

Public Transit in Rural Areas and Connectivity with Urban Centres



BRIEF SUMMARY

This study aims at understanding the public transit options available in rural areas by identifying the transit options for Mount Brydges, Ontario, located in the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc through policy review, data analysis and research on other modes of transit which are not identified in the local planning policies. The policies for Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc and City of London were reviewed for a comparison with three local communities: Clinton, Lucan and Thamesford.

- ❑ Inefficient public transit system in rural areas is a pre-existing problem, and minimum attention has been given to the matter by the municipal, provincial and federal governments.
- ❑ Lack of affordable and inefficient public transit system affects the access of the rural communities to the basic services such as healthcare and education.
- ❑ Existing policies and fundings are focused on improving the transit systems in urban areas.
- ❑ Local policy review suggests the lack of efficient public transit systems in rural areas with good connectivity with nearby urban centres as the official plans of the municipalities do not address the existing inter-community transit services, if available.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results obtained through policy reviews and literature review, recommendations were made regarding improvements that could be made in the current scenario of rural public transit system to increase the efficiency and reliability of the system.

- ❑ Demand based transit services compared to scheduled transit services can help to better assist the low-density rural population.
- ❑ Connecting the existing rural transit service with nearby urban transit services by providing stops and schedules compatible with the urban transit service.
- ❑ Designing the federal and provincial funding programs to provide appropriate funding for the rural transit services.

MORE INFORMATION

A full copy of the major research paper can be found online at <https://hdl.handle.net/10214/29492>

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