



## Media Release

# Mid-Pen Transit Service to resume regular schedule and collecting fares on August 24

August 18, 2020 – With safety protocols in place and options for fare payments now available, on Monday, August 24, Mid-Pen Transit Service will resume its regular schedule and begin collecting fares from transit riders.

“The original purpose of providing the service for free was to provide financial relief to users during the early uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also, with all municipal offices and libraries closed, there was no viable option for users to reload their SmartCards, and we wanted to limit potential exposure from handling cash fares,” said Shawn Berriault, Director of Operations. “Now that there are locations open to reload SmartCards, and more safety protocols in place for both passengers and transit operators, we will resume collecting transit fares on August 24.”

The resumption of the regular transit schedule means the Penetanguishene route will begin at 6:30 a.m., Midland South at 6:45 a.m., and Midland North at 7:15 a.m. Saturday service will also resume, beginning August 29. For full details on the transit schedule, please visit [Midland.ca/Transit](https://Midland.ca/Transit).

With fare collection resuming, transit riders have the option of paying with exact fare (\$2.50 for adults age 18-64, \$2.25 for students age 7-17 and seniors age 65+) or through reloadable transit SmartCards.

Transit riders can reload SmartCards at the following locations:

- **North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre (Midland)** – No appointment needed.
- **Penetanguishene Municipal Office** – No appointment needed.
- **Penetanguishene Public Library** – No appointment needed.

The Midland Public Library reopened on August 10 with limited hours, however reloading of transit cards is currently not available at that location.

“The Town is also working on an online transit SmartCard reloading portal that we hope to launch in the near future,” added Berriault.



Reminder, that transit riders are required to wear a non-medical mask when riding the bus, with exceptions given to certain individuals based on the Chief Medical Officer's instructions. Masks will be provided when boarding if you don't have one, and refusal to wear one will result in refusal of service and could result in fines ranging from \$750-\$1000 up to a maximum of \$100,000.

As per the directive of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, exemptions will be made for: children under the age of two, and those under five who refuse/cannot be persuaded to wear one by their caregiver; those who cannot wear a mask due to their religious beliefs; and persons with disabilities or medical conditions that prevent a person from wearing a face mask.

The Town of Midland will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and provide updates on our website at [Midland.ca/COVID-19](https://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](https://simcoemuskokahealth.org).



For media enquiries, please contact:  
Randy Fee | Communications & Marketing Coordinator  
Town of Midland | 575 Dominion Avenue, Midland, ON L4R 1R2  
705-526-4275 ext.2264 | [rfee@midland.ca](mailto:rfee@midland.ca) | [Midland.ca](https://Midland.ca) | [Engagingmidland.ca](https://Engagingmidland.ca)