

Report to Municipal Council



Meeting Date: November 6, 2024	Report Date: October 30, 2024
Reason Before Council: Policy Direction / Approval	Priority: Normal
Department: Health Services	Type of Meeting: Committee of the Whole

Report Title: Future of Sudbury East Accessible Transportation (SEAT) Program

Recommended Resolution:

That Council receive the information and provide direction to staff.

Options:

1. Endorse the request from Sudbury East Seniors Support Inc.
2. Endorse the request from soon to be established St.-Charles Lion's Club.
3. Open a discussion with other stakeholders (e.g. municipalities, Univi, other Lion's Clubs or similar service groups).
4. End the program. Of note the vehicle is fairly new and should last 3 to 4 years or more depending on usage.

Analysis & Background:

I had been delaying this report until Sudbury East Seniors Support Inc. was able to present to Council their request, however the presentation has been delayed. Now a new request from the pending Lion's Club has been presented.

From discussions with MTO the request for vehicle / program transfer should be in this fall to allow sufficient time for a decision.

I had a meeting with the MTO regarding the SEAT program for possible transition options to continue the SEAT program:

- They are encouraging us to try to continue the program even in a modified version.
- They would accept a "part time service" only running a couple of times per week.



- **The service (material / van / equipment only) can be transferred to an approved service.**
- Eligibility of organizations is wide: A municipality serving one (1) municipality (its residents). St.-Charles is preferred as the grant is ours but open to others, possibly 1 organization serving its client (i.e. UNIVI) though not ideal, Aide aux Senior or even Lion's Club would also be ok as they are serving a broader group. Please note, they must approve the transfer, so keep in mind that the transition request may be refused. The sooner we ask is better. It would also require **(because of grant)** approval from St.-Charles Council as the request would come from us.
- **Any left-over funds / money as at March 31, 2025, must be returned to MTO.**
- If the program does not continue, the van (sold according to MTO procedures) must return to MTO.
- If we do continue the service, a proposal should be submitted as soon as possible to receive permission of transfer of asset prior to March 31, 2025.
- Currently the Council for the Municipality of St.-Charles has decided not to provide funding post March 31, 2025, and agreed to discontinue the SEAT program.

In the discussion with MTO, they are open for the service to continue in a modified format, Senior only support would be possibly acceptable.

So, the first step is to prepare a proposal, whether it is a one pager, or a detailed business plan.

Once the transfer is complete (if it does go ahead) Municipal Staff would no longer be responsible to monitor funds and report to the Ministry.

Attachments:

- Business Proposal from Sudbury East Seniors Support Inc. – A presentation to Council is being planned but a date has not been finalized.
- Email from Community Transportation Grant Program (MTO) dated October 31, 2024

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