

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Engineering and Transportation Division

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Jan Metcalfe, C.Tech
Engineering Technologist

Date: January 18, 2021

Subject: Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Systems
April 2020 – March 2021 Program

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. In order to adhere to Provincial requirements relating to the announced sharing of Provincial gas tax revenues for the 2020 – 2021 program:
 - a) The Mayor and Treasurer be authorized to sign the necessary Letter of Agreement which shall be submitted to the Ministry of Transportation.
 - b) The Engineering and Transportation Division be authorized to prepare and coordinate approvals for any necessary reporting forms and forward to the Ministry of Transportation at the appropriate time.

Background

The Province has a vision for a stronger Ontario built around strong communities, a vibrant economy and healthier, more liveable cities with increased access to public transportation, reduced commute times and cleaner air for all Ontarians. By providing a portion of the gas tax for public transportation, the Province assists municipalities to become more self-sustaining in that regard.

As of October 2004, the Province provided 1 cent per litre of gas tax funds to Ontario municipalities, increasing as of October 2005 to 1.5 cents per litre, and, since October 2006, has consistently provided 2 cents per litre annually.

As of 2013 and pursuant to the *Dedicated Funding for Public Transportation Act, 2013* (“DFPTA”), a portion of the provincial gasoline tax revenue is dedicated to the provision of grants to municipalities for public transportation, including those pursuant to the program. The portion of the gas tax that is dedicated in each fiscal year is an amount determined using a formula set out in the DFPTA.

The 2020 - 2021 program will run from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. The new allocation of funding for the program for 109 public transit systems representing 144 municipalities will amount to approximately \$378.6 million.

The purpose of the program is to provide dedicated gas tax funds to Ontario municipalities to ensure that local public transportation services continue, and to increase overall ridership through the expansion of public transportation capital infrastructure and levels of service. To be eligible to receive dedicated gas tax funds, a municipality must contribute financially towards their public transportation services.

For 2020 - 2021 and unless otherwise approved in writing by the Ministry, only municipalities that have submitted their 2019 annual data survey to the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA), and their 2019 Gas Tax reporting forms to the Ministry, will be eligible to receive dedicated gas tax funds.

A municipality receiving dedicated gas tax funds must ensure that all funds received and any related interest are used exclusively towards the provision of public transportation services, and, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Ministry, disbursement of dedicated gas tax funds and any related interest must be net of any rebate, credit or refund, for which it has received, will receive, or is eligible to receive.

All public transportation services and public transportation vehicles must be fully accessible in accordance with the requirements set out under the following statutes and regulations, as may be amended from time to time: the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, S.O. 2005, c. 11 and the *Integrated Accessibility Standards*, O. Reg. 191/11 made under that *Act*, the *Highway Traffic Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8 and the *Accessible Vehicles*, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 629 made under that *Act*, and the *Public Vehicles Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 54. In addition to the above, the acquisition of public transportation vehicles must comply with the Canadian Content Policy requirements.

Unless the Ministry otherwise approves in writing, in 2020 - 2021, gas tax revenues and any related interest can only be used to support municipal public transportation expenditures above a municipality's baseline spending and not to reduce or replace current levels of municipal public transportation funding. External audit and financial reporting costs are not eligible expenditures to which dedicated gas tax funding can be applied or the Ministry may reimburse.

The program is an important element of the ongoing relationship between the Province and Ontario municipalities. Municipalities receiving dedicated gas tax funds must meet the requirements set out in the guidelines and requirements.

As recently announced, Ontario has moved forward with the commitment to make Gas Tax funding permanent with passage of the *Dedicated Funding for Public Transportation Act, 2013*. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent will be eligible to receive an allocation of \$988,813 for the period April 2020 – March 2021.

This information has been provided by the Ministry of Transportation’s “Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Program 2020/21 Guidelines and Requirements” document. (Document available upon request).

Comments

To date, Chatham-Kent’s allocations (totaling \$14,952,570) are summarized as follows:

Table 1: Summary of Allocations to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Dedicated Gas Tax for Public Transportation Systems – Allocation Period 2004 – March 2021

Year	Amount
2004 - 2005	\$ 542,581
2005 - 2006	\$ 790,447
2006 - 2007	\$ 833,408
2007 - 2008	\$ 829,971
2008 - 2009	\$ 891,567
2009 - 2010	\$ 1,002,967
2010 - 2011	\$ 990,779
2011 - 2012	\$ 979,869
2012 - 2013	\$ 966,467
October 2013 – March 2014 (six month period only)	\$ 473,483
April 2014 – March 2015	\$ 914,806
April 2015 – March 2016	\$ 950,306
April 2016 – March 2017	\$ 910,120
April 2017 – March 2018	\$ 952,316
April 2018 – March 2019	\$ 965,599
April 2019 – March 2020	\$ 969,071
April 2020 – March 2021	\$ 988,813
TOTAL ALLOCATION TO DATE:	\$ 14,952,570

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

- Economic Prosperity:
Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- A Healthy and Safe Community:
Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- People and Culture:
Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community
- Environmental Sustainability:
Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

- Financial Sustainability:
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership
- Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

No consultations were held related to the preparation of this report, as it simply permits execution of the necessary agreements associated with the Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation program as administered by the Ministry of Transportation.

Although not specifically part of this report, it should be noted that Council, administration and the general public have been consulted as required on specific expenditures of gas tax fund receipts. This practice shall continue for the duration of the program.

Financial Implications

As indicated by the Ministry of Transportation, the execution of the agreements identified within this report suggest that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent will receive an allocation of \$988,813 to enhance and expand public transportation within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

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Attachment: None

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Public Transportation System April 2020 – March 2021 Program.docx