



SCOR EDC Member Update

MIDDLESEX 2024





Background





REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

- Created in 2010
- SCOR EDC came together because councils of the day recognized that a strong member-based partnership would benefit their individual counties and the region as a whole in the long term.
- Larger regional issues that have an impact on the region but would be difficult for one municipality to tackle on their own
- Shared resources; for more efficient use of tax payer dollars
- Strong voice for advocacy and moving forward large issues and opportunities

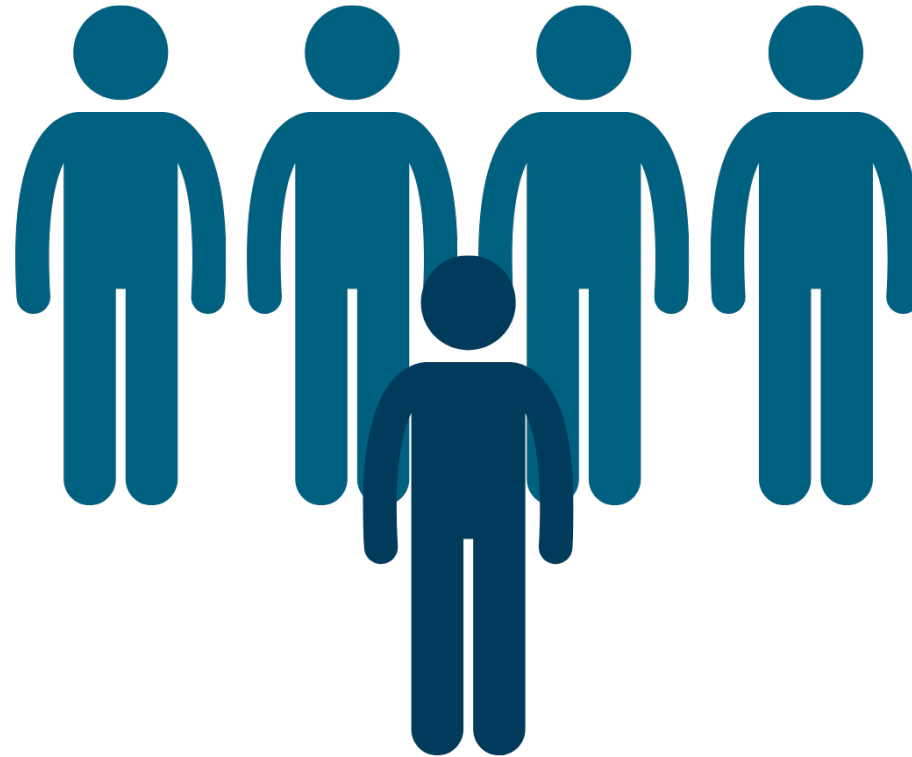


NORFOLK COUNTY
COUNTY OF BRANT
OXFORD COUNTY
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
ELGIN COUNTY





Right-sized One in five



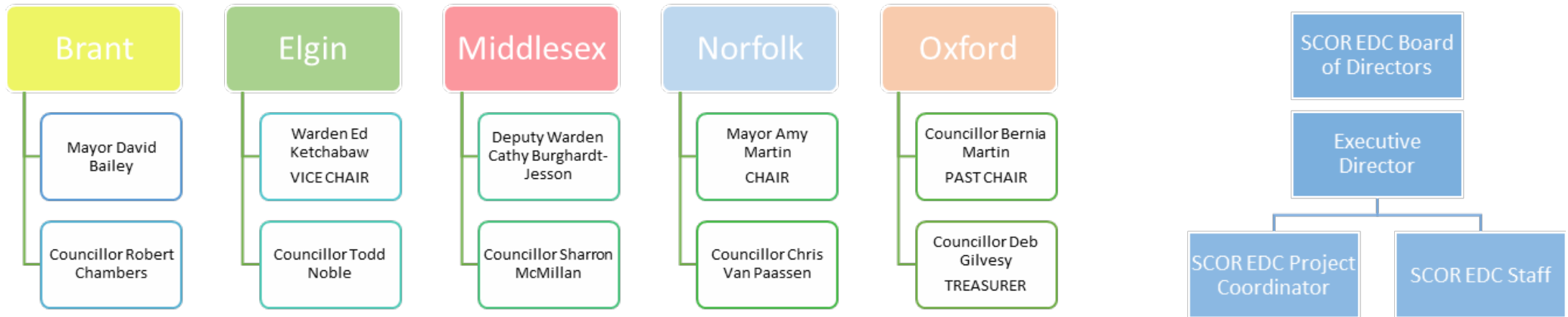


SCOR EDC STRUCTURE AND STAFF / COMMITTEE RESOURCES



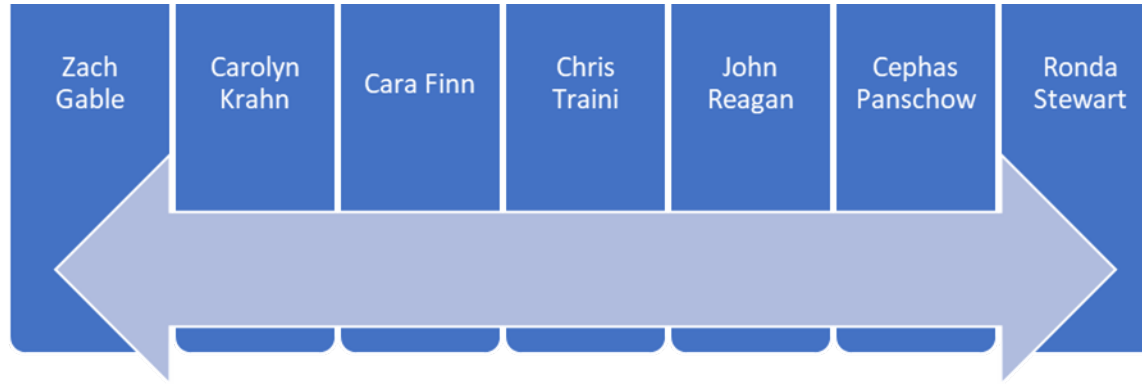


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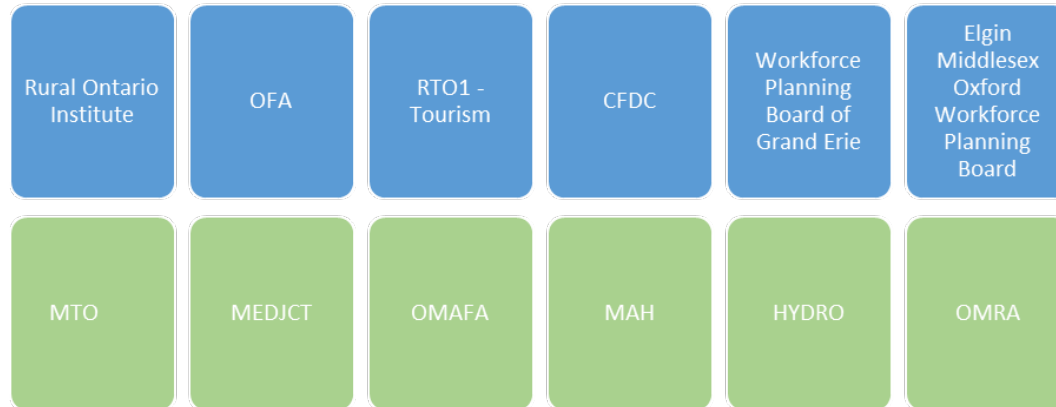




SCOR EDC STRUCTURE AND STAFF /



RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAKEHOLDERS





Regional Strategy

Priorities

- Infrastructure required to support economic development
- human capital to support economic development
- Key sector focus is agriculture and agri-food





Advancing Strategic Priorities



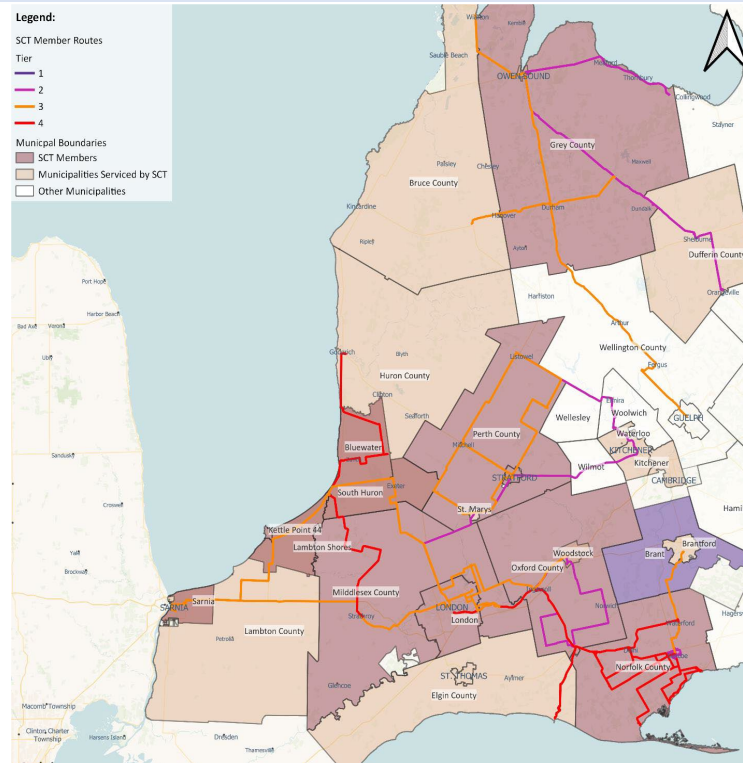


Priority: ensuring the region is able to move goods and people (Infrastructure & Human capital)

Infrastructure: Inter-community transit

One of our strategic priorities is infrastructure and human capital. SCOR EDC and partners like Rural Ontario Institute have been advancing rural transit supporting these two initiatives over the last decade.

Reliable transit options are needed as part of robust **infrastructure** and as a means to **support recruitment** across a wider region for employers.





About SCT



- Member systems represent a population of **1M+**
- connect geographies to serve a population of **2M+** and a land area of **21,000 km²**
- Of the 2M+ in the SCT's service area, **375,000+** are over the age of **65**
- and nearly **200,000** are **low-income**
- Ridership is increasing significantly
- 2021 SCT ridership was **38,066 riders**. 2023, ridership was **119,006** – an increase of **213%**
- Between 2021 and 2023, all SCT members have experienced ridership growth, ranging from an increase of **41%** to **1299%**
- As of June 2024, ridership for the first half of 2024 is **64,381**





SCT Economic Impact

12 meetings with MTO minister and staff regarding transit/transportation

MTO holds SCT model up as an example of best practices

They are prioritizing collaborative efforts such as SCT

30% OF 120,000 RIDERS USED TRANSIT FOR WORK = 36,000 RIDERS



ANNUAL SALARY \$41,600/RIDER
(40 HOURS PER WEEK AT \$20 PER HOUR)

ASSUME RIDERS ONLY USE TRANSIT FOR 6 MONTHS OF THE YEAR

ANNUAL SALARY: \$20,800/RIDER

OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$748,800,000

(36,000 RIDERS X \$20,800)



Southwest Community Transit

www.ride-sct.ca





Priority: ensuring the region is able to move goods and people (Infrastructure & sector development)

Infrastructure rail

Building strong supply chains in the manufacturing and agricultural sector. Insuring regional infrastructure is in place that supports the five county region. Freight multi-modal development across the region supporting new and existing development directly and indirectly.

Cayuga Rail Location

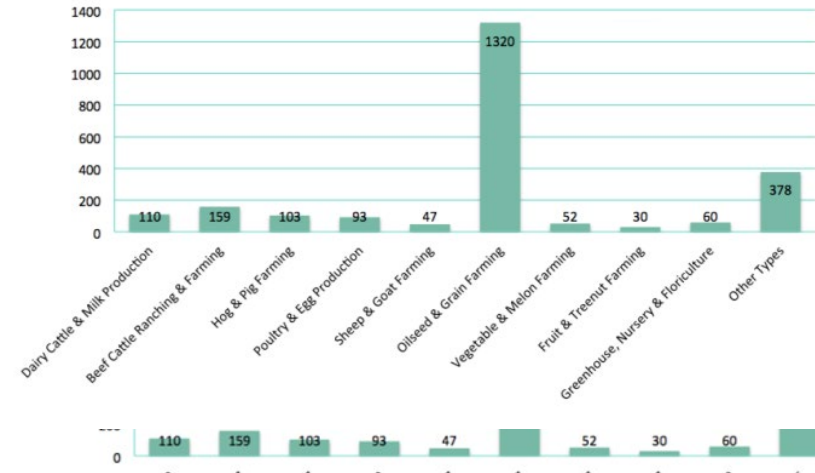




Infrastructure rail



Figure 17: Number of Farms in Middlesex-London by Industry (Source: Census of Agriculture, 2011)



Grains & Oilseed

In 2021 in Middlesex County corn for grain was the largest crop by acre, with soybeans following as a close second. The County's acreage of corn for grain increased from 2016 to 2021, while acreage of soybeans decreased slightly over the same period. Total rye greatly increased in acreage from 2016 to 2021 while total wheat acreage increased only very slightly.

<https://www.investinmiddlesex.ca/sites/default/files/2022-09/Middlesex%20County%20Agricultural%20Snapshot%20%282022%29%20-%20Final.pdf>





Priority: ensuring the region is has adequate energy supply and is investment ready (Infrastructure & sector development)

Infrastructure energy

Taking a regional view on developing energy capacity. Ensuring that policies align with process to attract investment and support current business. Ex. Leave to Construct.
Example: expansion of natural gas program supporting farmers – 2016 success
Example: 2024 Leave to Construct- update of threshold to support development





Infrastructure: Housing

SCOR EDC support of other organizations such as ROI in supporting creation of tools to advance appropriate development in rural communities.

Useful for social services, housing corporations and planners in aggregating critical information to support municipal development and planning.





Advocacy that supports core economic development activities





Advocacy



- 32 various ministry meetings over the last 12 months
- Invited to speak to the Standing Committee of the Interior on Bill 165
- Direct meetings with Minister of Education





Advocacy





Current Initiatives





Projects and Initiatives

- Partner project with Workforce Planning Board on Business HR Toolkit for employee turnover preparedness
- Supply Chain resilience project: creating regional business directory, planning for regional supply chain development and regional land readiness database (for this five county region)
- Growth related issues: education-schools needed, satellite college campuses
- Elgin St Thomas Workforce Development committee
- Inter-governmental, inter-ministerial committee
- Program Advisory Committee: Fanshawe College Agri-Business Management Program (London and Simcoe Campus)
- Program Advisory Committee: Conestoga College Agricultural Equipment Operator Program
- Transport Action Ontario
- Rail development committee





SCOR EDC Projects 2025





Projects and Initiatives for 2025

- Regional supply chain development project: infrastructure, regional business development and land readiness.
 - Standardized information for SCOR
- Workforce resilience and integration project
- Regional Transportation Advancement
 - SCT & Freight Rail





Membership Value





Long Term Strategic Planning

- Partnership creates immediate value but more importantly **cumulative value over time**
- **Action-oriented organization** – with a focus on strategic planning and **implementation**
- SCOR is widely recognized with **a positive reputation** as a region
- Ability to tackle projects and issues that are **larger in scale** than one municipality can take on individually
- Small enough to reach a consensus and move forward on areas of focus
- Ability to **attract and leverage** funding on a regional scale





Direct Investment Attracted

SCOR Financial Impact Assessment 2022-2024	
Direct	
Federal funding program -wage support	\$56,000.00
Provincial funding program-project support	\$14,500.00
Provincial funding-Transit	\$24,000.00
Federal funding-transit	\$82,000.00
Agriculture-Always in Season	\$10,000.00
Total SCOR EDC	\$186,500.00
SCOR/ Regional Total	\$186,500.00
All	\$186,500.00





Partner Investment Dollars SCOR EDC Supported

Partner supported funding attracted	
Workforce Projects	\$165,000.00
Rural Ontario Institute - RHIS	\$499,000.00
Middlesex County transit	\$62,000.00
Norfolk County workforce project	\$165,000.00
Agricultural Project - Market Development	\$85,000.00
Total Regional	\$976,000.00





Dollars attracted as a result of advocacy

Programming Resulting from Advocacy Efforts	
Community Pilot Transportation Program-Norfolk	\$765,000
Community Pilot Transportation Program-Tillsonburg	\$1,457,732
Community Pilot Transportation Program-Strathroy-Caradoc	\$1,450,000
Community Pilot Transportation Program-Middlesex	\$1,500,000
Extended CPTTP-funding - Norfolk	\$298,552.44
Extended CPTTP-funding -Tillsonburg	\$743,510.48
Extended CPTTP-funding -Strathroy-Caradoc	\$821,215.12
Extended CPTTP-funding - Middlesex	\$927,944.62
Total Influenced	\$7,963,954.66
Rural Transit Solutions Fund \$250 Million	\$250,000,000
	\$257,963,954.66
Sand Plains Community Development Fund- still paying dividends	\$15,000,000
	\$272,963,954.66





The Value of Partnership

Your membership fee	Your value
\$30,000	\$130,000 Senior staff person
\$30,000	\$60,000 2 part time staff
\$30,000	\$800,000 Access to senior staff expertise
8 Neighboring Elected Officials	Experience and goodwill = invaluable
\$30,000 = \$980,000 value for Membership	





Thank You!

We have accomplished a great deal as a five county partnership...good neighbours working together for the good of all!

Thank you!

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