

STAFF REPORT

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



Report to:	Mayor and Council Members	Priority:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low
Submitted by:	Laurie Wills, Director of Public Works Renee Champagne, Transportation Supervisor	Meeting Type:	Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>
Meeting Date:	April 11, 2023		
Report No.:	Public Works-156-23		
Submit comments to Council			

Subject/Title: Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation, Town of Cobourg 2022-2023

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to prepare and sign a supporting bylaw (attached) to ensure that the Town of Cobourg receives its payment for Gas Tax Funding and that funds are used to continue supporting local transportation services.

FURTHER, THAT the authorizing bylaw includes future year agreements for the 2023-2026 Council term.

1. STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

N/A

3. PURPOSE

To ensure that the Town of Cobourg receives the eligible allocation of \$216,821.00 for the 2022-2023 program year.

4. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

Ontario's Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation (Gas Tax) Program

5. BACKGROUND

The Ontario Government is committed to working with municipalities to improve Ontario's transportation network and support economic growth. Ontario's Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation (Gas Tax) Program was launched in 2004 to provide a long term, sustainable source of funding for Ontario municipalities to contribute towards a local public transit system.

6. ANALYSIS

The Ministry recognizes that COVID-19 continued to impact gasoline sales in 2021-22. As a result, the province has committed an additional \$80 million in supplementary funding to address the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the 2022-23 Gas Tax program. This additional funding maintains the funding envelope at the level of the 2021-22 program year and will help stabilize municipal allocations, as the province continues its COVID-19 recovery.

In order to further mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the Ministry is again temporarily changing its method of calculating municipal allocations. For 2022-23, the Ministry has used a five-year average of ridership from 2017 to 2021 and has used the highest level of reported municipal spending from 2017 to 2021 when calculating municipal allocations.

These measures have been implemented for the 2022-23 program year because 2021 ridership and spending were, for many municipalities, still significantly below pre-pandemic levels. The temporary changes will help to mitigate significant impacts to each municipality's allocation under the program.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS

The Dedicated Gas Tax Funds to be received by the Town of Cobourg for 2022-2023 is in the amount of \$216,821.00.

8. CONCLUSION

THAT Council Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to prepare and execute a supporting bylaw (attached) to ensure that the Town receives the Gas Tax Funding allocation and that funds are used to continue supporting local transportation services.

FURTHER, THAT the bylaw authorizes the receipt of subsequent annual allocations for the 2022-2026 Council term.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation, Town of Cobourg 2022-23 - Public Works-156-23.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 23, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Laurie Wills, Director of Public Works - Mar 22, 2023 - 5:41 PM

Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer - Mar 23, 2023 - 4:35 PM