

Staff Report

Report To: Operations Committee
Report From: Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Meeting Date: July 20, 2023
Report Code: OP-23-031
Subject: Guelph Owen Sound Transportation Bus Stop Agreement Extension

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-23-031 respecting Guelph Owen Sound Transportation Bus Stop Agreements Extension, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to execute the amending agreements as described in the report.

Highlights:

- The GOST service completes two roundtrips daily, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Scheduled stops include Chatsworth, Williamsford, Durham, Mount Forest, Arthur, Fergus and Elora, with service commencing on August 31, 2020.
- The City awarded Voyago – Voyager Transportation a contract to operate the GOST service.
- In January 2022, the Inter-Community Transportation Grant Program funding for GOST was extended to March 31, 2025.
- On March 13, 2023, Council approved an extension to contract Voyago to renew the contract for one (1) additional two-year extension to end on March 31, 2025.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by considering climate adaptation in the development of the City's strategies, plans, and policies.

Previous Report/Authority:

[OP-21-022 Guelph Owen Sound Transportation Bus Stop License Agreement](#)

[OP-22-001 Community Transportation Grant Program](#)

[CR-23-028 Extension of Approval Contract – Operation of Intercommunity Transportation Service](#)

Background:

At the Council meeting held on June 20, 2021, Council approved the Staff's recommendation to bring forward a by-law authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement between each of the respective property owners of the bus stop locations and the City of Owen Sound allowing the City to facilitate bus stops for the Owen Sound to Guelph Bus Service operated by Voyago – Voyager Transportation. These agreements are necessary to grant the City of Owen Sound and its contractor, Voyago, the right to occupy the designated premises (bus stop locations) as specified in the agreements throughout the duration of the contract.

These agreements involve various property owners (Licensors) and the City of Owen Sound (Licensee) for the respective bus stop locations:

1. Township of Chatsworth - Six and Ten Mini-Mart (village of Chatsworth)
2. Township of Chatsworth – Williamsford Community Centre
3. Northern Credit Union Limited – Queen Street South – Durham (Municipality of West Grey)
4. Township of Wellington North – Mount Forest
5. Township of Wellington North – Arthur
6. Township of Centre Wellington – Fergus
7. Township of Centre Wellington - Elora

Analysis:

The initial bus stop agreement is set to expire on August 31, 2023, aligning with the original conclusion of the Community Transit Grant Funding program. However, the Province extended funding, and on January 11, 2022, Council approved an extension of the program until March 31, 2025. On March 13, 2023, Council approved the staff's recommendation to renew the contract with Voyago for one (1) additional two-year extension.

Staff recommends that Council approve the amendments to the Bus Stop Agreements to revise the termination date to March 31, 2025.

Financial Implications:

There are no direct fees or charges to the City per the Agreements. The Guelph to Owen Sound Transportation service is fully funded through a grant from the Ministry of Transportation/the Provincial government. However, a modest revenue of \$48,356.00 in 2021 and \$81,375.00 in 2022 was generated from fares collected from patrons.

Communication Strategy:

Communication is through the posting of Committee and Council meeting agendas.

More information on GOST hours of operation and bus stop locations can be found at [Guelph Owen Sound Transportation - Owen Sound](#).

Consultation:

Manager of Legislated Services.

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Heidi Jennen, Manager of Environmental Services

Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services, at hjennen@owensound.ca or 519-376-1440 Ext 3223.