

Directed to: Mayor Joe Preston and Members of City Council

Date Authored:  
Feb 11th, 2020  
Meeting Date:  
Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Department: Environmental Services  
Prepared By: Matthew Vriens, Manager of Roads and Transportation

Attachment

Subject: St. Thomas Transit Strategic Plan – Final Report

Recommendation:

THAT: Report ES10-20, St. Thomas Transit Strategic Plan – Final Report, be received for information; and further;

THAT: Council endorse, in principle, the St. Thomas Transit Strategic Plan and authorize staff to begin implementation of actions as detailed within Report ES10-20.

Origin:

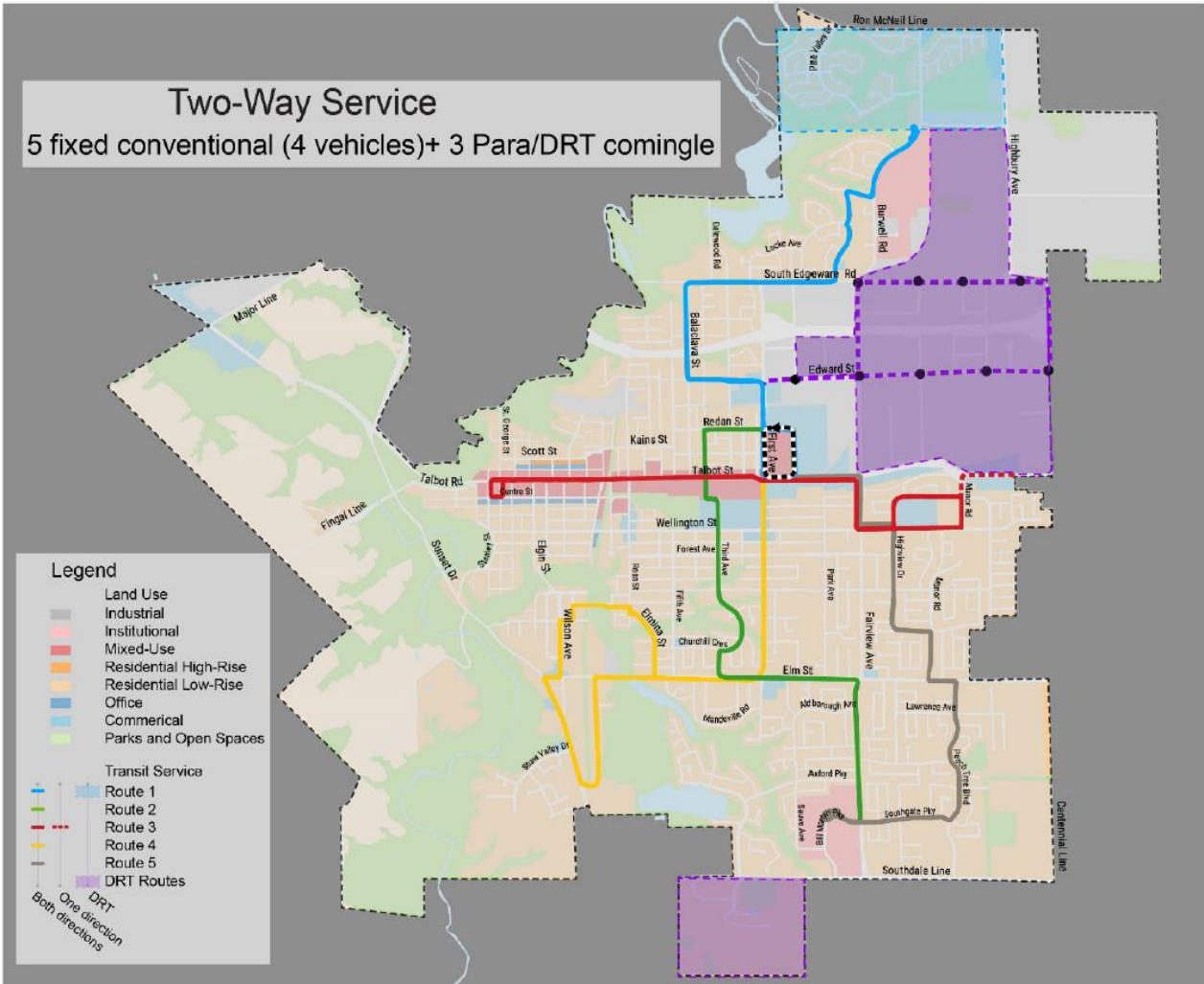
Throughout 2019 staff, council, and the community were engaged to create a new Transit Strategic Plan. Stantec Consulting have finalized the plan which will provide guidance on the next 10 years of transit service and improvements within the City.

Analysis:

The report identifies that St. Thomas has an opportunity to improve transit service to meet a growing population and secure future financial stability. The executive summary and completed report can be read in full here: [https://www.stthomas.ca/living\\_here/transportation/conventional\\_transit/st\\_thomas\\_transit\\_strategic\\_plan](https://www.stthomas.ca/living_here/transportation/conventional_transit/st_thomas_transit_strategic_plan).

Stakeholder engagement was undertaken in this master plan process with multiple council interaction points to keep leadership informed of the progress. In-depth analysis of the public survey can be found on pages 128-143 with a full list of stakeholders and take-aways from consultations found on pages 125-127 of the plan. Below are the principle recommendations staff wants to highlight for council review. A full and complete list of the recommendations be found on pages 72-74 of the plan.

Item No.	Classification	Recommendation	With ICIP	Without ICIP
1	Service Planning and Operations	• Make route revisions as shown below.	2020	2021
2		• Implement demand response transit (DRT) and associated software and technology.	2020	2021
3		• Modifying DRT zones as ridership evolves.	2022	2023



4	Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procure DRT software</li> </ul>	2020	2021
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modernize the fare collection system to accept credit cards, debit cards or smartphones</li> </ul>	2021	2023



6	Fares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend the subsidized Social Services pass for clients seeking employment</li> </ul>	2020	2020
7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop post-secondary institutions pass with Fanshawe</li> </ul>	2020	2020



8	Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish consistent and creative branding including unification with the City of St. Thomas brand.</li> </ul>	2020	2020
9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce new stop infrastructure and upgraded hub at Smart Centre</li> </ul>	2021	2026



10	Fleet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase electric buses</li> </ul>	2020/2021	2024
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### Financial Impact:

The city completed it’s Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Public Transit Stream application in June 2019. In August 2019 the provincial government announced their commitment of this funding stream while we await the federal portion. In confirmation with Ontario’s Public Transit Association (OPTA), the bulk of municipalities are still waiting for the federal aspect with announcements expected this spring.

Further implementation actions should be based around the two-scenario rollout which will have different

The current 2020 operating budget is set to continue previous service and does not make provisions for immediate transformative actions. Very few system changes can occur within the existing funding envelop.

The proposed St. Thomas-Elgin County-London regional transit pilot being considered as an independent pilot. If the funding request is successful, it will allow for a 3-year pilot to be operated 7 days a week from 7:00am-8:00pm with 1-hour round trips from the St. Thomas hub to neighbouring municipalities. London, Aylmer and Port Stanley are recommended terminuses with fares suggested at \$10 and \$15 for one-way and round trips respectively.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Vriens,  
Manager of Roads and Transportation

Treasury

Env. Services

## Planning

City Clerk

HR

Other