

## **Ontario Improving Transit Connections Between and Within Communities**

*Province Providing More Travel Options for People in Southwestern Ontario*  
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Ontario is making it easier and more convenient for people to get where they need to go by improving transportation services within and between communities across southwestern Ontario.

Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, was joined by Kathryn McGarry, MPP for Cambridge, in Cambridge today to announce the new [Community Transportation Grant Program](#).

The program will make it more convenient for seniors, students, persons with disabilities and others to access essential services in their communities, connect with other transportation services, and travel between cities and towns. The program helps municipalities, Indigenous communities and other organizations in southwestern Ontario and throughout the province provide more travel options for people, particularly in areas that underserved or not served by public transit or intercommunity bus.

Investing in public transportation is part of Ontario's plan to create fairness and opportunity during this period of rapid economic change. The plan includes a higher minimum wage and better working conditions, free tuition for hundreds of thousands of students, easier access to affordable child care, and free prescription drugs for everyone under 25 through the biggest expansion of medicare in a generation.

### **QUOTES**

" Our government is committed to building stronger communities in southwestern Ontario by making transportation more convenient and better connected. The Community Transportation Grant Program will help more people in rural and remote areas across the province get to and from their appointments, access important services and maintain an active and independent lifestyle. Adding service and investing in innovation, including high speed rail, is part of our long-term plan for a connected and prosperous southwestern Ontario."

- Steven Del Duca

Minister of Transportation

" This investment will improve the quality of life for many people in our communities that are currently underserved by transit. Whether it's seniors, students or others, access to transit helps people get where they need to be and live active, independent lives."

- Kathryn McGarry

MPP for Cambridge

## QUICK FACTS

- Up to \$30 million in grants over five years is currently available for municipalities to partner with community organizations such as health and community agencies, transit agencies, school-bus operators and private transit operators, to coordinate local transportation services and provide more rides to more destinations. An additional \$10 million will be available to Indigenous communities, Indigenous-led organizations and not-for-profit organizations starting in summer 2018. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2018.
- Funding will support projects to help meet local transportation demands or deliver long-distance intercommunity passenger service in areas that are currently underserved.
- The new Community Transportation Grant Program builds on a successful pilot project that provided nearly \$3 million in funding for 22 municipalities since 2015.
- In the first year of the pilot project, more than 28,000 people used the new services to make more than 105,000 trips.
- Improving local and intercommunity transportation service is part of Ontario's [Aging With Confidence](#) plan to support seniors, helping them remain independent, healthy, active, safe and socially-connected.

## LEARN MORE

- [Community Transportation Grant Program](#)
- [High Speed Rail](#)

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