

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Meeting Date: September 14, 2026
Report Code: OP-26-043
Subject: Grey County Transit Bus Stop Agreement

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-043 respecting an agreement with the County of Grey for a transit bus stop at the Owen Sound Transit Terminal, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to execute the Bus Stop Agreement with the County of Grey.

Highlights:

- The County reactivated the Owen Sound to Wiarton transit route on September 1, 2026.
- The Owen Sound to Wiarton service will connect Owen Sound with stops in Georgian Bluffs, Shallow Lake, Hepworth, and Wiarton.
- The reactivated service will provide three weekday trips between Owen Sound and Wiarton.

Vision 2050 - Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: A City that Moves – Facilitating sustainable transportation options and creating community connectivity.

Previous Report/Authority:

[OP-23-004](#) – Grey County Bus Stop Agreement

[OP-20-034](#) – Grey County Bus Stop Agreement – Use of Transit Bus Stops (pages 111-120)

Background:

As part of its Regional Transit Study and ongoing regional transportation initiatives, Grey County reactivated transit service between Owen Sound and Wiarton on September 1, 2026. The service operates Monday to Friday as Grey Transit Route (GTR) Route 5, connecting Owen Sound, Georgian Bluffs, and Wiarton, with service departing from the Owen Sound Transit Terminal.

The Route 5 schedule includes stops at:

- Owen Sound Transit Terminal – 1020 3rd Avenue East, Owen Sound;
- No Frills Georgian Bluffs – 1020 10th Street West, Owen Sound;
- Allan's General Store – 337 Princess Street, Shallow Lake;
- Hepworth Visitor Centre – 465 Bruce Street, Hepworth;
- Foodland Wiarton – 425 Berford Street, Wiarton; and
- Louisa Street – 563 Louisa Street, Wiarton.

The service provides three northbound departures from the Owen Sound Transit Terminal each weekday at 6:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 8:00 p.m. Corresponding southbound trips arrive at the Owen Sound Transit Terminal at 7:21 a.m., 12:36 p.m., and 9:21 p.m.

Analysis and Options:

On August 18, 2026, Grey County provided the City with a Bus Stop Agreement for the use of the Owen Sound Transit Terminal in support of the reactivated Owen Sound to Wiarton service.

The Agreement is effective September 1, 2026, and continues until June 30, 2027. Either party may terminate the Agreement by providing a minimum of 60 days' written notice.

As the City received the Agreement on August 18 and there was no scheduled Council meeting before the September 1 commencement of the new service, there was insufficient time to obtain formal Council approval before the service launch. To ensure the service could proceed as scheduled, the City Manager approved the County's interim use of the Transit Terminal effective September 1.

This report is being brought forward to obtain Council's formal approval of the Agreement and authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

The reactivation of the Owen Sound to Wiarton route provides an additional regional transportation connection from the Owen Sound Transit Terminal, serving communities and destinations in Georgian Bluffs, Shallow Lake, Hepworth, and Wiarton. The service also provides opportunities for passengers using the regional route to connect with the City's local transit system at the Transit Terminal.

Resource Alignment:

Financial Resources

There are no fees or charges the City or the County will incur as per the Agreement. City staff will not be responsible for handling cash or fares for GTR services.

Human Resources

N/A.

Time and Scheduling

N/A.

Technology and Infrastructure

N/A.

Climate and Environmental Impacts:

The recommendation supports both the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the City's Climate Mitigation Plan.

Communication and Engagement:

Grey County is responsible for maintaining current information regarding the regional transit service and schedule.

Information about the Owen Sound to Wiarton service will also be available on the Intercommunity Transit section of the [GOST webpage](#), along with information on other intercommunity transit services, under [GTR Transit](#).

Report Developed in Consultation With:

N/A

Attachments:

None.

Reviewed by:

Mason Bellamy, Manager of Public Works and Engineering

Michelle Palmer, Interim Director of Public Works and Engineering

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services at hjennen@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 3223.