

**Transit Funding Announcement**

**Friday, April 12**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

I am very happy to be here today for this important announcement.

I would like to acknowledge MP Terry Sheehan, who is here on behalf of the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities.

I would also like to acknowledge Sam Piraino, the City's acting transit manager, and the team here at the Transit Services department. Transit is one of the most important services we provide as a municipality and I want to thank you all for your dedication and great work.

On that note, I want to express gratitude to MP Sheehan, Minister Sohi and the Government of Canada for supporting public transportation in Sault Ste. Marie. The Government of Canada's financial contribution, along with a financial commitment from the City of Sault Ste. Marie will assist in the modernization of our local public transit.

The City will be upgrading the Transit Garage and purchasing two new buses as well as eight refurbished buses. The new buses will allow the City to retire older buses that have gone beyond their useful life.

The City has undertaken a comprehensive review of transit services that will allow us to efficiently and effectively utilize our revitalized fleet, leading to better service for our residents.

It is vital for our municipality to support the movement of people throughout the City; whether it be to and from work, important appointments, essential services or recreational options.

Our review of transit services has led to new routes that will help people arrive at their destination sooner by providing more direct access less with less transfers. This new plan and our upgraded infrastructure positions our City to meet the community's growing transportation needs.

Once again, I want to thank the Government of Canada for partnering with us. Relationships like ours help improve the lives of the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie, and I look forward to continue working together in the future. Thank you.