

Intercommunity Bus Service Improvements in Northern Ontario



Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

Community Transportation Grant Program Webinar

January 18, 2018

Improving Intercommunity Bus Services

- On December 1, 2017, the province announced improvements to transportation services within and between communities across Ontario.
- In Northern Ontario, MTO and MNDM have identified 14 critical intercommunity bus service routes along major highways and corridors.
 - Service along these routes can help to connect passengers from smaller communities to regional centres that offer essential services, such as health care and education.
 - Some of these routes have either been unserved or underserved based on the frequency of service and / or convenience for the traveling public.
 - Where necessary, services along these routes will be introduced or increased to provide a service level of at least one round-trip per day, five days per week.
- To initiate these service improvements in the North, the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC) will:
 - Increase intercommunity bus services in the northeast; and
 - Work with existing private carriers to introduce services to communities in the northwest.

Implementation

- Implementation of service improvements will be a staged process. Changes began in December 2017, and will continue through early 2018.
 - Completion of service improvements is anticipated by summer 2018.
- The ONTC is collaborating with existing, licenced private carriers that are currently providing scheduled services in the North.
 - Greyhound Canada provides scheduled intercommunity bus services along the trans-Canada (Sudbury to Thunder Bay) route.
 - Kasper Transportation provides scheduled intercommunity bus services in northwestern Ontario.
- Collaboration with private carriers involves improving connectivity, coordinating schedules, integrating ticketing systems, and sharing resources where possible.
- As services are improved, the ONTC will monitor ridership and demand to ensure that service levels are meeting passenger needs.
- The ONTC remains open to working with willing private carriers and other partners to ensure a safe and efficient intercommunity bus network.

Critical Routes in Northern Ontario – Northeast

- 1. Little Current – Espanola – Sudbury**
 - ONTC to introduce service along this route and on Manitoulin Island in the coming months.
- 2. Sudbury – Sault Ste. Marie**
 - ONTC introduced service along this route on January 14, 2018.
- 3. Sault Ste. Marie – Wawa**
 - ONTC introduced service along this route on January 14, 2018.
- 4. Wawa – Marathon**
 - ONTC introduced service to White River on January 14, 2018. A future option to connect from White River to a westbound service is expected to start later this year.
- 5. White River – Hornepayne – Hearst**
 - ONTC to introduce service along this route in the coming months.
- 6. Longlac – Hearst**
 - Service along this route to begin later this year.
- 7. Marathon – Thunder Bay**
 - Service along this route to begin later this year.

* The anticipated timing for future services is subject to change. The ONTC and private carriers, where appropriate, will release information on routes and schedules once it is available.

Critical Routes in Northern Ontario – Northwest

8. Thunder Bay – Nipigon – Longlac

→ Kasper Transportation serves this route.

9. Thunder Bay – Atikokan – Fort Frances

→ Kasper Transportation announced that service along this route will start on January 18, 2018.

10. Thunder Bay – Dryden

→ Kasper Transportation and Greyhound Canada provide service along this route.

11. Dryden – Sioux Lookout

→ Kasper Transportation serves this route.

12. Dryden – Kenora – Winnipeg

→ Kasper Transportation and Greyhound Canada provide service along this route.

13. Red Lake – Kenora – Fort Frances

→ Service along this route to begin later this year.

14. Fort Frances – Rainy River – Kenora

→ Service along this route to begin later this year.

* The anticipated timing for future services is subject to change. The ONTC and private carriers, where appropriate, will release information on routes and schedules once it is available.

Map of Intercommunity Bus Services in the North



Additional Opportunities

Community Transportation Grant Program

- Communities that may not be served through the current planned improvements to intercommunity bus services in Northern Ontario may consider exploring the Community Transportation Grant Program.
- Opportunities could include:
 - Local service projects / solutions that link to the broader intercommunity bus network (e.g. connections to ONTC and / or private carrier services); and
 - Long-distance, intercommunity service projects / solutions along unserved routes with possible options to connect and coordinate with ONTC and / or private carrier services.
- Municipalities are encouraged to work with the ONTC and / or private carriers when exploring these types of projects and opportunities.

Next Steps

Implementation of intercommunity bus service improvements in Northern Ontario will continue over the next few months.

- ONTC to continue working with existing private carriers to introduce services and to ensure a safe, efficient, and effective intercommunity bus network.
- MNDM and MTO to share information on service improvements and encourage municipalities to explore connections to ONTC and private carrier routes in Northern Ontario.
- ONTC to monitor ridership and passenger needs as new services and service changes are initiated.

Contacts

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