

Schedule A – Request to Appear as a Delegation

I wish to appear before Council on:

(Please print clearly)

CONTACT NAME:	
Additional Speaker:	
ADDRESS:	
POSTAL CODE:	TELEPHONE #:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	

New Delegation

1. Key points of my delegation are as follows: (please attach full presentation)

2. The desired action of Council that I am seeking on this issue is (Please be aware that Council will not make a decision on your item at this meeting, but a member may take the information under advisement for a Notice of Motion at a subsequent Council meeting):

Additional Delegation Information

I wish to submit the following additional information since I was a delegation at the Council meeting. My new information is as follows: (please attach full presentation)

SAUGEEN MOBILITY

and REGIONAL TRANSIT

603 Bruce Road 19

Box 40 Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

519-881-2504 1-866-981-2504

saugeenmobility.ca

REPORT TO KINCARDINE COUNCIL – April 3, 2023

Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit is your local specialized public transit partnership serving the mentally and physically challenged residents of Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Chatsworth, Grey Highlands, Hanover, Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, Southgate and West Grey. This covers more than 5000 square kilometers, the largest geographical transit area in Ontario.

SMART is also a registered Canadian charity. Donations are gratefully received and tax receipts are issued for all donations.

SMART provides safe, dependable and affordable transportation solutions to individuals and groups for medical appointments, employment opportunities, shopping and social outings.

local and personal since 1977

SMART currently has a fleet of 20 vehicles and 19 drivers. The fleet includes 9 9-passenger accessible buses, 10 accessible minivans and one 30-passenger accessible bus. Three 9-passenger accessible buses will be added to the fleet in 2023 to replace three aging vehicles.

Individual user fees are currently \$2.00 plus \$.55/km with a \$7.50 minimum per ride. Waiting time is charged at \$22.00 per hour. Out of area rides or where a vehicle and driver are deemed to be 'chartered' are charged at \$.55/km plus \$22.00 per hour from the time the vehicle arrives at the client's residence until the client is done with the vehicle. There are no 'deadhead' charges. Deadhead charges are those related to the passenger-less vehicle getting to and from the client's residence.

A 'ride' is defined as one person going from point 'A' to point 'B'. A 'return trip' is 2 'rides'. As per the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, each client may have a companion or attendant ride free of charge. As well, extra stops between destination points are counted as rides since there is a charge for them.

In the view of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, public transit services are a municipal responsibility. The Government of Ontario, however, provides funding to all transit systems in the province to support their operations through the Ministry of Transportation's Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Program. Funds under this program are paid based on population and ridership data from two calendar years prior (for example, March 2022 funding was based on 2020 statistics).

In keeping with MTO methodology, municipal contributions are calculated annually with a 30% weight applied to population and a 70% weight applied to ridership. This overall contribution percentage or 'share' is then applied to the total municipal contribution to give the amount due from each municipality.

The Town of Hanover acts as SMART's 'Host Municipality' for the purpose of receiving and holding 'in trust' this dedicated Gas Tax funding until such time as it is used for capital purchases, operational deficits or other projects deemed to be improvements to the transit service in accordance with MTO guidelines and criteria.

Currently, Southgate has 37 active clients.

In 2022, clients from Southgate took 300 rides compared to 197 rides in 2021. Number of rides are steadily going back to pre-pandemic numbers where, for example, there were 600 rides in 2018.

Southgate's share of the 2023 municipal contribution is \$27,155, up from \$26,924 in 2022 and down from \$35,818 in 2021.

For local taxpayers, SMART represents a tremendous value when compared to other specialized public transit services. SMART serves a population of more than 100,000 which makes it one of 21 services in Ontario serving populations of 50,000 to 150,000.

Compared to its peer group, SMART continues to be chronically underfunded by its municipal partners. This underfunding means that SMART is far more dependent on the Gas Tax for Transit Program for operational costs than its peers. The effect of this is that SMART may have difficulty purchasing new vehicles in the future since most MTO funding will be spent on operational expenses.

For those who use and depend on SMART, this is a service that is highly valued. The service provided by SMART helps to keep the most vulnerable members of your community independent, mobile and involved. Many studies have shown a direct link between mobility and good health, both physical and mental.

Medically related rides constitute an estimated 36% of the rides supplied by SMART. The remaining rides are for social outings, shopping and work related transportation.

Municipal services like SMART are not simply expenditures. They are investments in building communities. People no longer just live where they were raised or work; they live where they can find the 'life' balance they want. Public services, especially municipal services, are a large part of that equation.

If the services they want (or need) are not available in a particular community, they will choose (or perhaps be forced) to live somewhere else where those services are available.

The population of Canada, especially in rural areas, is aging (as you no doubt know). There will only be increasing demand for this type of service over the next few decades. According to statistics from the 2021 census, both Grey and Bruce Counties had 26% of their population aged 65 or older. This compares to 18.5% for the Province of Ontario as a whole. The average age of the population in Bruce County is 45 years old and in Grey County it is 46 years old, compared to 42 years old provincially. Luckily, the provincial government recognizes this fact and appears very interested in transportation issues, especially in rural areas.

In response to these demographics, communities in Grey and Bruce have been adding a considerable number of new housing units for their aging residents. A safe, dependable and affordable transportation service for those residents is going to be a critical part of their quality of life and their being able to remain independent for as long as possible.

If you have further questions or comments regarding SMART, I can be reached at 519-881-2589 or by e-mail at stephan@saugeenmobility.ca.

Note - if an individual appears as a delegation before Council, a further delegation from the same individual concerning the same topic(s) will not be permitted unless there is *significant* new information to be brought forward, subject to approval by the Clerk. Specific new information must be identified on this form and/or attached for approval.

Terms - requests to appear before Council must be received in writing (and signed by at least one person) by the Clerk before 12:00 noon pm on the Wednesday immediately preceding the scheduled Council meeting, complete with a copy of the presentation materials as detailed in the delegation protocol. Failure to provide the required information on time will result in a loss of privilege to appear as a delegation.

I have read and understand the delegation protocol attached to this form and acknowledge that the information contained on this form, including any attachments, will become public documents and listed on Southgate's meeting agendas.

I also understand that presentation materials must be submitted with this delegation form. Electronic signed presentations must be e-mailed to agenda@southgate.ca no later than 12:00 noon on the Wednesday immediately preceding the meeting.

I also understand that if the materials contain any obscene or improper matter, language or does not meet the requirements of the delegation protocol, the Clerk shall decide whether it shall be included in the agenda for a Council meeting and if not, I will be notified.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Please direct any queries to the Municipal Clerk (519) 923-2110 ext. 230,
1-888-560-6607 Fax: (519) 923-9262

Approval

Council Date: _____

Municipal Clerk Initials: _____

Township of Southgate Delegation Protocol

The purpose of the delegation process is to allow residents to make their views known to Council. Council values and welcomes input, comments and constructive suggestions. Since Council generally has to consider a large number of issues and concerns at any given time, the following protocol is to be observed:

1. In accordance with the Township of Southgate Procedure By-law, a delegate shall be allowed to speak for ten (10) minutes.
2. A delegation shall consist of no more than two (2) persons with a total speaking time of not more than ten (10) minutes. When a number of people are to appear representing one viewpoint or interest group, it is expected that the group be represented by a spokesperson, and/or submit written submissions.
3. When called upon by the Chair at Council meetings, the delegation (speaker) should proceed immediately to the podium or table in the Council Chambers.
4. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks as brief as reasonably possible. Comments when stated in a clear, concise and factual manner are very much appreciated.
5. In order to reduce the possibility of any misunderstanding and to facilitate necessary follow-up, the Clerk shall be provided with a written copy of the presentation, which will become part of the official corporate records. If you intend to read from a prepared text, a copy of this text must be filed with the Clerk with your original request to appear as a delegation. If you do not intend to read from a prepared text, all key points that you wish to cover must be included with your request. If additional information is to be provided at the meeting, 12 copies shall be supplied to the Clerk prior to the meeting start time for circulation.
6. Discussion topics, other than the subject matter of the written request to appear as a delegation, will not be permitted. Further, subsequent delegations on the same topic, without significant new information, will not be permitted.
7. Persons addressing Council shall confine their remarks to the business stated in their written request to be heard, and such shall be presented in a respectful and professional manner, and their conduct shall be governed by the provisions set out in the Procedure By-law.
8. Council members may ask questions for clarification purposes. Statements from Council members or debate on the issue are not permitted at this stage. The matter will be referred to staff to prepare a report with a recommendation. Debate as required would take place after receiving the staff report.
9. Delegations will not be permitted on items that will be the subject to an upcoming public meeting pursuant to the Planning Act, unless exceptional circumstances apply, which have been reviewed and approved by Council. Persons should present their concerns and opinions at the scheduled public meeting where their comments can be considered along with all other submissions. Delegations or presentations to Council after the public meeting has been completed and before Council has made its determination will not be permitted.