



Media Release

Ministry of Transportation funding to aid in COVID-19 recovery for Mid-Pen Transit

August 17, 2020 – Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mid-Pen Transit has encountered several challenges ensuring the service has continued to operate, while protecting the health and safety of both transit operators and riders. On August 12, Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney announced that the Town of Midland will receive \$70,781 to help alleviate Midland’s portion of those financial challenges. This funding is part of the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement (SRA).

“This funding is coming at an important time for the Town of Midland. Our transit service has gone through numerous changes and service adjustments over the past few months in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, while continuing to help residents get where they need to be,” said Mayor Stewart Strathearn. “Thank you to Premier Doug Ford, Minister Caroline Mulroney, and Simcoe North MPP Jill Dunlop for providing this support to alleviate many concerns we’ve expressed.”

In late July, the Ontario government announced up to \$4 billion in emergency assistance had been secured to provide support to the 444 municipalities in the province, as part of the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement (SRA). Up to \$2 billion will support municipal operating pressures, and up to \$2 billion to support municipal transit systems.

This funding announcement is part of Municipal Transit Funding Phase 1 of the SRA, with additional funding available in early 2021 as part of Phase 2 for municipalities requiring further support. The Ontario Government will be working with municipalities to ensure Phase 2 funding helps achieve important transit objectives to promote growth and sustainability.

“This funding will be used to offset the added expenses incurred by the Town of Midland during this time such as cleaning costs, and driver and passenger protection,” added Mayor Strathearn. “Securing Phase 2 funding will be vital for ensuring the Mid-Pen Transit service can operate unimpeded by further financial challenges as we work through this pandemic.”

The Town of Midland will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and provide updates on our website at Midland.ca/COVID-19, and we encourage residents to follow our social media channels for updates as well, [@MidlandON](https://twitter.com/MidlandON) on Twitter, and [@townofmidland](https://facebook.com/townofmidland) on Facebook.

For more information on the state of COVID-19 in our area, please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit their website at simcoemuskokahealth.org.



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