



SOU'WEST NOVA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Box 84 Barrington, Nova Scotia B0W 1E0
(902) 637-2572 :: www.SouWestNovaTransit.ca

Serving the Communities of Shelburne County

Organization: Sou'West Nova Transit Association

Presenters: Renata Tweedy, Coordinator and David Meyer, Board of Directors Chairman

Presentation Outline:

- Description of our organization's proposed services: Accessible transportation options with a priority on providing assistance to seniors and those with physical or economic barriers.
- Update on our progress towards becoming operational.
- Requests:
 1. To include a link to www.souwestnovatransit.ca on your website
 2. To display a volunteer recruitment poster in your offices (***See attached poster***)
 3. To include Sou'West Nova Transit in your budget for the next fiscal year (and those to follow) in the amount equivalent to Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) funding (1.60 per capita). (***See attached letter***)
 4. To provide a short-term financial assistance during the "bridging period" between pre-implementation and projected pilot funding through the provincial program NS-TRIP. (***See attached letter***)



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Serving the Communities of Shelburne County

March 2, 2012

To the Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Shelburne:

Sou'West Nova Transit Association (SWNT) is a non-profit society that exists to provide **affordable and accessible transportation options to Shelburne County residents, with a focus on those who would most benefit** from this service. Specifically this includes seniors and those facing medical, mobility, or economic challenges. Our services will include the use of a 14-passenger wheelchair accessible bus, and volunteer drivers using their own vehicles (mileage and expenses paid).

In a short period of time we have come a long way towards launching our services! We will be reporting on our recent major milestones at your upcoming council meeting, but in summary: **the dream of affordable and accessible transportation for Shelburne County residents is well on its way to becoming a reality!** But the support of transportation services by the communities and governments of the County remains a crucial component of Sou'West Nova Transit's success and sustainability, as well as the sustainability of the County itself.

This letter is a request that funding for transportation become a part of the Town of Shelburne's yearly budget. We request a contribution of \$2700 from the Town of Shelburne for the 2012-13 fiscal year, an amount that represents \$1.60 per capita (based on 2011 census data). This equals the rate of funding provided by the provincial Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) to transit programs in Nova Scotia that offer pre-booked, door-to-door, wheelchair accessible services, such as offered by SWNT. Funds can be given to the general operating fund, or can be earmarked for specific needs, such as subsidizing rides for clients from the town.

We also seek financial assistance to cover operational and volunteer training costs over the next several months; our provincial grant will expire on March 31st, and while we will be reapplying in April for a pilot grant, the review process will take time and may not be completed until late summer. **We need to maintain our activities and momentum during this critical time.** As such, Sou'West Nova Transit will be approaching government units within the County as well as service groups and community organizations to partner with us. **We request that in April the Town of Shelburne contribute \$500.**

Thank you for considering our requests. We look forward to serving the residents of Shelburne for many years to come, and appreciate the town's continuing support!

Sincerely,

Renata Tweedy, Coordinator for the Sou'West Nova Transit Association
www.souwestnovatransit.ca

Funded in part by the Nova Scotia
Transit Research Incentive Program
(NS-TRIP)



BECOME A

VOLUNTEER DRIVER

to help seniors and those with barriers
in Shelburne County access vital services
and maintain their independence!

Mileage & Expenses Paid

To learn more or to apply, visit

SOUWESTNOVATRANSIT.CA

or call (902) 637-2572