



Feb. 1, 2016

To Greater Sudbury City Council:

The Sustainable Mobility Advisory Panel (SMAP)'s mandate is: "To assist staff and Council in implementing a vision for a holistic approach to a multi-model transportation system where citizens can walk, cycle and/or use public transit efficiently and safely to get to their destinations."

Our vision is that citizens of Greater Sudbury can walk, cycle, roll and/or use public transit efficiently and safely to get to their destinations, whatever their age or ability.

On February 3, Council will vote on a number of budget options that impact sustainable mobility. We would like to provide our comments.

### **1. We strongly support an Active Transportation Coordinator for Greater Sudbury**

An Active Transportation Coordinator is strongly supported by SMAP, is recommended in the draft Transportation Study, and is recommended by staff. As seen in Thunder Bay, a staff position dedicated to advancing active transportation makes a big difference in progressing more quickly. An Active Transportation Coordinator will greatly assist in realizing the City of Greater Sudbury's vision of a community where residents can walk, bike, roll, or bus to their destinations.

### **2. We support budget options that make transit more accessible, and help grow ridership**

We are especially supportive of:

#### **- Enhanced winter maintenance at bus stops**

Bus stops and sidewalks that are not cleared of snow make transit inaccessible to many in the winter, and can be a serious safety hazard, especially for seniors and other vulnerable users. Transit should be accessible year round, which requires winter maintenance of transit stops.

The importance of winter maintenance of bus stops has been recognized by SMAP, the Sustainable Mobility Plan, and Friends of Sudbury Transit.

#### **- Family and day passes**

Family and day passes make transit more accessible to families, residents and visitors. A bus ride should always be more affordable for a family than a cab ride. Family passes will also help teach our young citizens how to navigate the transit system so they can become knowledgeable future patrons. This has the potential to increase ridership through new users.

Family and day passes have been recommended by SMAP, the Sustainable Mobility Plan, and Friends of Sudbury Transit.

#### **- Low Income pass**

A low income pass makes transit more accessible to those that need it most. It will also offset the impact to any low income residents 55-64 years of age who no longer have access to a senior fare. Note that in some communities this is done by referral, rather than assessment by a city employee. If this approach is used, a new staff position may not be needed.



A low income pass is recommended by SMAP, the Sustainable Mobility Plan, and Friends of Sudbury Transit.

**- Fare Freeze**

A fare freeze contributes to accessibility of transit, and ridership. Transit fares have been increased annually, which has been seen as a hardship by some transit riders, and can discourage ridership, especially among young students, who should be the next generation of riders.

The Ridership Growth Strategy recommends against routine fare increases because it can discourage ridership. Friends of Sudbury Transit advocates against fare increases.

**- Travel Familiarization for Seniors and Mobility Trainer**

Mobility training makes transit accessible to new riders, growing ridership, and helping to maintain people's independence and mobility.

**We support both travel familiarization for seniors and travel training for residents with physical or cognitive disabilities, and their companions.** *If only one position is possible, we suggest that a position for travel familiarization for seniors be transitioned to that of a mobility trainer after 6 months, to assist appropriate Handi Transit riders in becoming confident using conventional transit.*

**- Saturday service on Sunday**

Residents have most of the same travel needs on Sundays as Saturdays, yet Sunday service is much less convenient. The Ridership Growth Strategy recommends improved Sunday service. Friends of Sudbury Transit consistently hear from transit riders that Sunday routes should be the same as Monday-Saturday routes.

**We recommend that this budget option be added**

**- Earlier start times**

Many people are unable to use transit because they would require an earlier start time to get to work on time. Earlier start times would make transit an option for more residents, and would also make more job opportunities available to residents relying on transit.

### **3. Upgrading Lorne as a complete street**

We support the upgrading of the full length of Lorne **if it includes safe and appropriate pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.** Note that Lorne Street is part of SMAP's minimum grid of cycling routes, and is included in our top 5 priorities for cycling routes. The Ward 1 CAN has advocated for these improvements for years – cycling and pedestrian infrastructure on Lorne has been a top priority of residents at every public session they have held. For area residents, Lorne St is not just a highway to get from downtown to Lively and beyond.

Completion of a safe cycling route on Lorne would provide an entry point into downtown, access to Gatchell, the West End and Copper Cliff (along the Trans Canada trail), and improve access to key amenities such as a large grocery store. This could be a signature project, and an important step forward for making walking and cycling safe and convenient transportation options in Greater Sudbury.



#### **4. Increased funding for Rainbow Routes Association (RRA)**

RRA continues to contribute to active transportation opportunities in Greater Sudbury through trail building, hikes and other activities, trail maps, wayfinding, and other resources. They also support other community groups with their trail building efforts.

SMAP recognizes RRA's ongoing contribution to active transportation.

#### **5. Improvements to the City website that make it easier for citizens to access information**

SMAP supports the development of a user friendly transportation web portal, where residents can easily access information to plan their trip whether via transit, on foot, on a bike, or with a wheelchair or scooter.

#### **6. We urge caution in regards to a decision to 4 lane MR35**

It is well documented that widening roadways leads to increased speeds which is a safety hazard for pedestrians and cyclists as well as motorists. We see this on MR80 where vehicles are found to be travelling well above speed limits, even the day after serious collisions and public education by police. There are homes along MR35, which means this roadway is for people as well as vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your Sustainable Mobility Advisory Panel

Contact: Naomi Grant, Chair ([grant\\_naomi@hotmail.com](mailto:grant_naomi@hotmail.com))



### Existing and proposed budget options relevant to transit

A checkmark indicates a recommendation from Friends of Sudbury Transit (FST), Sustainable Mobility Plan (SMP), or the Ridership Growth Strategy. Options highlighted in green are especially supported by SMAP.

Budget Options and other changes for transit		FST	SMP	Ridership Growth Strategy
Provide funding for Active Transportation Coordinator	\$ 100,000.00	✓	✓	Marketing Position
Provide one time funding for travel familiarization program for seniors (6 months)	\$ 16,750.00	✓		
Provide funding for specialized transit travel training for all residents with physical and mental challenges.	\$ 20,000.00	✓		
Park n' Ride in one location	\$ 300,000.00			
Freeze transit user fees for 2016 at 2015 levels	\$ 227,000.00	✓	Increase parking fees	Do not routinely raise fares
Reduce transit user fees by 10%	\$ 920,000.00			
Implement new Day Pass and Family Pass fares for transit	\$ 20,000.00	✓	✓	Transferable Adult Pass
Implement new low income pass + full time position to admin program	370,000 + 65,000	✓	✓	
Implement new transit employer pass program	\$ 20,000.00	✓	✓	✓
Other fare reduction options \$2 adult and \$1 child fares on weekends	\$ 105,000.00	✓	✓	
Reduced fare 9:30am-2:30pm				✓
Revise current transit transfer policy to universal transfer policy	\$ 370,000.00	✓	✓	✓
Enhance Bus Stop Winter Maintenance at 100 additional bus stops	\$ 43,000.00	✓	✓	
Change Sunday Service Routes to Monday-Saturday routes		✓		✓
Earlier start times for buses		✓		
Vibrant, user-friendly terminal	\$ 10,000.00	✓	✓	
Wayfinding at bus stops and terminal	In progress	✓	✓	
More bus shelters		✓	✓	
Pedestrian refuge islands		✓	✓	
College Passes - 11,000 students in post-secondary institutions	Only LU has passes	✓	✓	✓