



ION Update March 2015



Installation of the Cedar Creek Culvert was completed in February

March LRT construction

On **Caroline**, between **Allen** and **Erb**, crews continue to install infrastructure needed to relocate third party services, such as hydro. Work will continue along **Caroline** in late-March to relocate and upgrade the remaining underground utilities, such as water and stormwater.

GrandLinq crews will begin to test the soil conditions along the **CN railway tracks** in the **North Parking Lot** near **Waterloo Town**

Square. Once testing is complete, crews will begin to clear vegetation and remove pavement along the rail alignment. The **North Parking Lot** and access to **Waterloo Town Square** will remain open during this work.

Construction on **King**, from **Union** to **Victoria**, in **Kitchener-Waterloo**, will begin in late-March. **King**, from **Union** to **Wellington**, will be closed to through traffic to accommodate the relocation and upgrading of underground utilities such as water and storm. In order to accommodate construction of the **King** grade separation, **King**, from **Moore** to **Victoria**, will be closed to all traffic for up to 18 months.

In **Kitchener**, **Charles**, from **Victoria** to **Borden**, will be closed to through traffic to accommodate the relocation and upgrading of underground services.

Work to upgrade and relocate the underground utilities on **Borden**, from **Courtland** to the **CN railway tracks** in **Kitchener**, will also begin in March. In April, work will continue on **Borden**, from **Charles East** to **Courtland**, to relocate and upgrade the remaining underground services.

Ongoing work

In **Waterloo**, construction continues along the **CN railway tracks**, from **Northfield** to **King**. Crews are currently working from **Columbia** towards the **Erb** and **Caroline** intersection.

• Project Website: regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit

• Phone: **519-575-4400**

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•  facebook.com/rideION

•  [@rideIONrt](https://twitter.com/rideIONrt)

• Construction website: www.rideION.ca

• Questions about construction?

• Phone: **1-844-625-1010**

• Email: connect@rideion.ca





In February, the Cedar Creek Culvert, near Albert McCormick Arena was completed.

Work at the **ION Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF) located at 518 Dutton Drive in Waterloo** continues. A crane has been erected to help pour the concrete foundation for the new facilities and the underground services are now being installed. This facility will be home to the Region's LRT vehicles and will open in 2016.

For the latest information on ION construction, please log on to: www.ridelION.ca

The ION construction overview that was presented at Regional headquarters on February 24 is available at: <http://bit.ly/1wkDAgu>

Please note that the timing of construction is subject to weather. Local access for emergency services, businesses and residences will be maintained throughout construction.

ION aBRT construction

aBRT construction continues this spring and is expected to be completed this summer, ahead of the service launch in September.

Construction continues at the ION aBRT stops along Hespeler. The remaining work will require some rolling lane closures from time to time.

At the Ainslie Street transit terminal, work is almost complete with some final furniture installations expected to take place in March.

ION aBRT is the first step towards bringing LRT to Cambridge. Watch for public information sessions later this year on the transit project assessment process for Stage 2 LRT to Ainslie Street transit terminal.

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Hydro One construction

Hydro One's work to relocate and bury a section of existing overhead transmission infrastructure is continuing to progress along Hydro One's right-of-way in the City of 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 and are continuing work to complete the installation of these new cables along the right-of-way.



Hydro One work is ongoing in Kitchener

Stay in touch: construction website



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.

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

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

Visit the website at 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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Talking ION video series



Talking ION is a video series featuring community members discussing various aspects of ION in Waterloo Region.

In the latest instalment, Scott Hamill from Grand River Rocks discusses how ION will help members access the popular climbing gym at the corner of Borden and Charles.

Located steps away from the future ION stop at Borden, ION construction is currently underway near Grand River Rocks and Scott also touches on the gym's experiences during construction.

View the video at: <http://bit.ly/1zW2PE1>

#IONbiz promotes local businesses during construction

Twitter users in Waterloo Region are encouraged to use the #IONbiz hashtag to highlight the fact that businesses along the ION corridor are open and accessible during construction.

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.



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ION spotlight: Mill

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>



Mill is located within an established Kitchener neighbourhood and this ION stop will provide an important transit service for surrounding residents.

The stop consists of one centre platform and is located just east of Ottawa on the CN Railway right-of-way. This stop is expected to develop into a major transfer point for iXpress buses, serving neighbourhoods to the east and west of the corridor along Ottawa.

The Concordia Club, a major centre for German culture in Waterloo Region, is located nearby and is accessible south along Ottawa, while the popular A.R Kaufman Family YMCA is also close by, and can be reached through a short walk along Courtland.

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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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