

Town councillors vote 8-3 in favour of purchasing three new buses

Our current ridership right now is increasing at a rate of 12 to 14 per cent and that's because we added two more routes last September."

Kar responded that ridership increased by 66 per cent compared to 2010 and 2011 and 20

per cent last year.

"You're right. It is a significant jump in ridership, but we believe it's fully achievable based on the size of population that will grow into Milton, the younger demographic that is in place as well as the overall demographic," he

said. "We're also seeing here a 400 per cent increase in service hours provided so we're moving to about 23,000 hours of service to 68,000 hours of service."

That said, he continued that if population growth isn't achieved then neither will the expansion of the hours of service, which will in turn affect ridership projections.

The plan, said Kar, is based on a strategy looking at the best planning estimates and relies on performance triggers to move it forward. Malboeuf said he believes the \$160,000 spent to create the master plan was a waste of taxpayers' money and the goals outlined in it are "unrealistic and unattainable."

He said he doesn't believe in spending money and then hoping people "jump on board."

Malboeuf, who voted against the plan along with Cluett and Ward 2 Councillor Greg Nelson, also recommended that council only receive the plan for information for now to allow councillors the opportunity to go through the

500-page plan more thoroughly.

Ward 8 Councillor Zeeshan Hamid argued that transit isn't an optional luxury.

He said he believes the system Milton has now is "so pathetic no one can rely on it."

"We're doing so little that we're not getting any return back on investment," he said.

Hamid added he believes the 35-page summary explains thoroughly a well-thought out strategy to improve transportation locally.

Councillors also discussed at length a related report about purchasing three new buses.

Malboeuf said he believes the ridership numbers don't justify the expense at this time.

Council voted 8-3 in favour of the purchase.

To see the summary of the master plan, visit www.milton.ca/en/live/transitmasterplan.asp.

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The Town of Milton is now accepting applications for the

2013 Milton Community Fund

Application deadline: April 29 and September 30, 2013

The Milton Community Fund was established to distribute a portion of the funds received from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (Mohawk location). The Town of Milton will consider proposals for cash grants from not-for-profit organizations or individuals for activities that add to our quality of life or enhance the image of the Town.

Guidelines for the application procedure, including criteria for funding and application forms, are available as follows:

- Town Hall 150 Mary Street
- Town website (www.milton.ca/en/live/miltoncommunityfundgrants.asp)

Have questions or need help with your application?

Contact Denise Black at 905-878-7252, ext. 2539 or denise.black@milton.ca

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