



September 1, 2024

Dear Mayor and Members of Council

Subject: Request for Support of Resolution for Continued Transit Funding

As we continue to navigate the challenges and opportunities in our respective municipalities, the importance of reliable and accessible public transit cannot be overstated. Our community's transit systems plan a critical role in enhancing the quality of life for residents, supporting economic development, and promoting environmental sustainability.

In light of this, South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation (SCOR EDC) board of directors has drafted a resolution requesting the province to support Southwest Community Transit which is a SCOR EDC project and initiative serving rural and small urban Ontario. We believe that sustained financial support is essential for maintaining and improving our transit infrastructure, which directly impacts our ability to provide equitable and efficient transportation options for our residents. Current provincial support is expected to end in March 2025.

Given the interconnected nature of our regional transit networks through SCT and the shared benefits of a robust transit system, we are reaching out to partner and neighbouring municipalities and stakeholders to seek your support for this resolution. By coming together and presenting a united front, we can better advocate for the necessary resources to ensure our transit systems remain effective and responsive to community needs.

Enclosed with this letter, you will find a copy of the proposed resolution. We respectfully request that your municipality consider endorsing and passing this resolution in support of our collective appeal to the provincial government. Your support would greatly strengthen our efforts and demonstrate a collaborative commitment to the advancement and need for public transit in smaller communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information regarding this matter. We would appreciate your feedback and look forward to your response.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Amy Martin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Amy Martin'.

SCOR EDC
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

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SCOR EDC Resolution for Southwest Community Transit

WHEREAS the County of Brant, Middlesex County, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc, Norfolk County, Town of Tillsonburg, Municipality of East Zorra Tavistock, Grey County, Perth County, City of Stratford, Municipality of Lambton Shores, and Wellington County have successfully utilized government funding to create and sustain local community transit through Southwest Community Transit; and

WHEREAS 85,000 riders have utilized the Southwest Community Transit services in the first half of 2024 alone, demonstrating significant community reliance on these services; and

WHEREAS the economic impact of this transit system is estimated to be \$748,800,000 annually, largely due to its role in providing transportation to employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS the current funding for this critical small urban and rural inter-community transit service is set to expire in March 2025, putting the sustainability of the service at risk:

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Middlesex County Council urges the provincial government to continue funding Southwest Community Transit beyond March 2025 to ensure the ongoing viability of this essential service for small urban and rural Ontario

BE IT FURTHER resolved that this resolution be circulated to the County of Brant, Elgin County, Middlesex County, Norfolk County, Oxford County, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc, Town of Tillsonburg, Municipality of East Zorra Tavistock, Perth County, City of Stratford, Municipality of Lambton Shores, Wellington County, Bruce County, Municipality of Bayham, Municipality of Thames Centre and other relevant stakeholders for their support and advocacy.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Carried/Defeated:

Date:

Clerks Name:

Title: Municipal Clerk, (Your municipalities name)