



Office of the Commissioner
Transportation Services Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: May 31, 2019

Re: Smart Commute Program Update

This memorandum provides an update on a recent notification received from Metrolinx regarding the termination of their involvement in the Smart Commute Program (Smart Commute).

Smart Commute is a workplace travel program that is delivered across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. In York Region, Metrolinx partners with the Region and the Cities of Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Town of Newmarket in the delivery of the program. The program offers employers with customized, sustainable mobility programs that improve travel options delivered through three Transportation Management Associations (TMA) in York Region.

Smart Commute contributes to shifting travel modes from single occupancy vehicles to more sustainable modes of travel such as transit, walking, cycling and carpooling to reduce the pressure on the road network during rush hours.

The Smart Commute Program originated as an initiative of the towns, cities and regions of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area

The Smart Commute Program launched in May 2004 with partial funding from Transport Canada and private sector partners. The program operated until March 2007 as an initiative of the Towns, Cities and Regions in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area. In January, 2008, Smart Commute became a program of Metrolinx with the support of the regions and local municipalities.

In 2016, Metrolinx downloaded the management of the various Smart Commute programs to local regions and municipalities. The Metrolinx funding commitment did not change.

The current Smart Commute Transportation Management Associations delivery model offers employers a number of tools to support sustainable travel options

The Smart Commute TMA's offer the following support programs and tools:

- Site assessments and surveys to understand employee commute behavior
- Customized plans to encourage employees to explore more sustainable travel options
- Custom workplace transportation demand management (TDM) outreach and programming
- Workplace Designation Program
- Tools to facilitate travel behavior change
- Support transportation polices of the Region and local municipalities

The Smart Commute Program is funded annually through development charges

The Smart Commute program is delivered across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area by Metrolinx. There are three TMA's in York Region: Smart Commute Central York, Richmond Hill/Markham and City of Vaughan/Toronto (Point A) areas 1, 2, and part of 3, as shown on Attachment 1.

These are funded as part of the Region's multi-year budget process. The funding for 2019 is \$200,000. The Cities of Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Town of Newmarket also provide annual funding to the program at various levels.

On March 29, 2019, Metrolinx provided notice they will no longer be funding the Smart Commute Program

Effective June 29, 2019, Metrolinx's involvement with the Smart Commute Workplace Program across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area will end. Metrolinx would have contributed \$374,128 to York Region for the three TMA's in 2019.

Without Metrolinx's funding contribution, the TMA's will have a funding gap of \$172,224 as shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Funding Breakdown

Funding Source	2018	2019	Funding Gap
Metrolinx	\$346,352	\$174,128	\$172,224
York Region	200,000	200,000	0
Total	\$546,352	\$374,128	\$172,224

York Region has committed to continue funding the Smart Commute Program through 2019

The Region is committed to maintaining the approved funding allocated in the 2019 budget for the three TMA's to help mitigate 2019 impacts and collaboratively determine how best to deliver transportation demand management programming beyond 2019.

Based on meetings with the local municipal funding partners, it is anticipated that approved 2019 local funding will also remain in place.

York Region met with the three Transportation Management Associations that operate the Smart Commute Program in York Region

The TMA's offer TDM services at a local level, outreaching to businesses and organizations on behalf of the Region and local municipalities.

Staff advised the TMA's on April 1, 2019 of Metrolinx's decision to cease funding their share of the program. Follow-up meetings with the TMA's have been scheduled for late May and early June.

Staff are working with our partners to determine the model for travel demand management delivery beyond 2019

In consultation with local funding municipalities, the Transportation Management Associations and regional stakeholders in the Great Toronto and Hamilton Area, staff will be evaluating the level of service provided by the Transportation Management Associations and Regional financial commitments moving forward in order to review, research and suggest alternatives to transportation demand management outreach and programming for the Region beyond 2019.

Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment (1)
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