

ALTONA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM

Altona, Manitoba — August 28, 2025

The Town of Altona, in partnership with The Community Exchange, has launched a public transportation pilot program to help residents get where they need to go—safely, affordably, and reliably—while gathering data to shape a long-term, made-in-Altona transit solution.

This pilot program supports the Town's strategic priorities of Planning for Sustainable Community Growth and Practicing Strong Environmental Stewardship.

Why now

Community need for local transportation has been identified repeatedly over many years by a variety of stakeholder groups and organizations, including Equal Access Altona, our accessibility committee, the Altona and Area Immigration Coordinating Committee and local business leaders. More than a decade ago, a community working group presented research and data supporting a need for public transportation. While implementation wasn't supported at that time, Council has since set transportation access as a priority, sought external funding, and identified a community partner to lead a pilot.

Funding & support

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada, through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund. The Town of Altona applied for and received a grant from the Rural Transit Solutions Fund in the amount of \$35,000 to support this program, and also committed \$45,000 from the municipal budget.

Who's running it

The Community Exchange stepped up as a partner with the Town of Altona to administer the Public Transportation Pilot Program and hired Helga Jungbluth as the program coordinator. The pilot is designed first and foremost as a data-gathering tool—to learn when, where, and how the community most needs service.

The program will continue through to March of 2026, with regular reporting to Council. Findings will help determine if a public transportation program is feasible, and inform recommendations on service design, hours, fares, accessibility features, and long-term funding options.

Early Results

The pilot soft-launched in **June 2025**. In the first few months of the program...

- **273** total ride requests and **92%** fulfillment rate
- Top trip purposes: Medical/Para-Medical & Grocery
- Peak demand times: Early Morning & Late Afternoon

How residents can participate

- **Book a ride / learn more:** www.tcealtona.ca, phone 204-312-1417
- **Volunteer / community partner inquiries:** Contact Helga Jungbluth at 204-312-1417

Included Comments:

"Access to transportation is essential for work, learning, health and connection – particularly in more rural areas. This pilot program is about removing barriers and learning what works here in Altona. Council appreciates the federal support and are proud of our

investment to test a practical solution. We are also very thankful to the Community Exchange for their partnership and recognize the importance in working together for the good of the community.” –

Harv Schroeder, Mayor of Altona

“For many in our community, transportation is a barrier to accessing healthcare, food and sometimes even employment. Through offering this opportunity for an affordable ride, many in our community can feel a burden lifted off their shoulders. We’ve already begun reaching the threshold of our current capacity but continue to dream of how to make sure everyone continues to have access to transportation. It’s heartwarming to see how thankful our community members are.” –

Helga Jungbluth, Transportation Program Coordinator

“It’s been incredible to watch the program unfold. In June, it felt like it may be a slow start but as July got underway we quickly started to see the need. Our ridership has seen a steady climb over the first few months, with September having more rides booked already than we gave in August. The need is clear, the impact on our community members is even clearer. Our task/goal now is to continue to explore how this project can become sustainable in the future.” –

Paul Peters, Executive Director, The Community Exchange

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