



## ION Update February 2015

### ION LRT construction

In **Waterloo**, work to tie-in the watermain and storm sewer continues on **Caroline, between Willis Way and Alexandra**. Due to the cold weather, specialized equipment, including a hoe-ram machine, is being used to speed up construction.

Work to install the infrastructure needed to relocate third-party services (gas and electrical) also continues on **Caroline, from Allen to William**. Trenches to support the installation of these services have been dug on the southbound lane of **Caroline at Norman, Fullerton, and between Allen and Fullerton**. Beginning in February, crews will complete the other side of these trenches. This work will take approximately one week to complete. During this construction, local access to businesses and residences will be maintained.

The trench at **William and Caroline** will require parts of **Caroline, from William to Fullerton**, to be closed for up to one week. Temporary sidewalk closures may be required near the active work areas. Signs will be in place to help direct pedestrians to alternate routes and crossings.

Work to remove vegetation along the **CN railway tracks** and to build the railway embankment from **Northfield to King South** continues. GrandLinq Contractors' crews are now working on the section from **Columbia to Seagram**.

In January, crews began to build the **Cedar Creek Culvert**, which runs under the LRT tracks. This work requires a temporary trail closure until February 17. Signs are currently in place to inform pedestrians/cyclists in the area.

In **Kitchener**, construction to relocate and upgrade underground services on **Borden, from Charles to Nyberg**, began in November 2014 and continued into late-December 2014. Crews will return to this area in the spring to tie-in the remaining services on **Borden, from Charles to the CN railway**.

Work to remove vegetation and build embankments along the **CN railway tracks, from Borden to Hayward**, continues. GrandLinq Contractors' crews are working to build the embankment along the **CN railway** and starting work on the new **Railway Bridge over Schneider Creek**.

Work at the **ION Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF) at 518 Dutton Drive in Waterloo** continues. This facility will be home to the Region's LRT vehicles. Grading at the site is on-going. Work required to install underground servicing began in

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January. A tower crane is now in place to facilitate the next phase of construction.



**ION construction at the OMSF**

## **ION aBRT construction**

ION adapted bus rapid transit (aBRT) construction continues along Hespeler Road and at the Ainslie Street transit terminal in Cambridge.

Glass has now been placed at the aBRT stops at the Ainslie Street transit terminal, with glass being placed at the Pinebush stop in early February. Signage and electrical displays will also be installed at this stop in February.

aBRT service begins in 2015 and is the first step towards bringing LRT to Cambridge.



**Work on the ION aBRT stop at Ainslie Street transit terminal nears completion**

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## Hydro One construction

Hydro One's work to relocate and bury a section of existing overhead transmission infrastructure is continuing along the Hydro One right-of-way in Kitchener, between the Fairview Park Mall parking lot and Courtland Avenue East. This work will accommodate the future construction of ION.

In December 2014, crews began installing the underground cables. As construction continues, crews will work to complete the installation of the underground cables along the Hydro One right-of-way.



Hydro One work is ongoing in Kitchener

## Looking ahead: LRT construction in 2015

All areas along the 19 kilometre ION LRT route will see construction in 2015. With large projects such as ION, exact schedules evolve according to weather conditions and construction approvals.

Throughout 2015, ION staff will continue to meet with stakeholders, including residents, businesses and community groups, to keep them informed of construction and how road restrictions and/or road closures will impact them.

Once construction details are finalized, each resident and business owner within 125 metres of ION construction will receive a written notification before work begins. Road signage, including detour information and way-finding for businesses (how customers can access stores), will go up before construction commences.

Advertisements will be also placed in local newspapers and detailed information will continue to be available at [www.ridelION.ca](http://www.ridelION.ca) as well as on the ION social media channels.

Residents can also sign-up for on-going construction updates through the construction website.

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## Stay in touch: construction website

## Talking ION video series



A website dedicated to ION construction is available for residents and visitors. The site features an interactive ION route map, information on ION stops as well as an opportunity to sign-up for regular construction updates.

When the 60-foot mock-up of the ION LRT vehicle returned to Waterloo Region last July as part of the Days of #KW Awesome, an amazing 4,279 people came on board and took the tour. There were lots of happy faces as residents had an opportunity to learn more about ION and even sit in the driver's seat.

A link to Grand River Transit (GRT) is also included in construction updates for areas where construction may affect GRT service.

Some of those happy faces can be seen in the latest instalment of *Talking ION*, a video series featuring community members discussing various aspects of ION in Waterloo Region.

The website contains the most up-to-date information on all aspects of ION construction.

View the video at <http://bit.ly/1zRL6gD>

Visit the website at [www.ridelION.ca](http://www.ridelION.ca)

The latest ION Construction Updates are available at: <http://bit.ly/1tpNcko>

Sign-up for Construction Updates:  
<http://www.rideion.ca/sign-up-for-updates.html>

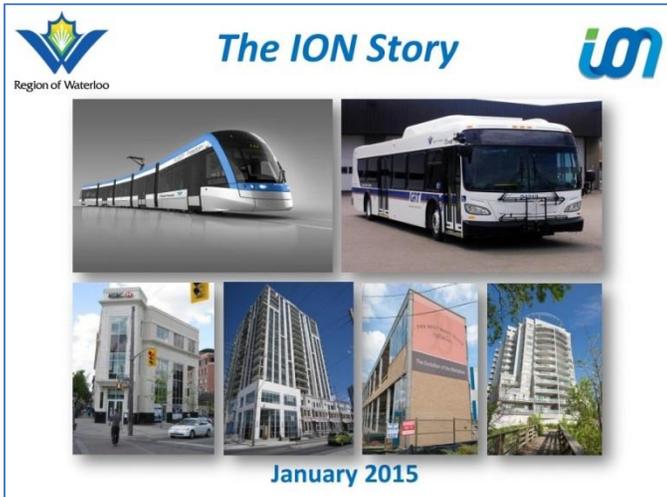
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## Staff presentation to Council

## #IONbiz promotes local businesses during construction



Throughout 2015, Twitter users in Waterloo Region are encouraged to use the #IONbiz hashtag to demonstrate how easy it is to access businesses along the ION corridor.

This could be an #IONbiz tweet that says your favourite Waterloo Region business is offering a great lunch special, or that an exciting two-for-one deal is taking place.

ION will continue to promote Waterloo Region businesses on social media by retweeting all tweets with the #IONbiz hashtag.

This is a simple way to show your support for all the businesses that make Waterloo Region unique.

In January, Regional staff presented an ION update to Council. The presentation includes information on the procurement process, community engagement, GRT integration and the Community Building Strategy.

View the presentation here: <http://bit.ly/1Lc8gVI>

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## ION spotlight: Fairview Park Mall transit terminal



only for shoppers, but also for Fairview Park Mall employees.

Numerous other retail destinations are within easy walking distance of this stop, with many businesses located nearby along Fairway Road.

The Fairview Park Mall transit terminal will provide a convenient transit service in a well-established Kitchener neighbourhood, with several residential apartments within a short stroll of this ION stop.

For more information on ION stops, see this link <http://bit.ly/1m6vTAQ> or access the ION route through an interactive map available at: <http://bit.ly/1qJqL8Y>

The Fairview Park Mall transit terminal is a key connection point on the ION route, linking LRT in Kitchener and Waterloo with adapted Bus Rapid Transit (aBRT), which extends to the Ainslie Street transit terminal in Cambridge, via Hespeler Road.

The stop is located near the Hudson Bay parking lot and provides a further link to transit, serving as a gateway to GRT with access to numerous local bus routes as well as the iXpress service.

ION passengers will use this stop to access one of Waterloo Region's largest shopping centres, ensuring a convenient connection not

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## About ION

ION, the Region of Waterloo's rapid transit service, which was approved by Council in June 2011, is a visionary plan that will help shape the community for the future by bringing LRT to the region in two stages.

Stage 1 includes a 19-kilometre LRT route from the Conestoga Mall transit terminal in Waterloo to the Fairview Park Mall transit terminal in Kitchener, with stops at 16 destinations including the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier, UpTown Waterloo, Grand River Hospital, King/Victoria transit hub and Downtown Kitchener.

Stage 1 also features a 17-kilometre route of aBRT from the Ainslie Street transit terminal in Cambridge to the Fairview Park Mall transit terminal in Kitchener.

Stage 2 ION will see the Region convert the aBRT line to LRT, creating a seamless 37-kilometre ION route with 23 stops between Cambridge and Waterloo.

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