THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF

GANANOQUE

Canadian Gateway to the 1000 Islands

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held on Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Closed Session at 4:30 PM
Open Session at 5:00 PM
Held Virtually and In-Person

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT		STAFF PRESENT
Mayor:	John Beddows	Melanie Kirkby, CAO
Councillors:	Colin Brown	John Morrison, Treasurer
	Matt Harper	Brenda Guy, Manager of Planning and Development
	Anne-Marie Koiner	David Armstrong, Manager of Public Works
	Vicki Leakey	Jeff Johnston, Manager of Parks and Recreation
		Lynsey Zufelt, Deputy Clerk
		Andrew Dickson, Fire Chief
Regrets:	Patrick Kirkby	Penny Kelly, Clerk / CEMC

1.	**Call Meeting to Order**
	Mayor Beddows called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.
2.	**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof** – None
3.	**Closed Session (Beginning at 4:30 PM**
	• Moved by Mayor Beddows that the Council of the Town of Gananoque in accordance with Section 239.2 of the *Municipal Act*, moves into Closed Session at 4:33 PM for the Purpose of Discussing one (1) item under Personal Matters Concerning an Identifiable Individual, Including Municipal or Board Employees. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
4.	**Move Out of Closed Session at 4:48 PM**
	Open Session resumed at 5:02 PM
5.	**Reporting Out of Closed Session**
	• Mayor Beddows advised that a Closed Meeting was held. Council discussed one (1) item under Personal Matters Concerning an Identifiable Individual, Including Municipal or Board Employees. • Council considered the following recommendation.
	Motion #26-169 – Temporary Staffing Extension **Moved by:** Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by:** Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE APPROVE AN 11-MONTH CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR THE STAFF PERSON CURRENTLY PERFORMING LOCATE REQUESTS, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT IC-UTIL-2026-02. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
6.	**Canadian National Anthem**
	• The National Anthem was sung.
7.	**Land Acknowledgement Statement**
	• Mayor Beddows read the Land Acknowledgement Statement

8.	**Public Question / Comment** (Only Addressing Motion(s) or Reports on the Agenda)
	• Members of the public spoke to Reports on the Agenda.
9.	**Disclosure of Additional Items** – None
10.	**Delegation**
	1. KPMG – Katie Mahon, KPMG Audit Partner – Town of Gananoque Audited Financial Statement
	• Katie Mahon, KPMG Audit Partner appeared online before Council and presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Corporation of the Town of Gananoque Audit Findings Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2025".
	Motion #26-170 – 2025 KPMG Audited Findings Report **Moved by:** Councillor Brown **Seconded by:** Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE RECEIVES THE 2025 DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT AS PRESENTED BY KPMG ON OCTOBER 7, 2026. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
****The Chair called a recess at 5:57 PM** ****The Meeting resumed at 6:06 PM**	
	2. Transit Working Group Overview
	• Councillor Anne Marie Koiner, and Transit Working Group Members Gerry Brown, Dan Horton, and Greg McLean, appeared before Council to present a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Business Case – Transit Study Working Group", attached.
	Motion #26-171 – Transit Working Group Overview **Moved By:** Mayor Beddows **Seconded By:** Councillor Brown BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE RECEIVES THE BUSINESS CASE ESTIMATES REPORT, AS PRESENTED BY THE TRANSIT STUDY WORKING GROUP ON OCTOBER 7, 2026, AND REFERS TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2026, THE DECISION TO APPLY FOR ONTARIO TRANSIT INVESTMENT FUND (OTIF) FUNDING TO SUPPORT NEW PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE AND AN ALLOCATION OF UP TO $220,000 REFERRED TO THE 2027 BUDGET TO SUPPORT OTIF GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS, AND A STAFF REPORT ON FUNDING AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS THAT ACCOMPANY. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
11.	**Mayor's Declaration**
	1. Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation – October 21, 2026
	• Mayor Beddows declared October 21, 2026, to be recognized as "**Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation"** day.
	2. Mayor Beddows Declaration Against Religious Violence
	Motion #26-182 – Mayor Beddows' Declaration Against Religious Violence **Moved By:** Mayor Beddows **Seconded By:** Deputy Mayor Leakey BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE AUTHORIZES MAYOR BEDDOWS TO CIRCULATE THE DECLARATION AGAINST RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES FOR ENDORSEMENT. **CARRIED – *4 Ayes, 1 Nay***
12.	**Approval of Minutes – Wednesday, September 16, 2026**
	Motion #26-168 – Approval of Minutes – Wednesday, September 16, 2026 **Moved By:** Councillor Harper **Seconded By:** Deputy Mayor Leakey BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE HEREBY ADOPTS THE REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2026. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**

13.	Reports Postponed from Wednesday, September 16, 2026
Council-CSC-2026-07 – 2026 Municipal Election Nomination Process	
	Motion #26-172 – 2026 Municipal Election Nomination Process **Moved By:** Councillor Harper **Seconded By:** Councillor Brown BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE RECEIVES THE 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOMINATION PROCESS FOR INFORMATION, AS PRESENTED IN REPORT COUNCIL CSC-2026-07. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
***At this point, Council considered Reports Council-LIB-2026-02 and Council-LIB-2026-03.	
Council-FIN-2026-34 – Municipal Finance Officer's Association (MFOA) – Request Support for Permanent Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Funding	
	Motion #26-175 – Municipal Finance Officer's Association (MFOA) – Request Support for Permanent Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Funding **Moved By:** Mayor Beddows **Seconded By:** Deputy Mayor Leakey BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE SUPPORTS THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO (MFOA) REQUEST TO THE MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE THAT THE CURRENT $400 MILLION ANNUAL ONTARIO COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (OCIF) FUNDING LEVEL BE MADE PERMANENT BEYOND 2026; AND FURTHER DIRECTS THAT THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BE FORWARDED TO THE MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO, AS PRESENTED IN REPORT COUNCIL FIN-2026-34. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
14.	**Unfinished Business**
Council-REC-2026-08 – Pump Track Feasibility Report at Site of Old BMX Track	
	Motion #26-176 – Pump Track Feasibility Report at Site of Old BMX Track **Moved By:** Councillor Harper **Seconded By:** Councillor Brown BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE RECEIVE COUNCIL REPORT REC-2026-08 REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF CONVERTING THE EXISTING UNUSED BMX TRACK INTO A PUMP TRACK. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
15.	**Staff Reports**
Council-FIN-2026-35 – Tourism Advisory Panel (TAP) Budget Deviation	
	Motion #26-178 – Tourism Advisory Panel (TAP) Budget Deviation **Moved By:** Mayor Beddows **Seconded By:** Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE APPROVES A 2026 BUDGET DEVIATION OF $23,825 FOR TOURISM ADVISORY PANEL EVENT EXPENDITURES, INCREASING THE APPROVED BUDGET FROM $166,175 TO A MAXIMUM OF $190,000; AND FURTHER, THAT THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE OF UP TO $23,825 BE FUNDED FROM THE MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATION TAX RESERVE AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT FIN-2026-35 **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**

Council-REC-2026-09 – Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) Grant Submission

Motion #26-177 – Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) Grant Submission

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by**: Councillor Harper

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE SUPPORTS, IN PRINCIPLE, THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE COMMUNITY SPORT AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CSRIF), OPTION 1 (THE REPLACEMENT OF THE LIFT AT THE LOU JEFFRIES COMMUNITY CENTRE),

AND FURTHER DIRECTS STAFF TO BRING BACK THE QUESTION TO COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 18TH, 2026 FOR CONSIDERATION,

AND FURTHER SUPPORTS IN PRINCIPLE, THAT THE $250,000 TOWN SHARE (DRAWN FROM ARENA OR TOWN RESERVES), BE DETERMINED ON NOVEMBER 18TH, 2026, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT 2026-09.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS

Council-LIB-2026-02 – Gananoque Public Library Quarterly Report – 2nd Quarter

Motion #26-173 – Gananoque Public Library Quarterly Report – 2nd Quarter

Moved by: Mayor Beddows **Seconded by**: Councillor Koiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE RECEIVES THE GANANOQUE PUBLIC LIBRARY QUARTERLY REPORT AS PRESENTED IN REPORT COUNCIL LIB-2026-02.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS

Council-LIB-2026-03 – Gananoque Public Library Quarterly Report – 3rd Quarter

Motion #26-174 – Gananoque Public Library Quarterly Report – 3rd Quarter

Moved by: Mayor Beddows **Seconded by**: Councillor Harper

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE RECEIVES THE GANANOQUE PUBLIC LIBRARY QUARTERLY REPORT AS PRESENTED IN REPORT COUNCIL LIB-2026-03.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS

16. **Motions (**Council Direction to Staff) – None

17. **Correspondence**

1. United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG) – Presentation Document – Homelessness Planning Progress Update – Deputy Mayor Leakey – Postponed from September 16, 2026
2. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Proposed Regulations under the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2026* – Open for Public Comment – Postponed from September 16, 2026
3. United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG) – Media Release – Leeds Grenville Welcomes New Doctors in Brockville and Prescott
4. Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel – Frontenac Heritage Foundation Nomination – Heritage Conservation Award for Umbrella
5. **Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel – Request to Council – "Gananoque After Dark: Our History on the Waterfront" Proposal**

Motion #26-179 – "Gananoque After Dark: Our History on the Waterfront" Proposal

Moved by: Councillor Harper **Seconded by:** Mayor Beddows

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE APPROVE THE "GANANOQUE AFTER DARK: OUR HISTORY ON THE WATERFRONT" PROPOSAL BY THE MUNICIPAL HERITAGE ADVISORY PANEL, IN PRINCIPLE, AND DIRECT STAFF TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSAL AS A PILOT PROJECT, FUNDED BY THE PANEL'S EXISTING OPERATIONS BUDGET.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS

6. Ontario Library Association – Ontario Library Week

18.	**Notice Required Under the Notice By-law** – None
19.	**Committee Updates (Council Reps)**
	• Council members provided their updates. • The following recommendations were considered by Council.
	Motion #26-180 – Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference **Moved by:** Councillor Koiner **Seconded by:** Mayor Beddows BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE DIRECTS THE CLERK TO BOOK ACCOMMODATIONS AND REGISTER TWO (2) COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE 2027 ROMA CONFERENCE. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
	Motion #26-181 – Staff Recognition – Robert Kennedy **Moved by:** Mayor Beddows **Seconded by:** Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PUT FORWARD THEIR CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO MR. ROBERT KENNEDY FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT TO BE RECOGNIZED AT THE FINAL MEETING OF COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 4, 2026. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
20.	**Discussion of Additional Items** – None
21.	**Questions from the Media** – None
22.	**Confirmation By-law**
	By-law No. 2026-082 – Confirming By-law – October 7, 2026 **Moved By:** Mayor Beddows **Seconded By:** Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS BY-LAW NO. 2026-082, BEING A BY-LAW TO CONFIRM THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2026, BE READ THREE TIMES AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 7TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**
23.	**Next Meeting(s):** 1. Special Meeting – Wednesday, October 14, 2026 – Strategic Plan Milestones (Virtual Only) 2. Regular Meeting – Wednesday, November 4, 2026 (Last Meeting of Current Council)
24.	**Adjournment**
	Moved By: Mayor Beddows Be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Gananoque hereby adjourns the Wednesday, October 7th, 2026, regular meeting of Council at 8:22 PM. **CARRIED – UNANIMOUS**

John S. Beddows, Mayor	Lynsey Zufelt, Deputy Clerk

Town of Gananoque

Transit Working Group
Business Case

Who We Are

- The Transit Working Group was established by Council Motion # 25-014 in February 2025
- To develop recommendations for actions, programs, policies and projects the Town can undertake to assist in meeting community needs.
- Members
  - Dan Horton (Wheels of Care)
  - Greg McLean (Transit Policies)
  - Gerry Brown
  - Mayor John Beddows
  - Councillor Anne-Marie Koiner

Where We Started

- Smith Business Consulting
- Transit Feasibility Study May 2020

- Arcadis IBI Group – City of Kingston
- Commuter Public Transportation Sep2023

- Ontario Transit Investment Fund

Business Case
Problem Statement

- Transit options for Gananoque residents to travel to Kingston are limited and expensive.
- The lack of transit between Gananoque and Kingston creates three major problems.
  - Lack of access to employment opportunities, especially those without vehicle, limits employment opportunities and the viability of living in this region long term.
  - Population has limited access to Kingston's hospitals, health care facilities, educational institutions and public services. This is especially important given the large population of elderly in the region. (30%)
  - Lack of public transportation options to attract tourism, regional development, student mobility and opportunities for leisure and shopping.

Business Case
Objective of Project

- Provide an affordable rural public transit connection between Gananoque and Kingston.
- Improve access to employment for residents of Gananoque and Kingston.
- Improve access to healthcare services in Kingston for residents of Gananoque.
- Improve tourism related employment for residents of Gananoque and Kingston for seasonal recreational activities.
- Improved access to educational institutions in Kingston.
- Increase economic activity for the town of Gananoque.
- Implement a rural public transit system that is financially sustainable.

Business Case
Demand Side Research and Analysis Methodology

- Gap and behaviour analysis based on data collected from our primary survey by Smith Business Consulting.
- Their survey covers over 1,100 residents with a diversified age and geographic distribution.
- Based on their survey, they segmented the residents in Gananoque and TLTI into multiple groups with distinct needs.

Segmentation

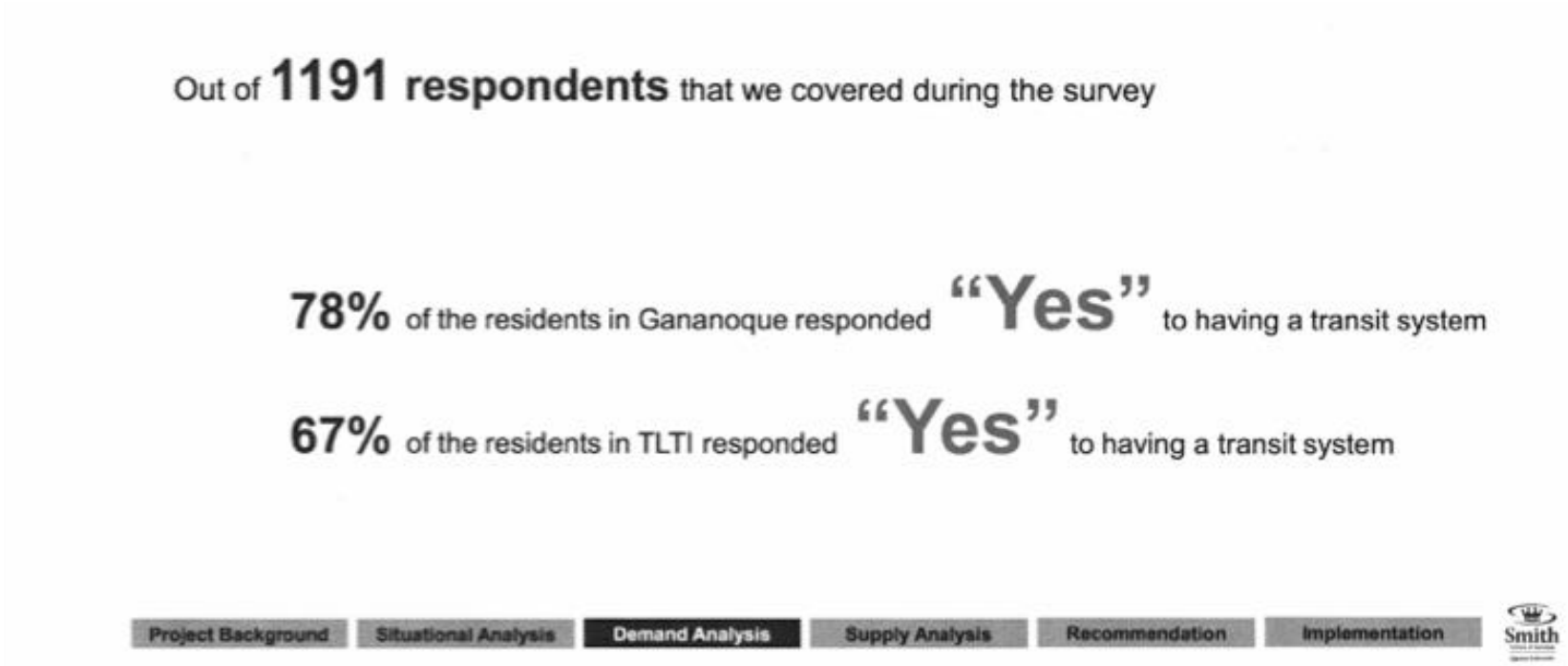
Smith Business Consulting conducted an in-depth analysis by applying programming language to determine the number of residents with indirect car access from Gananoque and TLTI to Kingston – the gap.

Gap Analysis

By further leveraging survey findings, they understood the needs and travel pattern of each segmented group, such as pick-up location, time, price preference, etc.

Business Case
Demand Analysis - Public Need

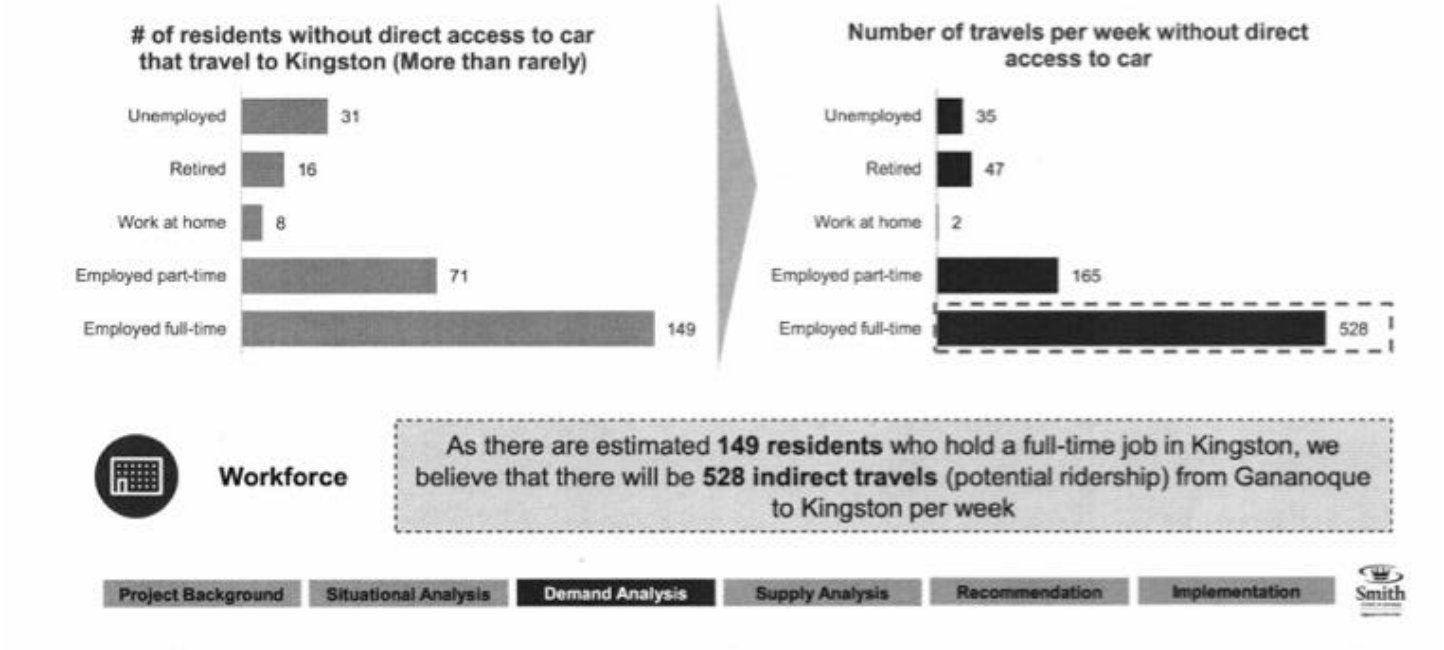
- Most residents in Gananoque and TLTI say “Yes” to public transit system to Kingston



Source - Smith Business Consulting - Transit Feasibility Study

Business Case
Gap Analysis - Gananoque Workforce

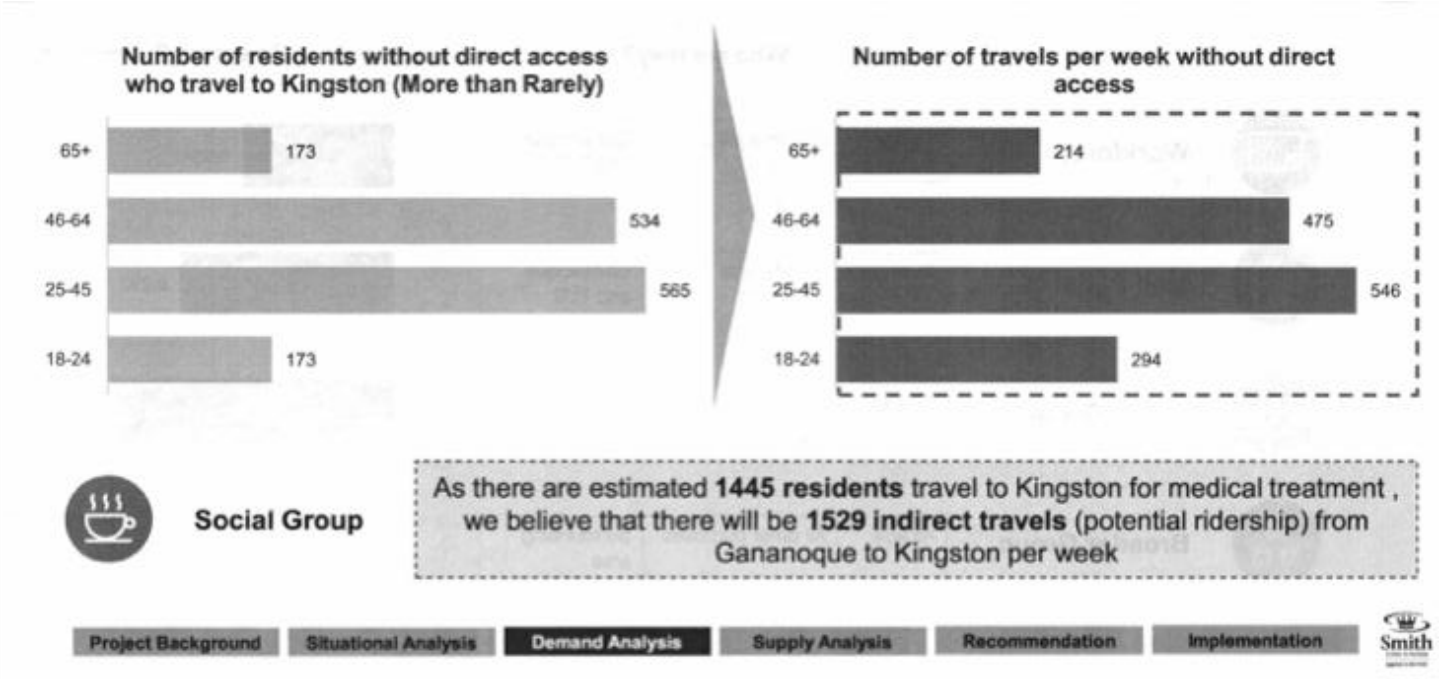
- It is estimated that there are 149 residents who have full time job but no direct car access.



Source - Smith Business Consulting - Transit Feasibility Study

Business Case
Gap Analysis - Social Group in Gananoque

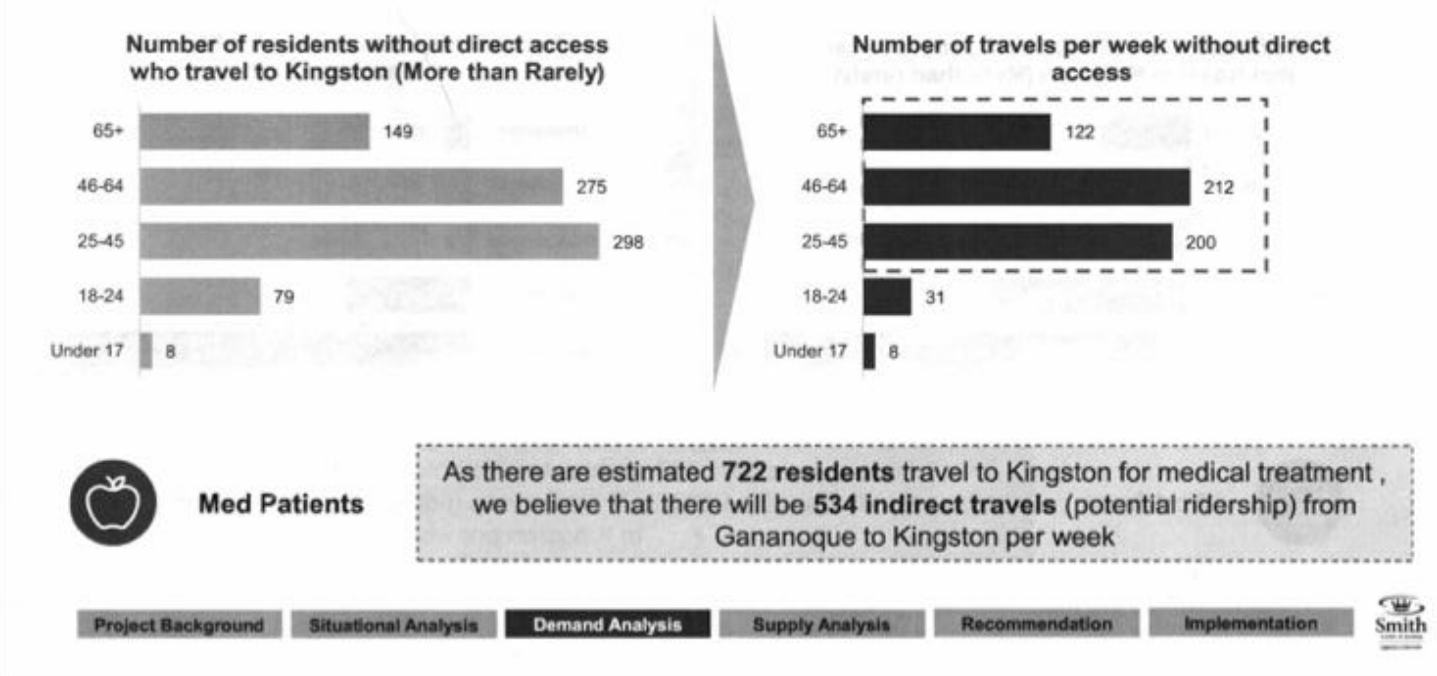
- We estimated that there are 1445 who come to Kingston for social but no direct car access.



Source - Smith Business Consulting - Transit Feasibility Study

Business Case
Gap Analysis - Medical

- It is estimated that there are 722 residents who travel for medical treatment but no direct car access.



Source - Smith Business Consulting - Transit Feasibility Study

Business Case
Demand - Trip Purpose

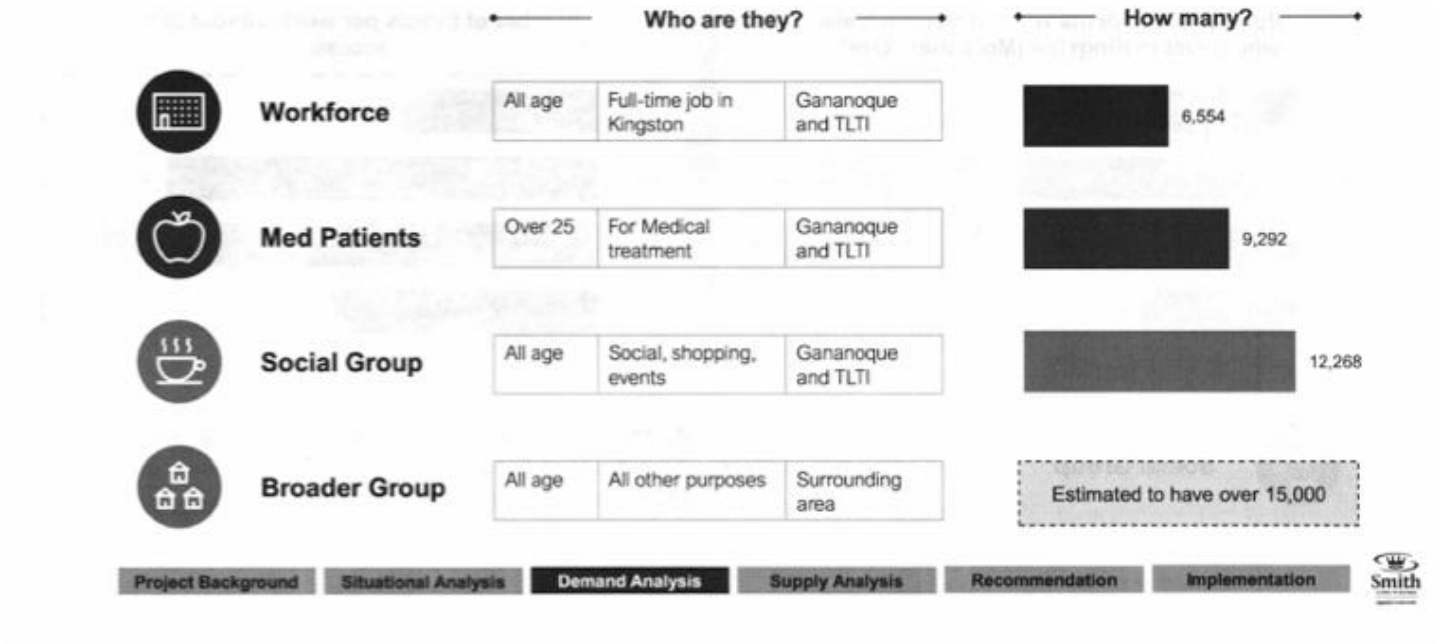
- Respondents reported their most likely transit trip purpose would be access to recreation and community events (46% of respondents)
- Access to employment was 3rd most popular (36%)
- Lower responses for school and healthcare trips may be due to demographics of respondents



Source - Arcadis - Bringing Commuter Public Transit to Rural Kingston, Gananoque, South Frontenac and Loyalist

Business Case
Demand Analysis - Demographic Segmentation

- The numbers are estimated based on our sample pool of survey respondents.



Source - Smith Business Consulting - Transit Feasibility Study

Business Case
FlixBus Pilot Program

- FlixBus agreed to add Gananoque to its Ottawa to Toronto route starting August 2025.
  - Data was collected from August 11th to December 31st, 2025.
  - **On-demand** service was provided two times a day from Thursday to Monday.
- Over 1,300 passengers served in 2025 with 417 scheduled stops.
- Ridership was well balanced in both directions, which is typical of a stop used for round-trip travel by residents and visitors alike.
- An average of just over 3 passengers per stop, which is solid performance for a partial season in a community of Gananoque's size.
- From FlixBus' perspective
  - "The stop has been a success, and we're pleased to be continuing service into 2026 under the renewed agreement."
  - "The Town has been a great partner, and Gananoque remains an important part of our Ontario network."

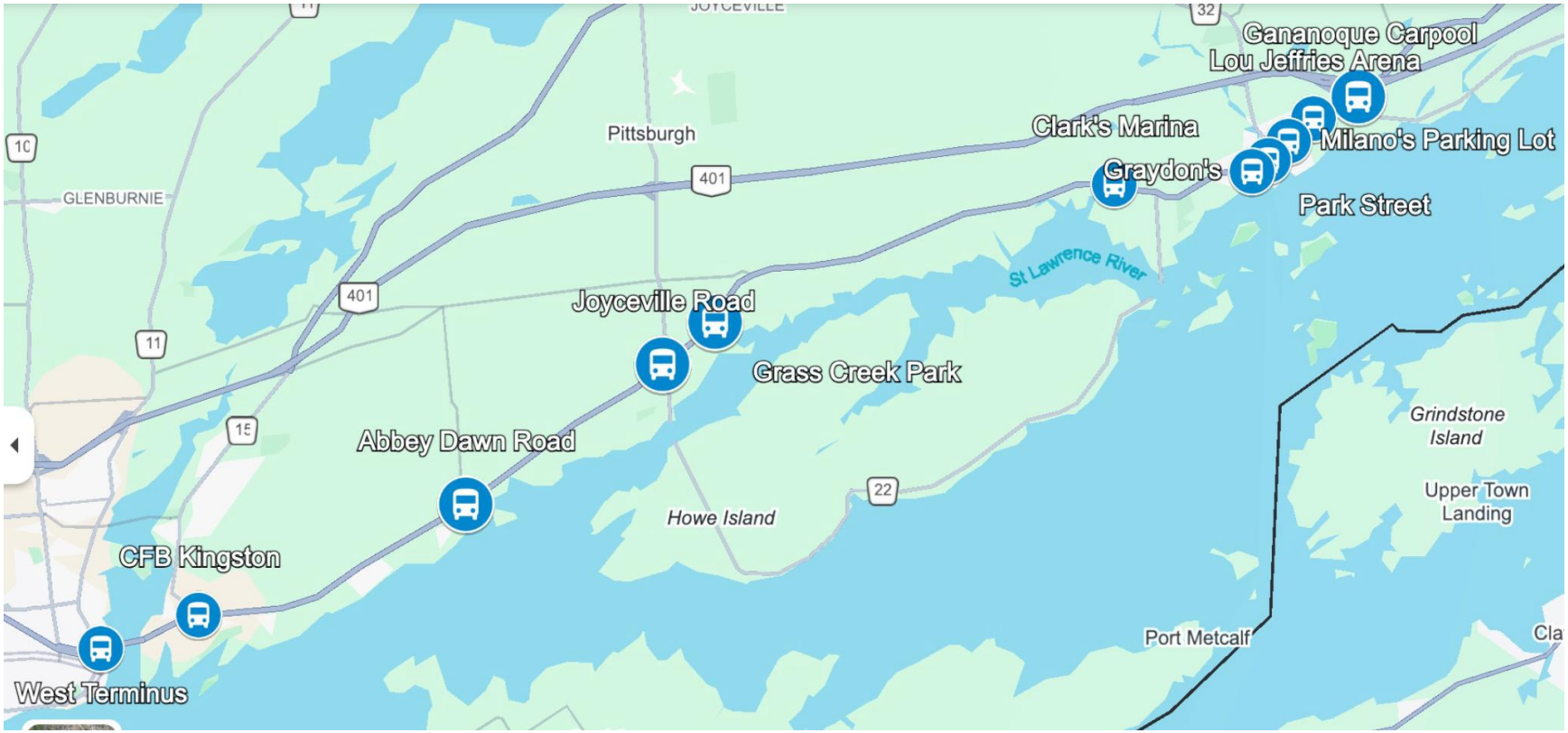
Business Case
FlixBus Pilot Program - Cont'd

- Further data breakdown :
  - Gananoque → Kingston: approximately 234 passengers
  - Kingston → Gananoque: approximately 215 passengers
  - Total two-way Gananoque–Kingston travel: just under 450 trips
  - This makes Kingston the single largest origin/destination pair for the Gananoque stop, which is exactly what we'd expect for a service being used both by residents and visitors for short regional trips. Importantly, the flow is well balanced in both directions, reinforcing that this is regular, round-trip use rather than one-off travel.

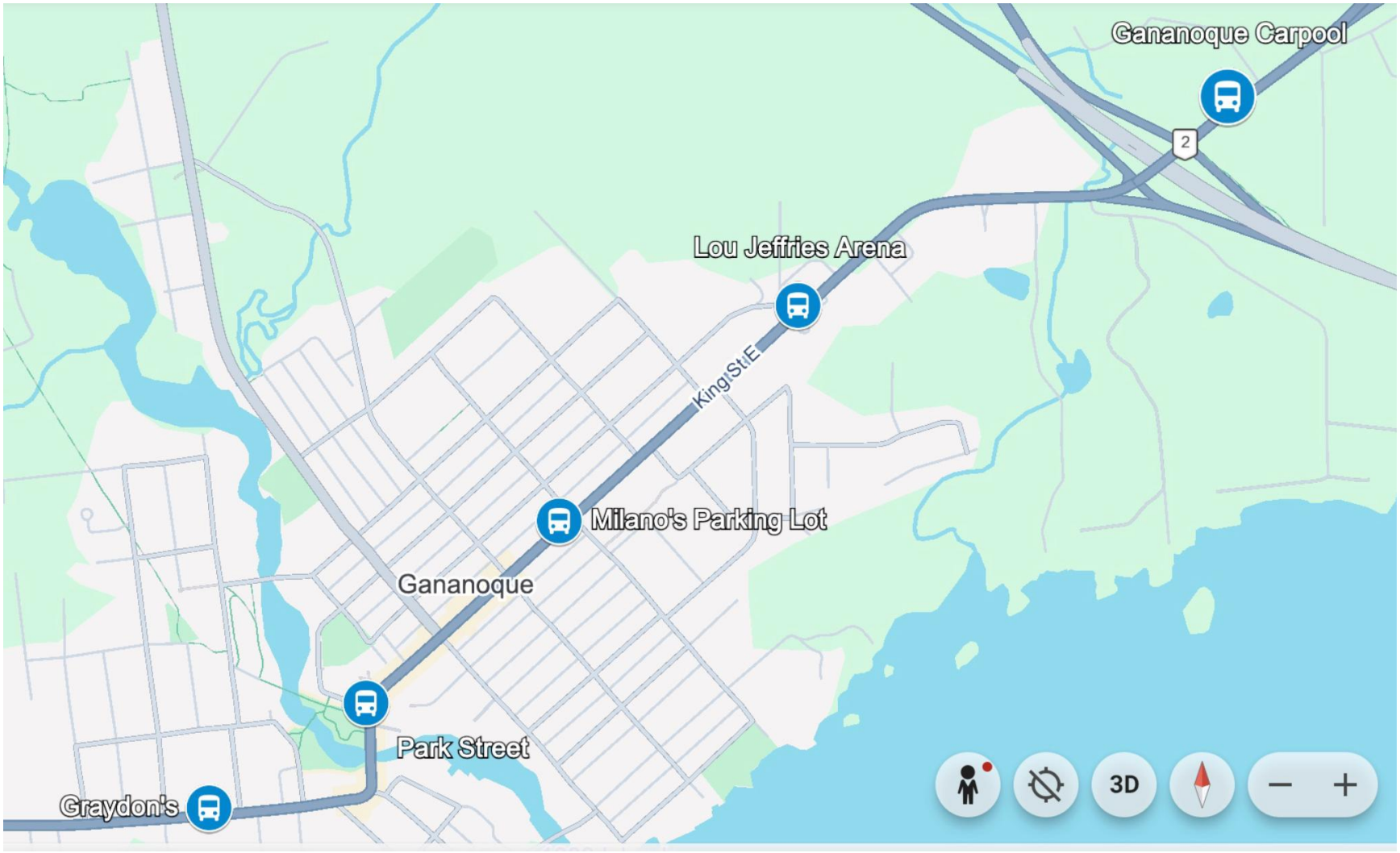
Business Case
Solution - Fixed Route - Gananoque / Kingston

- Implement a fixed express route between Gananoque and Kingston using Highway # 2 as the main corridor.
- This route supports bi-directional demand from both Gananoque and Kingston.
- Develop schedule and frequency of trips which aligns with demand analysis findings.
- Install core stops in Gananoque and Kingston which can be supplemented with seasonal stops to support recreational demand.
- This route serves local residential, key commercial business and seasonal visitors.

Business Case
Regional Route: Gananoque to Kingston

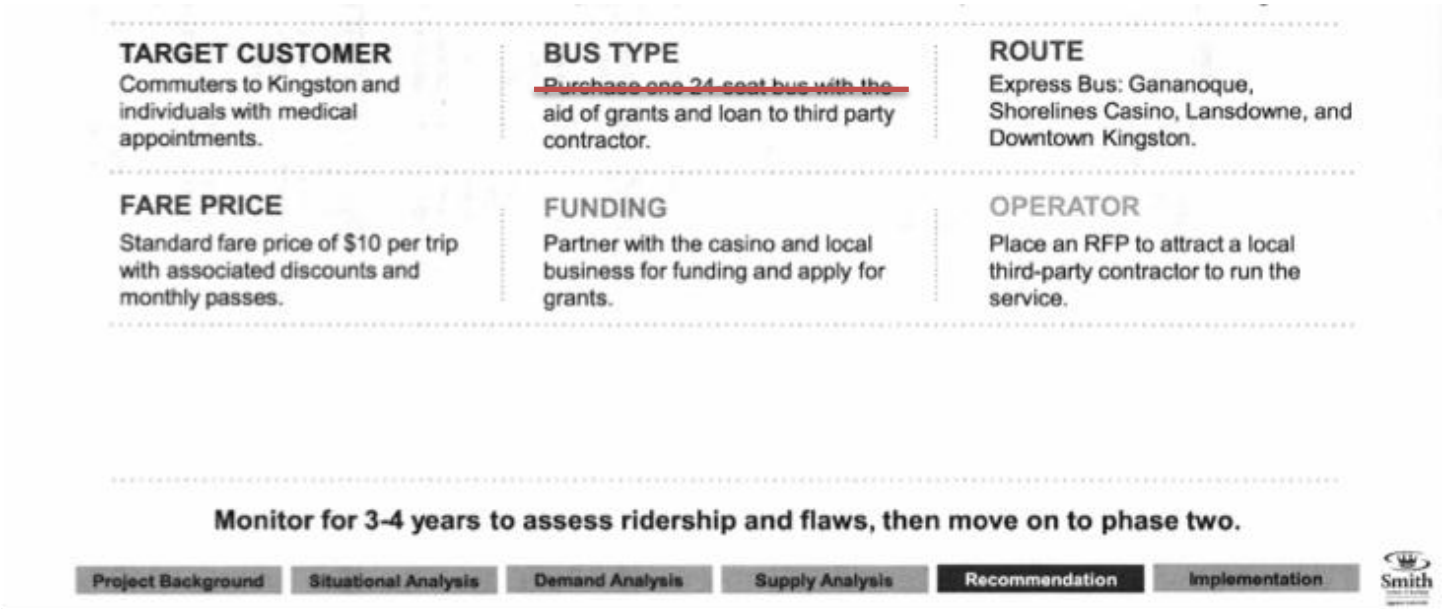


Business Case
Local Stops: Gananoque Coverage



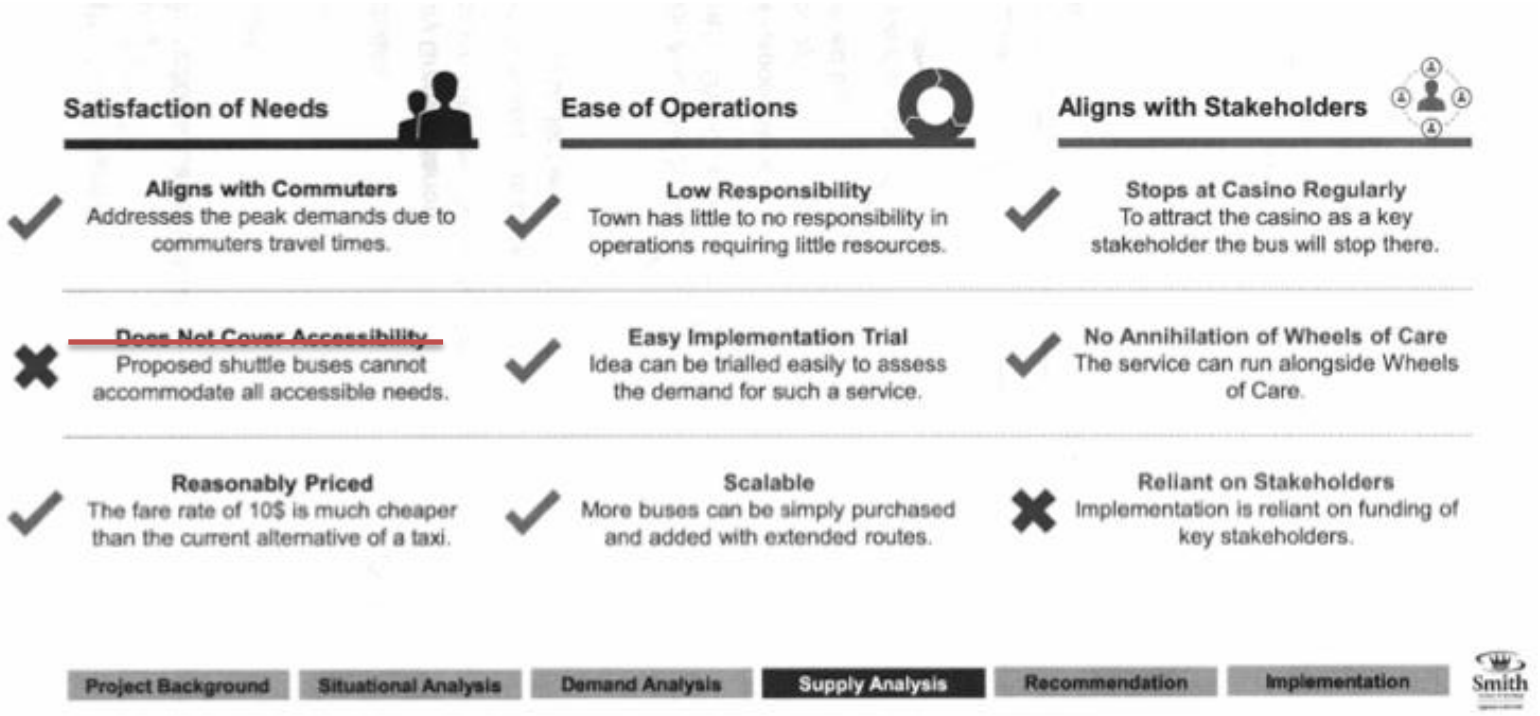
Business Case
Solution - Fleet

- First phase to implement express route bus service between Gananoque and Kingston.
- Acquire two 18x2-passenger accessible buses which provides 18 passenger seats plus 2 spaces for wheelchairs.
  - Accessible features are required as per Accessibility Ontario Disability Act (AODA)regulations
- Specialized transportation service currently provided by Gananoque Wheels of Care continues for wheelchair clients (accompanied by an attendant) who require “point-to-point” service.



Business Case
Solution- Non Financial

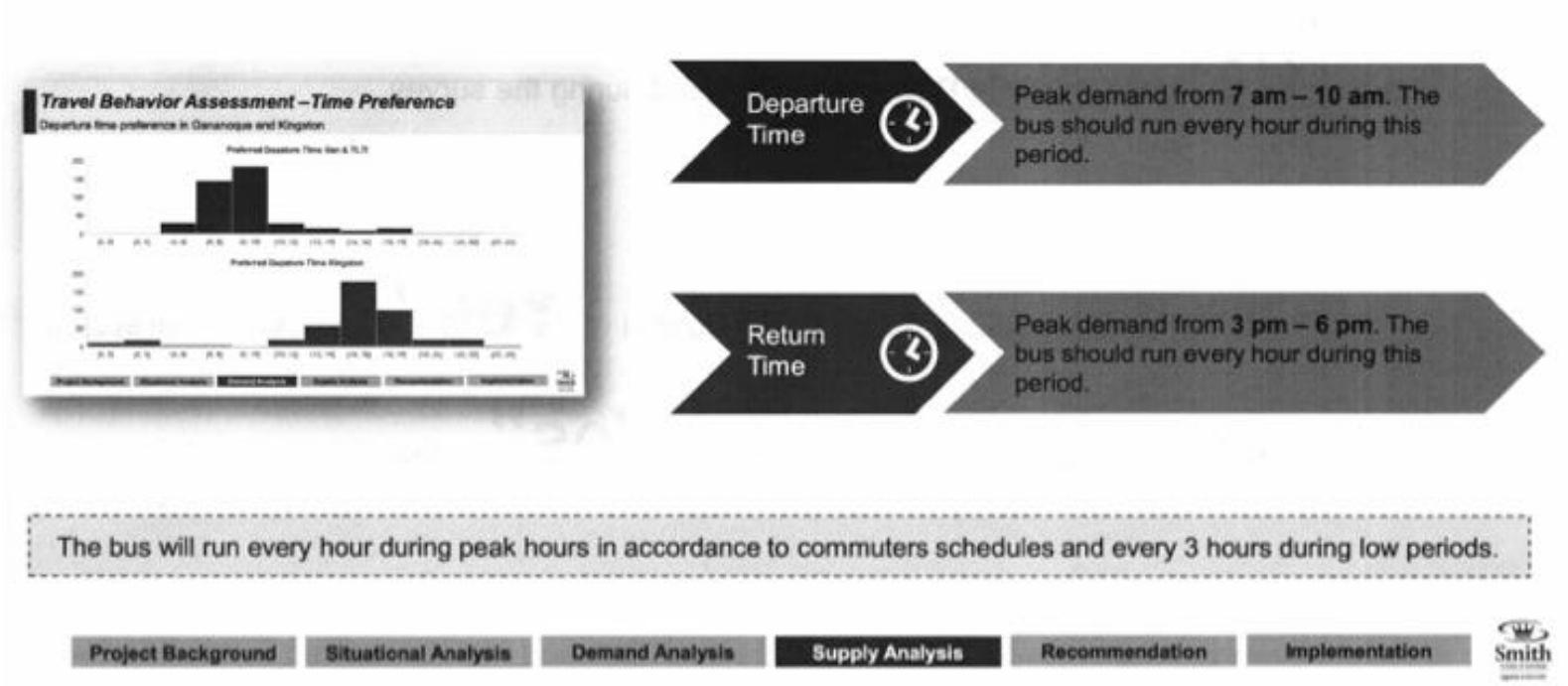
- Solution is favourable despite not satisfying needs and having a high reliance on stakeholders
- As shown below, original Smith Consulting solution did not address legal obligations of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA) Act by providing a vehicle solution which includes wheelchair accessible vehicle
- Our vehicle solution addresses this gap as <u>18 passenger, 2 wheelchair</u> vehicle includes wheelchair accessibility and seating.



Source - Smith Business Consulting - Transit Feasibility Study

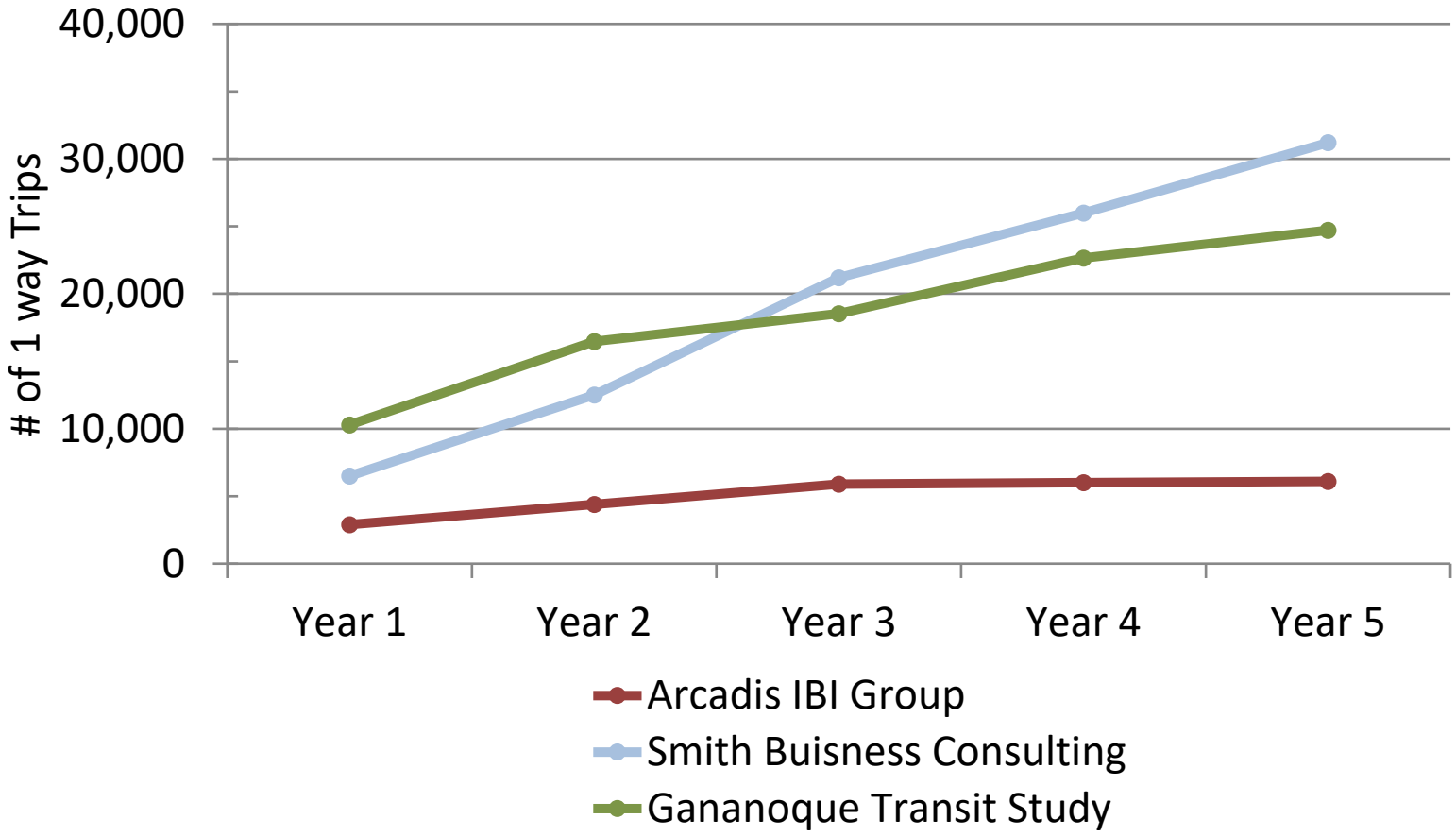
Solution -Schedule

- The schedule will change according to peak demands found to be aligned with commuter times.



Source - Smith Business Consulting - Transit Feasibility Study

Ridership Growth Comparison (5-Year)



Solution
4 Year Service Cost Comparison
Arcadis IBI Group

- Arcadis group has the lowest estimated ridership volume of the 2 consulting groups
- Ridership volume is conservative compared to Smith Business Consulting and real data provided by FlixBus data collected from August to December 2025
- Financial gap is ~$1.03M over 4 years (Does not include government funding)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Annual Ridership (Worst Case 1 Way Trips)	2,900	4,400	5,900	6,000	19,200
Service Revenue					
Total Revenue	$ 26,000	$ 39,000	$ 51,000	$ 52,000	$ 168,000
Operating Costs					
Total Expense	$ 293,000	$ 296,000	$ 303,000	$ 310,000	$ 1,202,000

Solution
4 Year Service Cost Comparison
Smith Business Consulting

- Smith Business Consulting ridership estimate is much higher than Arcadis IBI and is more in line with FlixBus ridership data assuming a 5 day a week schedule to address work force ridership demand.
- Estimated funding gap of ~$616K is over 4 years (Does not include government funding)
- Smith Business Consulting group did not include many capital costs and resources to support a transportation service project.

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Smith School of Business Estimate	**Annual Ridership (Worst Case 1 Way Trips)**	6,500	12,500	21,200	26,000	66,200
	Service Revenue					
	Fare Revenue	$ 36,671	$ 63,233	$ 94,114	$ 114,121	$ 308,139
	Advertising Revenue	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
	Total Revenue	$ 36,671	$ 63,233	$ 94,114	$ 114,121	$ 308,139
	Operating Costs					
	Operating Contract	$ 231,175	$ 231,175	$ 231,175	$ 231,175	$ 924,700
	Marketing & Communications	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
	Dedicated Transit Coordinator .25 FTE	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
	Parallel Specialized Transit Contract	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

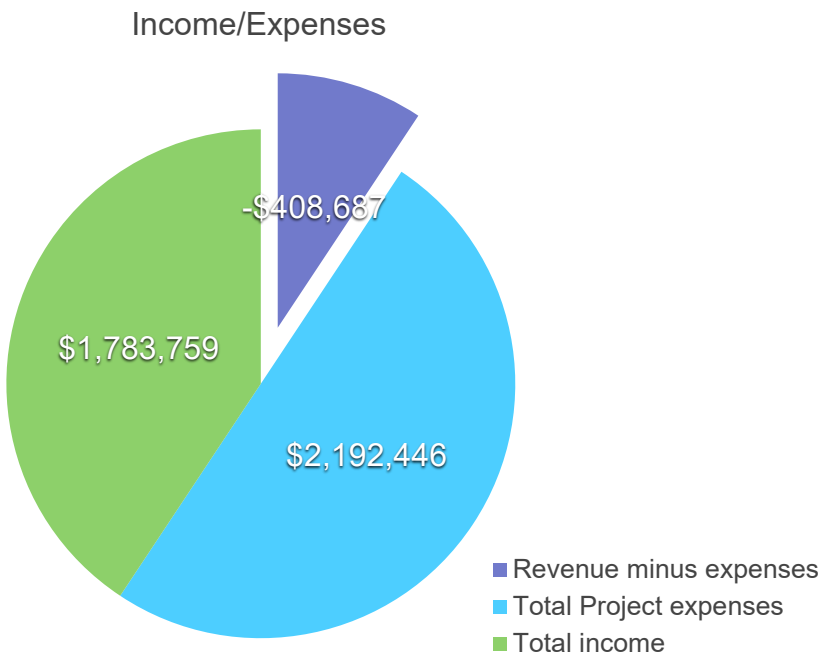
Solution
4 Year Service Cost Comparison
Gananoque Transit Study Group

- Previous studies were completed in 2021 and at that time government funding was not included nor available. Consulting groups acknowledged that funding was required to close financial gap in their studies.
- Gananoque Transit Study group estimate includes estimated government funding that was extended in April 2026 and available until 2029.
- Transit Study Group has created business case to achieve the **full financial benefit** of how the OTIF grant is structured.
- OTIF grant partially mitigates financial risk which is one of the main barriers to starting a new transit service for any small town or community.
- Transit Study Group ridership estimates uses Smith Business consulting worst case ridership estimates but takes a more conservative approach to ridership volumes in later years.
- **Estimated funding gap is ~$408K over 4 years but also includes capital and support costs not included by Smith Business Consulting**.

4 Year Service Cost Comparison with Funding
Gananoque Transit Study Group

REVENUE SOURCES	
Service Revenue	$687,536
OTIF Contribution (Estimated)	$1,096,223
TOTAL INCOME	**$1,783,759**
EXPENSES	
Capital Asset & Infrastructure Cost	$559,700
Estimated Maintenance	$43,101
Fuel	$234,419
Insurance	$62,754
Storage Facilites	$50,561
Semi Annual Inspections	$4,184
License Fees	$2,320
Driver Wages	$892,058
Transit Co-ordinator/Manager	$145,088
Marketing	$21,000
Town of Gananoque City Works	$19,578
Project Administration Costs	$106,668
Driver Training	$17,155
Consulting Services	$8,000
Specialized Transit Service	$25,861
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	**$2,192,446**

FINANCIAL GAP	
Revenue minus expenses	-$408,687



Key Insights

- **Demand already exists**
  - FlixBus pilot in last quarter of 2025 indicates a strong demand for service between Gananoque and Kingston.
  - FlixBus services was based on a“demand only” schedule, which did not include workforce demand or medical demand.
- **Balanced travel in both directions**
  - Rural transportation service would not be travelling with excess capacity in either direction which balances revenue and operational costs.
- **Opportunity for growth**
  - The Leeds and Thousand Islands (TLTI) may want to join the 2nd phase of offering.
  - Weekend service and/or increased frequency on existing routes if ridership exceeds estimates.

Required Community Partners

- McCoy Bus Services, Howard Bus Service, Hogan Bus Lines (May be others)
  - Third party supplier of vehicles and logistics to provide public transportation service.
- Shoreline Casinos
  - Agreement to access Shoreline Casino site for a regular/seasonal bus stop.
- Kingston Transit
  - Agreement to travel in Kingston Transit's jurisdiction for bus stops near CFB Kingston and downtown Kingston.
- Gananoque Wheels of Care, Hulpr, VON Canada
  - Non-profit currently provides "specialized transportation" for point-to-point service for Gananoque and TLTI residents who are unable to use public transportation service.
- Canadian Forces Base (CFB Kingston)
  - Access to premises for potential bus stops

Partners
Gananoque Wheels of Care

- Gananoque Wheels of Care oversees the operation of specialized transportation to qualified individuals under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

- Gananoque Wheels of Care is a **charitable not-for-profit** organization, under the laws of the Province of Ontario and operates entirely by **volunteers** (including drivers).

- The organization is financially and/or in-kind supported by the Town of Gananoque, The Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands, Senior Support Services (CPHC), local service clubs, private donations, and passenger revenue.

Partners
Gananoque Wheels of Care

- Gananoque Wheels of Care is considered a “specialized transportation” service for clients who **cannot** board without assistance onto a public transit vehicle or require “**point to point**” service.
- This “specialized transportation” service was excluded from all transit studies and solutions.
- “Specialized Transportation" is required in proposed solution to meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).
- Gananoque Wheels of Care will require additional capital funding and ongoing operational funding to be able to continue providing a reliable cost effective service which aligns with AODA legislation for residents of Gananoque and TLTI **if it is required to charge public ridership fee of $10.00**.
- Alternative is partnerships with private services which may be more expensive and require additional partnerships with these private specialized transportation services.

Benefits
Seasonal and Recreation

- Support for Seasonal Tourism and Recreation
  - Rural public transportation service improves access to seasonal tourism.
  - Tourism is a key revenue generator for both Gananoque and Kingston.
  - Public transportation enables tourists without vehicles to have an economical mode of transportation between these two popular tourist destinations.
  - This service will provide access to larger pool of human resources for local seasonal businesses by providing students access to low cost public transportation system for those students living in either Kingston or Gananoque.
  - Gananoque is a popular destination where tourists enjoy 1000 island cruises, live theatre, visit Shoreline Casino or explore downtown Gananoque.

Benefits
Improved Accessibility

- **Improved Accessibility**
  - Addresses absence of a rural public transportation system between Gananoque and Kingston which is a barrier to cross-boundary employment and human resources
    - Rural public transportation expands employment opportunities for residents and expands skilled human resource pools for local businesses in both municipalities
- **Rural public transportation is a key driver in the development of communities which are both age-friendly and equitable.**
    - This includes the significant benefit of connecting residents to healthcare and social services
    - The **Gananoque Age Friendly Action Plan 2022-2031**clearly establishes the creation of a new daily public transportation link between Gananoque and Kingston as one of its key priorities
    - Lack of parking at major hospitals in Kingston makes access a challenge for both patients and employees

Benefits
Emissions Reduction

- **Advancing Climate Action - Canada 2030 Emission Reduction Plan**
  - “Public transit systems contribute to the decarbonization of the transportation sector by encouraging modal shift, combatting congestion, and reducing reliance on personal vehicles”
  - Based on “Smith Business Consulting” there is a **potential** ridership of 528 weekly workforce rides, 534 weekly medical rides and 1529 social group rides.

Our Ask

- Transit group is seeking approval for the following:
  - Council's approval of business case estimates based on previous studies and estimates provided by Transit Study Group.
  - Council's approval to move forward and apply for Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF) funding to support new public transit service.
  - Consideration and allocation of funds in the 2027 budget to support OTIF grant application process.

Conclusion

- Previous consultant survey estimated that there is a strong demand for a public transportation system between Kingston and Gananoque.
- Real data from new FlixBus service confirms real ridership support for a Gananoque to Kingston route based on data collected between August and December 2025.
- Ontario Transportation Investment Funding (OTIF) has been extended and presents a great opportunity for Gananoque to take advantage of this current funding to fulfill a public transportation gap.
  - *NOTE - As of **April 1st, 2026**, Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF) program has recently doubled **annual** funding from $5M to $10M and extended this program for **3 more years** with for a total of $30M of available funding.*
- Lack of affordable public transportation is a barrier to economic growth and local business investment and the current provincial funding programs provides a rare opportunity to access provincial funds to implement this long awaited service.

Thank you