
DATE: June 15, 2009

REPORT TITLE: **TRANSPORTATION SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR CALEDON COMMUNITY SERVICES**

FROM: Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Environment, Transportation and Planning Services

RECOMMENDATION

That staff be authorized to donate two of the planned retired wheelchair accessible buses from TransHelp to Caledon Community Services in accordance with the Purchasing By-Law 63-2008;

And further, that commencing in 2010 the 10 Year Capital Program include the purchase of wheelchair accessible buses to be leased to Caledon Community Services and financed through the Federal Gas Tax funds Reserve 0025;

And further, that staff amend the existing agreement with Caledon Community Services to include the purchase of vehicles and leasing arrangement;

And further, that the required documents be executed by the Regional Corporation's duly authorized signing officers of the Regional Corporation.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Caledon Community Services (CCS) provides transportation to seniors and TransHelp clients.
- CCS existing vehicle fleet resources can not accommodate growth in TransHelp ridership.
- TransHelp staff reviewed opportunities to assist CCS with short term and long term transportation resource requirements.
- Staff are proposing to donate two of the planned retired buses to CCS to assist with their aging fleet and utilize Federal Gas Tax funds to purchase new buses that will be leased to CCS and be incorporated in the 10 Year Capital Program. The existing agreement will be amended to include the purchase of vehicles and leasing arrangement.
- It is anticipated that this will assist CCS with their short term and long term transportation sustainability plan.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

Caledon Community Services is a non-profit organization that relies on the community and funding from government agencies to support their program. Caledon Community Services

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currently provides transportation to senior citizens and clients that are registered with TransHelp in Caledon. TransHelp values the partnership with Caledon Community Services and the excellent working relationship that has developed over the years. In 2008 Caledon Community Services provided approximately 25,000 trips for the residents of Caledon. Their current fleet consists of three wheelchair accessible buses and one van. The existing fleet is small and maintenance costs are increasing due to the amount of mileage on the vehicles.

Due to the growth in the aging population and people with physical disabilities, the demand for transportation continues to grow at a rapid pace in Caledon. This demand has put a strain on CCS as they have limited vehicle resources to accommodate the increase in ridership.

A recent meeting with staff and CCS took place to discuss a solution to their immediate short term needs and long term transportation resource requirements. As a solution to the short term issue, CCS requested if TransHelp would consider donating any of our existing buses to CCS. In addition, CCS inquired if there was funding available to purchase a new bus to accommodate the increase in TransHelp ridership.

2. Findings

Staff explored the opportunities with the goal to assist CCS to accommodate the growth in TransHelp ridership. The option of donating retired buses is a viable solution and is in accordance with the Purchasing By-Law 63-2008 as it relates to the disposal of assets. Currently the process to dispose of retired buses is to send the buses to auction. The approximate market value of each bus is \$1,000.

Staff has also reviewed the opportunity to utilize Federal Gas Tax funds to purchase new wheelchair accessible buses for CCS to support the expansion of TransHelp ridership within Caledon. The purchase of these buses would be leased to CCS to meet the criteria with the Federal Gas Tax guidelines. The existing agreement with CCS would be amended to include the vehicle leasing arrangement. The 10 Year Capital Program would include the purchase of buses for CCS as determined by Regional staff. It is anticipated that this will assist CCS with a long term transportation sustainability plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The auction value of the two vehicles is approximately \$2,000. The donation of these vehicles will have minimal affect on the miscellaneous revenue.

The funds to purchase new wheelchair accessible buses for CCS is approximately \$85,000 each and will be taken from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve 0025 and incorporated in the 10 Year Capital Program.

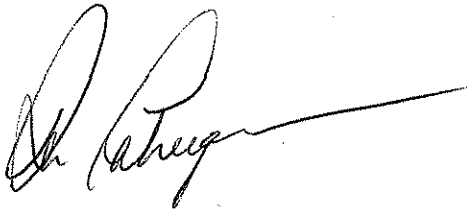
CONCLUSION

Staff has explored the options and finds that donating two existing vehicles is a viable solution to address the short term need for CCS.

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In addition, as part of the 10 Year Capital Program commencing in the year 2010 staff are proposing to utilize the Federal Gas Tax Reserve R0025 to fund the purchase of new wheelchair accessible buses that are to be leased to CCS for the expansion of TransHelp ridership.



Dan Labrecque
Commissioner of Environment, Transportation
and Planning Services

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer



For further information regarding this report, please contact
Maureen VanRavens at extension 6850 or via email at maureen.vanravens@peelregion.ca

c. Legislative Services



M. Macintyre, Director, Purchasing
Manager, Financial Support Unit (FSU)