

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Gas Tax Program Review Survey

**From:** MTO-PGT <[MTO-PGT@ontario.ca](mailto:MTO-PGT@ontario.ca)>

**Sent:** September 30, 2019 3:57 PM

**To:** MTO-PGT <[MTO-PGT@ontario.ca](mailto:MTO-PGT@ontario.ca)>

**Subject:** Gas Tax Program Review Survey

**Ministry of Transportation**

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September 30, 2019

Re: Gas Tax Program Review Survey

In Budget 2019, the government of Ontario committed to consulting with municipalities on a review of the Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Program ("Gas Tax Program").

Since the launch of the Gas Tax Program in 2004, the province has committed over \$4.1 billion to Ontario municipal transit services through the program.

The program has not been reviewed since its inception. Therefore, this review will examine various aspects of the program to ensure it continues to meet municipal needs and reflects goals of responsible planning and sustainable government. Feedback provided will be used to inform government decision-making regarding potential changes to the program.

Over the summer, the Ministry of Transportation consulted with municipal transit agencies through meetings with the Ontario Public Transit Association. The Ministry is now seeking to engage all municipalities, through the circulation of the attached survey for your consideration and input.

Please send your responses and any questions to the Ministry of Transportation at [MTO-PGT@ontario.ca](mailto:MTO-PGT@ontario.ca). We ask that you provide your completed surveys by **November 4, 2019**.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your valuable feedback and insights.

Sincerely,

James Nowlan  
Executive Director

**Ministry of Transportation**

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**Re: Gas Tax Program Review – Municipal Feedback**

**Overview**

Ontario's Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Program has not been reviewed since its inception in 2004. The province is seeking to review the program to ensure it continues to apply tax dollars effectively and meet the needs of municipalities and transit riders.

The Ministry is consulting with municipalities to review program parameters and identify opportunities for improvement. Feedback received will inform any recommended changes to the program.

Please send your responses and any questions to the Ministry of Transportation at [MTO-PGT@ontario.ca](mailto:MTO-PGT@ontario.ca). We ask that you provide your completed surveys by **November 4, 2019**.

**Stakeholder Information:**

What municipality are you submitting your feedback on behalf of? Please specify your role/responsibility within this municipality.

<b>Municipality:</b>	
<b>Role/Position:</b>	

**Section A – For Municipalities Not Receiving Gas Tax Funds**

**1. General Transportation Challenges**

<b>a. If your municipality has a transit system, what has prevented you from joining the Gas Tax Program?</b>

**b. If you do not have a transit system, what are the barriers (financial and non-financial) your municipality faces in launching a transit system?**

**c. What would be the benefits of launching a transit system or community transportation services in your municipality?**

**d. What funding sources have you considered for launching your transit system? (e.g., Community Transportation Grants, Federal Gas Tax program, etc.)**

**e. How could the Gas Tax program be improved to help to offer improved transit service in your municipality?**

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**Section B – For Municipalities Receiving Gas Tax Funds**

**1. General Feedback**

**a. From the perspective of your municipality, what are the main benefits and/or limitations of the Gas Tax program?**

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**b. Are there opportunities to reduce burdensome reporting/administrative requirements?**

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**c. What other program changes would make the Gas Tax a better program for supporting transit services in your municipality?**

**d. For municipalities that have launched transit systems since the Gas Tax Program was introduced in 2004, what are the challenges you faced in implementing a new transit system? How could the Gas Tax Program be adjusted to make it easier to launch a transit system?**

## **2. 75% Municipal Own-Spending Cap**

**a. If the funding cap has been applied to your annual allocation, how has the cap impacted your investments in transit initiatives?**

**b. For municipalities that could access greater Gas Tax funding by increasing municipal transit spending (thereby raising their Gas Tax funding ceiling): what barriers, challenges, or realities have prevented this?**

**3. Ridership/Population Allocation Formula**

**a. What opportunities exist to increase ridership in your system?**

**b. Does the 70% ridership/30% population allocation formula address the transit needs in your community? Please explain why/why not.**

**c. Are there other criteria that should be reflected in the allocation formula?**

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**4. Baseline Spending Requirement**

**a. Would you support removing the baseline requirement? Why or why not?**

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**b. If the baseline requirement were removed, how would your transit investments change as a result?**

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**c. How would you use the additional flexibility to grow transit in your municipality?**

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**d. If not removed, can the baseline requirement be altered to better support your municipality?**

**5. Regional/Local Allocation Model**

**a) Is the program meeting the needs of your regional and local transit agencies? If not, how could this be improved?**

**b) How should the needs of regional and local transit agencies be balanced in the allocation formula or program requirements? What changes could achieve this?**

**6. Other**

**a) Are there any additional comments or concerns you have about the Gas Tax program?**