

SAUGEEN MOBILITY

and REGIONAL TRANSIT

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 10, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Boardroom, 603 Bruce Rd 19, Walkerton, ON & via Zoom

- Board Members Present:** Kym Hutcheon, Deputy Mayor, Brockton, Chair
Warren Dickert, Deputy Mayor, Hanover
Doug Townsend, Councillor, West Grey
John Divinski, Councillor, Saugeen Shores
Scott Mackey, Mayor, Chatsworth
Mike Hinchberger, Councillor, Kincardine
Joel Loughhead, Councillor, Grey Highlands (via Zoom)
Ed McGugan, Councillor, Huron-Kinloss, past Chair
Monica Singh-Soares, Councillor, Southgate (via Zoom)
- Absent members:** Jennifer Shaw, Deputy Mayor, Arran-Elderslie, Vice Chair
- Others Present** Stephanie Stewart, Manager of Community Transportation,
Grey County (via Zoom)
Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism,
and Culture, Grey County (via Zoom)
Stephan Labelle, Manager, Saugeen Mobility

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

3. Approval of Agenda Motion

Motion Moved by Scott Mackey; Seconded by Warren Dickert.

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – September 12, 2025

Motion Moved by Ed McGugan; Seconded by Doug Townsend.

That the minutes from September 12, 2025 be approved as presented.

Carried

5. Delegation – Stephanie Stewart, Community Transportation Manager (Grey County)

Stephanie Stewart provided a detailed summary of the study's objectives, noting that Wellington County will retain its Ride Well on-demand transit program but that the study seeks to eliminate artificial county boundaries, allowing Ride Well and Grey County vehicles to operate more freely across jurisdictions. This would better reflect real-world travel behavior, as many residents regularly cross county lines for shopping, healthcare, and other services.

Stephanie mentioned Grey County's goals to connect with Guelph Transit, GO Transit, and VIA Rail, to improve accessibility and economic linkages across the region. Stephanie emphasized that existing partnerships will remain active, with other agencies contributing as stakeholders in the planning process. Accessibility and compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and equitable fare structures were discussed as key considerations. Stephanie noted that several policy questions remain

open for public consultation. The study will involve multiple engagement opportunities through surveys, website input, and community meetings. She also offered to provide monthly updates to the Board throughout the study process. The Board expressed unanimous support for Grey County's efforts and appreciation for the presentation, agreeing that monthly progress updates would be valuable.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

A. Partnership agreement and By-law

Discussion focused on South Bruce's potential participation. Stephan advised that while initial indications are positive, confirmation will depend on South Bruce's February 2026 budget deliberations. The Board agreed to await further updates but expressed optimism about continued regional collaboration.

Motion Moved by Mike Hinchberger; Seconded by: Monica Singh-Soares

That the Partnership agreement be sent to SMART's participating municipal councils for ratification and that the By-Law be adopted as the new up-to-date document.

Carried

B. Host Municipality (municipality and related payment rate, currently 1%) Motion

Motion Moved by Scott Mackey; Seconded by Mike Hinchberger

That the new host municipality for financial management of SMART Gas Tax be raised 1.5% with a minimum of \$10k and that the rate paid annually to the host municipality for financial services rendered by December 1st.

Carried

7. Closed Session

Motion Moved by Ed McGugan; Seconded by Mike Hinchberger

That the Board move into closed session to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, at 10:50 a.m.

Carried

The Board reconvened in open session at 11:04 a.m.

8. Correspondence – none

9. New Business

A. Budget

The Manager presented a budget update.

Motion Moved by Ed McGugan; Seconded by Mike Hinchberger

That the budget update be accepted for information.

Carried

B. Conference Update

The Manager provided an update from his attendance at the Fall Ontario Public Transit Association conference, stressing ongoing Ministry of Transportation consultations with its municipalities, and planning for the expenditure of more than \$70 billion in provincial investment for transportation projects over the next decade. However, he noted that a significant portion of this funding will be directed toward major highway and urban projects, with no new commitments for local transit systems at this stage. The conference also included a new road safety session that emphasized the need for comprehensive oversight in areas such as safety audits, risk management, and data privacy. The Manager reported that these responsibilities are typically distributed across multiple departments in larger transportation systems but currently fall under his portfolio at SMART. He committed to developing an integrated safety and compliance plan to ensure all obligations are met.

Motion Moved by Monica Singh-Soares; Seconded by Scott Mackey

That the information provided by the Manager be accepted for informational purposes.

Carried

10. Reports and Recommendations

A. Report on August 2025 operations

The Manager reported that ridership and service delivery remain strong and that no operational changes are required before year-end.

Motion Moved by Warren Dickert; Seconded by Scott Mackey

That the report on August 2025 operations be accepted as presented.

Carried

11. Adjournment & Upcoming Meeting Date – November 14, 2025, 10AM

Motion Moved by Mike Hinchberger; Seconded by Monica Singh-Soares

That the Board meeting be adjourned as of 12:06 p.m.

Carried


Signed by:


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11/17/2025

Kym Hutcheon, Chair

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11/17/2025

Cassandra Cesco, Recording Secretary