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For immediate release

July 23, 2020

### **New transit service connecting Southwestern Ontario communities begins Aug. 4**

A new, fully accessible inter-community transit service connecting the City of Sarnia, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, and City of London launches on August 4. The transit service is being funded by the Government of Ontario until 2023, through the Ontario Community Transportation Grant program.

The transit service will begin by operating three round trips daily and two weekend round trips on buses with an approximate seating capacity of between 10 to 12 passengers. Future changes may be made in response to ridership numbers and public feedback.

Transit service operator, Voyago, has implemented additional measures to ensure the health and safety of passengers and employees in response to COVID-19. Masks or other face coverings will be mandatory on all buses to comply with the most stringent and latest local health unit mandates among the municipalities Voyago serves.

Riders can expect frequent cleaning, exact cash fare payment, reduced passenger capacity, barriers between drivers and passengers, and other precautionary measures.

The Mayors of Strathroy-Caradoc, London, and Sarnia shared what the transit service means for their residents, and for the region:

“We’re excited to announce the start of this service, knowing it will provide a much needed transportation alternative for those in the region. Many residents, students and employers have been eagerly awaiting this service, and we’re happy to be able to tell them that it will be up and running come August 4th.”

- Mayor Joanne Vanderheyden, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

“The wheels on the bus go round and round starting August 4th, providing long needed intercity bus service to South Western Ontario to bring us together.”

- Mayor Mike Bradley, City of Sarnia

“A critical piece of our economic recovery depends on our ability to get people to and from work in a convenient and affordable manner. This need is not only local, it is also regional. The inter-community transit service will further connect our communities, while opening new employment opportunities, supporting local tourism, and strengthening the region as a whole.”

- Mayor Ed Holder, City of London



Fare price will vary based on distance travelled, with the minimum being \$5 and maximum being \$20. Seats must be reserved by phone at 519.787.1055. Children under 5 years of age ride for free. We are working on setting up a monthly pass option to be available in the future.

For the most up-to-date information on the service schedule, fares, booking, route, safety precautions and more, please visit any of the websites:

[www.strathroy-caradoc.ca/transit](http://www.strathroy-caradoc.ca/transit)

[www.sarnia.ca/community-bus](http://www.sarnia.ca/community-bus)

### **Inter-Community Transit Service**

The inter-community transit service is made possible by the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Community Transportation Grant Program. Over three years the program will provide accessible and convenient transportation for seniors, students, workers and youth, for employment, education, and leisure, connecting residents and municipalities to each other via this important regional transportation service.

### **Voyago**

Voyago, A Transdev Group Company, started operations in London, Ontario in 1979. Voyago currently provides a broad spectrum of transportation services and serves approximately 50,000 daily passengers across Ontario.

### **Health Unit Information**

London-Middlesex Health Unit – <https://www.healthunit.com>

Lambton Public Health - <https://lambtonpublichealth.ca>



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