



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Application to Ministry of Transportation's Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program

Date:	December 19 2014
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	20605

SUMMARY

On November 25, 2014, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) launched a pilot grant program to improve community transportation services for seniors, persons living with disabilities, youth, and other members of the community who need transportation. Municipalities are invited to apply in partnership with community agencies.

The Toronto Senior's Strategy recommends that the City of Toronto increase affordable transportation options for older Torontonians and improve the accessibility of the public transportation network. If approved, funding from MTO will support the City to work toward implementing these two recommendations.

Because of the timing of the provincial deadline (January 31, 2015) staff will submit an application conditional on Council approval at its February meeting. The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council approve the application to the Ministry of Transportation's Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program in partnership with two community based organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. City Council approve the City of Toronto application to the provincial Transportation Pilot Program and delegate authority to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to receive and allocate the funding to two community based agency partners, SPRINT (Toronto RIDE) and Circle of Care.

Financial Impact

This initiative is 100% provincially funded. The resources required to administer this program are included in the 2015 base budget request, with no financial implications from this report beyond what has been included in the 2015 Recommended Operating Budget for Social Development Finance and Administration.

Should the application for the provincial grant result in the receipt of the provincial funding, the 2015 Recommended Operating Budget for Social Development Finance and Administration will be amended to include the grant to the agencies who will deliver the services.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on May 7, 8, 9 and 10, 2013, City Council approved the Toronto's Seniors Strategy

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD20.1>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program is a \$1 million, two-year pilot grant program that will provide financial assistance to Ontario municipalities for the development and implementation of community transportation initiatives. Applications are due January 30, 2015.

The Toronto Seniors Strategy, approved by Council in May 2013, recommends that the City of Toronto increase affordable transportation options for older Torontonians and improve the accessibility of the public transportation network.

COMMENTS

The launch of MTO's grant program provides a unique opportunity to work in partnership with agencies that are engaged in transportation initiatives that increase access to seniors and people with disabilities.

Many older Torontonians have difficulty finding affordable transportation to get where they need to go - to appointments, social and recreational programs - and to maintain active and healthy lives.

MTO's Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program will provide up to \$100,000 over two years to municipalities to partner with community organizations, such as health and community agencies, transit agencies, school-bus operators and private transit operators, to co-ordinate local transportation services, so more rides can be provided to more people, and to more destinations.

Two of the five Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) that cover the City of Toronto have identified a community based, not for profit organization to coordinate transportation programs within its boundaries. They are Circle of Care in Central and SPRINT (as the lead for Toronto RIDE) in Toronto Central. Circle of Care and SPRINT are city-funded agencies with the capacity and relevant mandates to provide this service. Both are in good standing with the City.

The objectives of the grant application from the City will be to work with Circle of Care and SPRINT:

- to strengthen their capacity to meet local transportation demands in their respective catchment areas
- to engage other relevant community based agencies to ensure that the initiative reflects a coordinated community transportation service across the city.

The Provincial program deadline is January 31, 2015. Council does not meet until February 10 and 11, 2015. Staff will submit an application by the deadline conditional on Council approval at its February meeting.

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SIGNATURE

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