A few times a year, we focus on a specific topic related to building healthy, vibrant communities. This issue of HC Link News Digest PLUS, features a round-up of resources, information sources and events related to community transportation, with thanks to support of the Ontario Community Transportation Network.

**Upcoming Events from HC Link / Réseau CS**

*To inquire about wait list availability for any sold out events, contact [info@hclinkontario.ca](mailto:info@hclinkontario.ca).*

**Webinars**

**A social justice approach in youth programming: The Guys Can Cook! Program**
February 15 | 1:00 - 2:30 pm ET

**Online Discussion**

**Online discussion: Improve the built environment of your community**  NEW!
February 13 | 1:00 – 1:45 pm ET

**Recently Added to HCLinkOntario.ca**

**Regional Gathering Materials**

**Resources from Timiskaming's Changing Our Destiny: Building a vision for all of our communities**

**Webinar Materials**

**Canadian Youth Perceptions on Cannabis:** Part 1 and Part 2

**Vapes, Chews & Hookah: Emerging trends in tobacco use among youth**

**Resources & Presentations**

**Webinar: Community Transportation Coordination**  Ontario Community Transportation Network (OCTN), 2016

Community transportation (CT) refers to the services that exist within a community which are available to help meet local transportation needs. CT “coordination” involves the collaboration and sharing of resources between of two or more organizations within a community for greater efficiency and effectiveness. The [recording and slides](#) from this webinar: define CT coordination; present the models/types, steps, and importance of coordination to meeting transportation needs; provide an overview of the issues involved, and offer stories from the field.

**Webinar: Working with School Bus Operators to Provide Community Transportation**  OCTN, 2016

This recent [Community Transportation webinar](#) (recording and slides to be posted in early February) explores the role that school bus operators can play in offering transportation service in small and rural communities. It presents the benefits, challenges and opportunities of working with school bus operators to provide community transportation as well as suggestions and lessons learned from communities in Ontario.
Proceedings: Moving Ahead on Rural & Community Transportation  Rural Ontario Institute (ROI), 2016

Video coverage of this forum that ROI, the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition (OHCC), HC Link and Routes Connecting Communities that was hosted in March 2016 for rural and community transportation stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned, and help support peer-to-peer networking.

Accelerating Rural Transportation Solutions  Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition & Rural Ontario Institute, 2014

The Rural Ontario Institute and the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition collaborated on the Accelerating Rural Transportation Solutions project to enhance and strengthen the sharing of knowledge of effective models and emerging innovation in rural regional transportation. The project included:

- **Accelerating Rural Transportation Solutions Webinar Series**
  - Part 1: Framing the issues, identifying the challenges, and exploring the opportunities
  - Part 2: The importance of Partnerships and Collaborations to Establishing Rural Transportation Initiatives
  - Part 3: Garnering support from municipal representatives and community members
- **Accelerating Rural Transportation Solutions: Ten Community Case Studies From Ontario**
- **Towards Coordinated Rural Transportation: A Resource Document** - a user-friendly resource for assessing and identifying opportunities to collaborate and develop a coordinated transportation model.

Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program Overview

This webpage explains the Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program offered through the Ministry of Transportation – Ontario (MTO). It also provides summaries of the projects that the 22 grant recipient communities are currently undertaking.

Toolkit for the Implementation of Alternate Transportation for Seniors  Medically At-Risk Driver Centre, 2016

This toolkit aims to provide resources needed for the successful development and implementation of sustainable, responsive models of Alternate Transportation for Seniors services. The intent is for individuals to identify and utilize the information as it relates to the specific transportation needs of seniors in their community.

Let’s Plan on It!: Guide to Providing Transportation in Rural Areas for Seniors & Persons with Disabilities  Alberta Government, 2013

This guide is a collection of practical information and suggestions designed to assist smaller communities in planning, developing and implementing an accessible transportation system for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Transit Supportive Guidelines  Ministry of Transportation Ontario, 2012

These guidelines are a distillation of transit-friendly land use planning, urban design and operational practices, drawing from experiences in Ontario, elsewhere in North America and abroad. Their aim is to assist urban planners, transit planners, developers and others, working in communities of all sizes, in creating an environment that is supportive of transit and developing services and programs to increase transit ridership.

Transportation Demand Management for Canadian Communities: A Guide to Understanding, Planning & Delivering TDM Programs  Transport Canada, 2011

This guide is meant to be accessible to readers who are less familiar with TDM, including those in mid-sized or small communities. It addresses the practical concerns of its intended readers including decision makers who provide staff with strategic direction and authorize resources, managers in municipal staff groups with direct or indirect responsibility for TDM, and practitioners involved in planning and delivering TDM measures.
Improving Travel Options in Small and Rural Communities  *Transport Canada, 2009*

This *guide* is intended to help practitioners—engineers, planners, health professionals, economic development officials and others—to improve travel options for residents of small and rural communities. This includes a range of actions that make personal transportation activities more sustainable—encouraging drivers to operate their cars more efficiently, or to leave their cars at home and walk, cycle, take transit or carpool instead.

**Toolkit for Rural Coordinated Community Transportation Services**  *Transit Cooperative Research Program, 2004*

This *toolkit* provides information, instructions, and lessons learned from communities that have implemented coordinated transportation services in the US. It examines strategies and practices to coordinate rural transportation services, and identifies model processes for local coordination efforts.

**Reports, Articles & Research**

**Assessing Transportation Disadvantage in Rural Ontario, Canada: A Case Study of Huron County**  *The Journal of Rural and Community Development, 2015*

The purpose of this *research* was to develop a theoretical framework for identifying transportation disadvantage in the context of rural Ontario, and evaluate the framework using an applied case study. The development of the framework was based on a review of the literature, where demographic groups at risk of transportation disadvantage and their accessibility needs were identified from existing studies and reports. The applicability of the framework was then assessed using semi-structured Key Informant Interviews with fourteen service providers in Huron County.

**Cost-Benefit Analysis of Rural and Small Urban Transit**  *U.S. Department of Transportation, 2014*

This *study* focuses on the qualitative and quantitative benefits of small urban and rural public transit systems in the United States. First, a thorough review of previous literature is presented. Then, a framework is developed which focuses on three main areas of transit benefits most relevant to rural and small urban areas: transportation cost savings, low-cost mobility benefits, and economic development impacts.

**Planning for Inclusive Transportation Planning**  *Community Transportation Association of America, 2013*

This *special edition of Digital CT magazine* spotlights the important project and the resources CTAA has developed on inclusive transportation planning as well as featuring the ongoing demonstration projects that are underway to uncover, document and evaluate the most promising inclusive transit planning practices.

**Strengthening Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnerships to Promote Community Living**  *Transit Planning for All, 2013*

This *case study report* presents brief descriptions of inclusive coordinated community transportation partnerships in the US.

*The OCTN website has an extensive listing of additional relevant reports from Canada and the US.*
**Community Transportation Funding Sources**

- **Federal Public Transit Infrastructure Fund** – A fund newly revamped and announced in the Spring 2016 to support the rehabilitation of public transit systems; the planning of future system improvements and expansions; enhanced asset management; and system optimization and modernization.

- **Ontario Public Transit Gas Tax Program** – The program provides transit funding for Ontario municipalities by providing two cents per litre of provincial gas tax to improve and expand transit. Not to be confused with the federal *infrastructure* gas tax.

- **Green Municipal Fund** – A program that provides funding and knowledge services to support sustainable community development. GMF-supported initiatives aim to improve air, water, and soil, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

- **Moving Ontario Forward - Small Communities Fund** – Part of the Building Canada Fund, this fund provides steady, long-term funding for small, rural and northern communities (municipalities with less than 100K residents) to develop their infrastructure.

- **Ontario Trillium Foundation** – OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities.

**Organizations, Networks & Initiatives**

**Ontario Community Transportation Network**

The Ontario Community Transportation Network (OCTN) connects individuals, organizations, and transportation providers interested in exchanging information, experiences and best practices about community transportation services in Ontario. The OCTN’s work includes a website with an extensive listing of resources and reports, a newsletter, directory, blog, webinars, events, and other online and in-person networking activities. The OCTN is a collaborative of the Rural Ontario Institute and the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition, with funding support from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

**Community Transportation Initiatives**

Here are a number of community transportation initiatives from around the province:

- **CT Link - Simcoe County**
- **Deseronto Transit**
- **Haliburton County Community Transportation Hub**
- **The MET (Muskoka Extended Transit)**
- **Pelham Transit**
- **Ride Norfolk**
- **The Rural Overland Utility Transit (TROUT)**

**Rural Ontario Institute**

Established in 2010, the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) was created through the amalgamation of The Centre for Rural Leadership and The Ontario Rural Council. ROI delivers programs that develop strong leaders who are critical voices around opportunities and key issues facing rural and northern Ontario. ROI’s website features resources and reports on issues affecting rural communities, including community transportation.

**Community Transportation Nova Scotia**

Community Transportation Nova Scotia’s mission is to facilitate transportation options that lead to healthier and more connected communities throughout Nova Scotia by partnering with community organizations, governments and business. Its websites includes resources, articles, and an event listing.
Community Transportation Association of America

The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) and its members believe that mobility is a basic human right. From work and education to life-sustaining health care and human services programs to shopping and visiting with family and friends, mobility directly impacts quality of life. CTAA staff, board and delegates are dedicated to ensuring that all Americans, regardless of age, ability, geography or income, have access to safe, affordable and reliable transportation.

Transit Planning 4 All

The mission of US-based Transit Planning 4 All is to demonstrate the value that inclusive processes can bring to coordinated transportation efforts. The project's goal is to support communities nationwide in adopting proven, sustainable, scalable, and replicable models that include participation of people with disabilities and older adults in the design and implementation of coordinated transportation systems that are responsive to their needs. The website includes resources and archived webinars.

Community Transport Association, UK

The Community Transport Association is an association which leads and supports community transport to be successful and sustainable in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It provides leadership by promoting community transport and influencing the development of better strategy, policy, regulations and investment at all levels of government. It provides support by advocating high standards of practice and providing advice, information, training and hands-on support that helps operators work to these standards.

Events

Economic Developers Council of Ontario Conference

February 7-9 | Toronto

A panel presentation on February 9th at 1:45 entitled Move Your Community Forward: The Importance of Public Transportation will highlight the variety and range of activities communities are undertaking to address transportation issues to grow their economies in both urban and rural areas.

Further information

Online discussion: Improve the built environment of your community

February 13 | 1:00 – 1:45 pm ET

Paul Young, an HC Link consultant who specializes in planning and designing public spaces, as well as developing strategies for active transportation, will join this HC Link online discussion to answer your questions, provide advice and offer ideas to help you improve the built environment of your community. We will also share helpful resources that will support your work in the built environment.

Ask questions ahead of time to ensure priority by emailing K. Alderson at k.alderson@hclinkontario.ca OR ask questions live during the discussion. There is no need to register, simply join in the conversation here on February 13.

Further information
Ontario Community Transportation Network (OCTN) Webinars

February & March 2017
Stay tuned for upcoming webinars hosted by the OCTN on the following topics:

- Community Transportation for Medical Appointments
- Making the Business Case for Community Transportation

Watch the OCTN Events page for details.

Save-the-Date: Community Transportation In-person Forum – Making the Business Case for CT

March 9 | Midhurst
This event will bring those working on or thinking about Community Transportation together to learn new insights, share stories and network regarding making a business case for CT.

Watch the OCTN Events page for details.

Ontario Transportation Expo (OTExpo)

April 9-12 | Toronto
This annual conference is a joint event organized by three partnering associations – the Ontario Public Transit Association, the Ontario School Bus Association, and the Ontario Motor Coach Association. The event provides an opportunity for people in the bus industry to get together and explore better ways of serving their transportation customers in the future.

Information and registration

HC Link News provides news, information, and announcements to community groups, organizations and partnerships supporting healthy, vibrant communities in Ontario. Subscription to HC Link News is open to members of Ontario community groups, organizations and partnerships working in health promotion or healthy communities.

HC Link/Réseau CS manages other lists that may interest you. For more details or to sign up, click on the links below.

Community-Links supports information sharing among community groups, organizations and partnerships working to build healthy, vibrant communities across Ontario. Subscribers can share information and announcements, pose questions and requests to fellow subscribers, and receive targeted information from HC Link related to peer sharing and mutual learning.

Nouvelles Réseau CS is our French news list that provides information and announcements to community groups, organizations and partnerships supporting healthy, vibrant communities in Ontario.

HC Link works with community groups, organizations, and partnerships to build healthy, vibrant communities across Ontario. We offer consulting services, learning and networking events, and resources in both English and French. Our services are funded by the Government of Ontario and are provided free of charge where possible.

HC Link - Your resource for healthy communities

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