Commitment to transportation access in Elgin St. Thomas

That municipalities in Elgin St. Thomas:
- Work with other municipalities, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to develop an inclusive transportation system that allows municipalities to access provincial and federal tax dollars for sustainable community transportation solutions in rural areas as well as urban centres.
- Support the SouthwestLynx Plan for Integrated High-Performance Public Transportation for Southwestern Ontario and work with other municipalities and stakeholders to fully implement the plan over time.
- Seek funding opportunities to implement a feasibility study that outlines transportation options for Elgin County to consider and implement. Invest in sustainable mobility solutions including active modes of transit; for example, new cycling connections that align with the objectives of the Ontario Cycling Strategy.
- Support the development of safer roadways in rural areas that encourage walking, cycling and other forms of active transportation (known as complete streets).

Why this makes good sense:
- An inclusive transportation system would facilitate new economic opportunities as greater numbers of people travel (CCA, 2017), support employment of rural residents, promote tourism, and contribute to feelings of community and individual well-being.
- In addition to the health benefits achieved through increased physical activity, active transportation produces no greenhouse gas emissions at all. A combination of active transportation and public transit decreases the environmental impact associated with single motor vehicle use.
- Access to affordable transportation affects people’s health and their ability to get high quality health care. Transportation is a vital part of day-to-day life and essential to meet basic needs, attend work, appointments, visit family and engage in social and recreational opportunities.
- Research identifies five key demographic groups in rural Ontario who are at greater risk of experiencing transportation access problems. They include seniors, people with disabilities, youth, low income households and women.
- In 2010, 16% of Elgin County residents (including 10% of seniors) had low incomes. Older adults are a diverse group with unique transportation needs and preferences that are not currently being met by the Canadian transportation system.

For more information contact Jessica Lang, Health Promoter jlang@swpublichealth.ca or Laryssa Thompson, Public Health Nurse lthompson@swpublichealth.ca
Commitment to transportation access in Elgin St. Thomas

- Many stakeholders and levels of government will have to work together to find solutions for barriers to affordable transportation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

For more information contact Jessica Lang, Health Promoter jlang@swpublichealth.ca or Laryssa Thompson, Public Health Nurse lthompson@swpublichealth.ca