: Maggie Martin, Transit Project Coordinator, Office of the  
CAO  
Subject: Community Transportation Project Update

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**Recommended Action:**

THAT Perth County Council receives the “Community Transportation Project Update” report for information.

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**Executive Summary:**

The County of Perth has received \$1.45 million dollars from the Community Transportation Grant Program to implement a transportation pilot project throughout the County. In alliance with the City of Stratford, Perth County is working to develop and execute an efficient transportation system that connects the County and provides connectivity to cities such as Kitchener, Waterloo, and London.

**Background Information:**

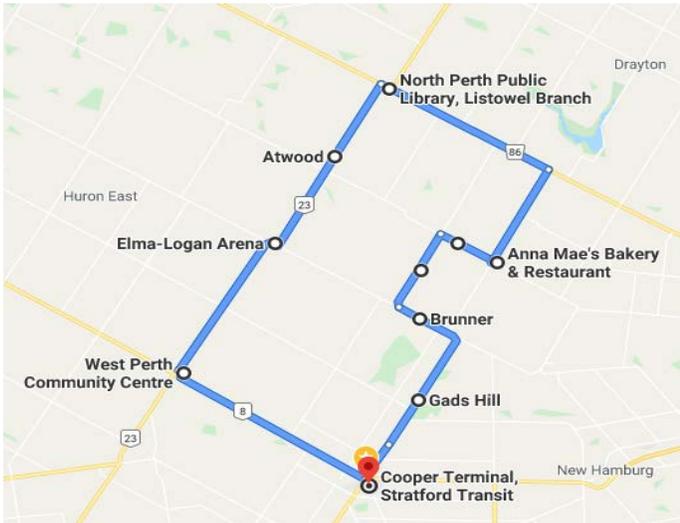
The RFP Evaluation Team has identified Voyago as a preferred vendor for both County and City contracts. The County and City staff have established and discussed specifics relating to the terms of the contract, which is currently under review by Legal. The agreement is being negotiated in principle with each Council’s approval, and with the notion that the Local Partnership Agreement (LPA) will be signed by all parties (Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys). Once Perth County has formally entered a contract with Voyago, the contract will be appended to the LPA for finalization.

County Staff have developed and tested two distinct routes that will cover the County and provide connectivity between all communities. The buses will be in operation from Monday-Saturday for approximately 8 hours a day, with each route completing 4 runs per day. Both County Routes A and B will run in a loop, and will travel in opposite directions every other run in order to provide the most efficient roundtrip possible.

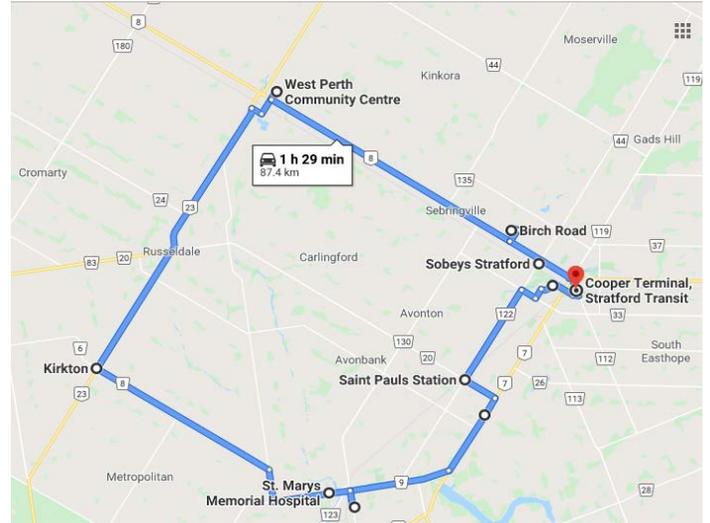
Perth Route A will commence in Stratford, and will travel to Gadshill, Brunner, Milverton, Newton, Millbank, Listowel, Atwood, Monkton, and Mitchell.

Perth Route B will also commence in Stratford and will travel to St. Pauls, St. Marys, Kirkton, Mitchell, and Sebringville. The team is currently leveraging the knowledge and expertise of Voyago to ensure a cohesive flow of timelines prior to finalizing the schedule of operation, however the routes are projected to start at approximately 6:30am in order to get riders to their place of employment by 8:30am.

### Perth Route A



### Perth Route B



The routes have been closely analyzed in order to determine the most ideal stop locations for future riders. A variety of potential stops have been identified and include central locations such as public libraries, community centers, hospitals, and grocery stores. The suggested stops have been closely considered to ensure that the locations are convenient, safe, and accessible for all riders, as per the ADOA standards. A checklist has been developed in order to ensure that stops are placed in areas with reduced speed limits, pavement, street lighting, and access to amenities such as shelter and seating. Where all requirements are not met, the necessary upgrades will be made.

The next steps of the transportation project are to finalize the scheduling and bus stop locations, and move forward on developing a brand and marketing plan. The County of Perth and the City of Stratford will continue to work closely in order to develop a unified brand and logo that will be leveraged across both the intra and intercounty services. The hope is that by providing a unified logo, marketing, and booking services, the transportation services will be more digestible and desirable for riders. All key project components will be consulted with Voyago in order to ensure that Perth County delivers the most efficient and desirable service possible

The goal of the new transportation service is to provide County residents with better access to employment, social, medical, and recreational activities, and will enable employers to draw workers from a wider geographic area. As such it will contribute to key social and economic goals of the County of Perth.

**Comments:**

Despite the current uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project will be proceeding with a tentative launch date of August 2020. The County of Perth, the City of Stratford, and municipal partners continue to cooperate closely on the complex process of launching these new transportation services.

**Financial Implications:**

No additional budget implications beyond the amount received from the Community Transportation Grant Program are identified at this time. An updated service budget will be submitted to Council once the service provider contract is complete, and specific costs are better defined.

**Connection to Strategic Plan:**

Goal #1 Growth and Economic Development  
Goal #2 Regionalization and Service Effectiveness  
Goal #3 Customer Service Excellence  
Goal #4 Community Development

**Accessibility Implications:**

The new transportation service will be fully accessible to all riders. The ADOA standards are at top of mind through all decisions and acquisitions, such as the transportation provider and fleet, bus stop locations, service signage, and online technology.

**Climate Change- Mitigation/Adaptation Implications:**

Providing transportation within the County will reduce the number of vehicle miles travelled, and therefore will reduce fuel consumption as well as the County's overall carbon footprint.

**Reviewed by:**

L. Wolfe, Interim CAO