



# Connecting to the Future

## Rapid Transit Newsletter

AUGUST 2006

### Rapid transit will play a critical role in managing future growth

**M**ost of us think of public transit as a way of moving people from one place to another. But a transit system can also play an important role in helping to manage growth and development.

That's why rapid transit is an important part of the Regional Growth Management Strategy (RGMS). Adopted by Regional Council in 2003, the RGMS is a strategic framework that identifies where, when and how future growth will be accommodated in Waterloo Region over the next 40 years.

Waterloo Region is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada. The Province of Ontario's new Places to Grow Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe has designated the Cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo as Urban Growth Centres (UGC's). UGC's have been designated across the province as areas where much



**GRANDBYDESIGN**  
*Shaping Our Community*

of the anticipated population and employment growth will be directed.

With a population of approximately 500,000 people, and expected growth to about 729,000 within the next 25 years, the Region must plan now for the opportunities and challenges this growth will present.

Rapid transit will be fast, convenient and reliable because it is separated from traffic. Better transit service attracts more riders, which in turn reduces the growth of traffic

congestion and poor air quality, to the benefit of our entire community. In addition, rapid transit helps attract residential and commercial development along its route and around rapid transit stations, which will help the Region achieve Provincial and Regional targets for reurbanization and the protection of greenfield areas.

The Region of Waterloo is now doing an Environmental Assessment to determine the best technology, route and station locations for a rapid transit system in the Region. This newsletter will provide you with ongoing updates on the Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment and how you can get involved and help shape the future of our community.

For more information on the RGMS, please visit our website at [www.region.waterloo.on.ca/rgms](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca/rgms)

### Phase 2: The "what" and "where" of tomorrow's transportation

**W**ould light rail transit, bus rapid transit, monorail or "AGT" be the best rapid transit technology for Waterloo Region? Where should rapid transit routes and stations be located? How do we design a transit system to

help manage growth while providing an integrated transportation system?

These are the types of questions you can help answer during Phase 2 of the Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment.

Rapid transit technologies come in different shapes and sizes.

Each type of rapid transit technology has features that make it suitable for different communities and transportation needs,

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Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)



Light Rail Transit (LRT)



Monorail



Automated Guideway Transit (AGT)

*These are some of the rapid transit technologies that will be considered during Phase 2 of the Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment. For more information on rapid transit technologies, please visit our website at [www.region.waterloo.on.ca/transitea](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca/transitea), and click on Environmental Assessment/ Phases/Phase 2.*

usually based on factors such as ridership, physical terrain, environmental impacts, safety and security, and comfort.

At the start of Phase 2, the community will be invited to provide input on the various technologies under consideration. A screening process will then be used to determine which technologies will be studied further in consultation with the public.

The public will also be asked for input on routes and station locations. Potential routes will be evaluated for each short-listed technology, taking into consideration the physical and environmental landscape created by roadways, rivers, and bridges.

For more details about the screening and evaluation process that will be used in Phase 2, visit the Rapid Transit Website at [www.region.waterloo.on.ca/transitea](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca/transitea) and click on Environmental Assessment/phases.

The decisions made in Phase 2 will help ensure an efficient, effective rapid transit system. This will provide greater transportation choice to residents while helping to meet the transportation demands expected with increasing population and employment growth.



## Get Involved!

**Y**ou are invited to a Public Information Session and Workshop to help shape the future of transportation in Waterloo Region.

As part of Phase 2 of the Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment, the Region will be choosing the possible routes, station locations and technology that could be used to build a rapid transit system in our community. We want to

hear your thoughts and ideas on specific routes, station locations and rapid transit technologies that you think will be best for Waterloo Region as our consultants begin a detailed assessment and evaluation in Phase 2. Your ideas will help to shape their work and help determine the future of rapid transit in Waterloo Region.

### WHEN:

**Sept. 21, 2006 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

### WHERE:

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 54 Queen St. N., Kitchener**

Seating is limited. Please RSVP by Sept. 15, 2006 by calling the Rapid Transit Infoline at 519-575-4757, ext. 3242 or e-mail [rtinfo@region.waterloo.on.ca](mailto:rtinfo@region.waterloo.on.ca).

*Light refreshments will be provided.*

### Accessibility:

This meeting/event is accessible for people with disabilities and is served by Grand River Transit. Accessible parking is available.

If you require any assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, or to access information in alternate formats, please contact us at least five working days prior to the meeting at:

**Email:** [rtinfo@region.waterloo.on.ca](mailto:rtinfo@region.waterloo.on.ca)

**Phone:** 519-575-4757, ext. 3242

**TTY:** 519-575-4609

**Fax:** 519-575-4449

To learn more about the Rapid Transit Initiative and help shape the future of transportation in Waterloo Region, please join the Rapid Transit Contact List.

You will receive future copies of this newsletter as well as notice of upcoming community involvement opportunities, public meetings, conferences and events, and future Regional Council decisions.

[www.region.waterloo.on.ca/transitea/Sign Up](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca/transitea/SignUp)

If you do not have access to the Internet, please call the Rapid Transit Infoline at 519-575-4757, ext. 3242.

