



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: HOPE Dial-A-Ride Pilot

Date: January 29, 2026

Vision statement

Argyle is the community of choice to invest, live and play.

Mission statement

Argyle invests time & talent in growth opportunities in fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors.

Argyle provides affordable taxation while providing safe and healthy communities and strives to engage and inform our residents of decisions that affect them most.

Argyle provides high class, accessible recreational and cultural facilities and helps celebrate its unique heritage and culture and welcomes new residents to our region.

CAO's Recommendation: That Council approves the continuation of the Fare Assistance Pilot Program with HOPE Dial-A-Ride for an additional term, maintaining the current funding structure and authorizing staff to prepare a follow-up report on program expansion options.

Suggested motion: That Council authorize the continuation of the Fare Assistance Pilot Program with HOPE Dial-A-Ride and maintain the existing funding allocation of \$10,000, with authority for staff to report back on program performance.

Background: In July 2025, the Municipality partnered with HOPE Dial-A-Ride to launch a pilot program providing subsidized transportation for residents of Argyle. The program aimed to improve access to essential services and social participation for residents facing transportation barriers.

From July to September 2025:

- 137 one-way subsidized trips were completed.
- Total subsidy applied: \$1,636.50.
- Average subsidy per trip: \$11.95 (weighted).

Trip purposes:

- Sheltered Workshops/Social Enterprise: 118 trips
- Medical Appointments: 15 trips
- Shopping/Errands: 3 trips
- Social & Recreational: 1 trip

The program primarily supported individuals who are ineligible for other funding programs, including seniors and residents with mobility challenges.

Additional Context:

- HOPE has previously secured funding on behalf of the Municipality to provide transportation services for minority communities, including our Acadian community, demonstrating its commitment to equitable access and cultural inclusion.
- Important Note: This program was initially started and advertised only with senior safety clients in July and later opened to all HOPE clients in Argyle. To date, advertising has been minimal. Moving forward, advertising will begin more consistently through our social media platforms and HOPE's communication channels to ensure broader awareness and participation.

Other considerations:

- Continuation ensures transportation access for vulnerable residents and supports social inclusion.
- Builds on HOPE's proven track record of managing similar programs and securing external funding.

Risk factors to consider:

- Minimal operational risk: HOPE has successfully managed the pilot.
- Financial risk limited to the approved funding allocation.

MGA considerations: Under the Municipal Government Act Section 55, A municipality may provide a public transportation service by providing financial assistance to a person who will undertake to provide the service.

Financial considerations:

- Initial funding pool: \$10,000 (per signed agreement).
- Expenditure to date: \$1,636.50 (July–September).
- Remaining balance: \$8,363.50.
- Policy: Subsidy generally does not exceed 50% of fare, except in hardship cases (up to 75%).
Minimum rider contribution: \$10 or pay-what-you-can.

Pros and Cons of suggested action:

Option One: Continue Program

Pros:

- Improves access to essential services for residents with transportation barriers.
- Supports equity and inclusion, including minority communities.
- Demonstrates municipal commitment to social well-being.

Cons:

- Ongoing financial commitment (within approved budget).

Option Two: Discontinue Program

Pros:

- Eliminates municipal subsidy costs.

Cons:

- Reduces transportation access for vulnerable residents.
- Undermines progress toward inclusive community goals.