



ION Update

August 2013

Summer's not over yet so be sure to enjoy the warm, sunny days with a copy of the ION Update in your hands!

Light Rail Vehicles



Rapid Transit achieves another milestone and gets the thumbs up from delegates at a media event on July 12 celebrating Regional Council's decision to move forward with joining Metrolinx's existing light rail vehicle contract with Bombardier.

The light rail vehicle will be 100% low floor with an entirely step-free interior, the first of its kind in North America. In addition, an extra-wide carbody of 2.65 metres (8' 8.5") will ensure a maximized aisle width with two-by-two seating. Notably, the Region will be able to customize some of the interior layout, including the colour scheme and seating fabric.

The initial cost of the light rail vehicle contract is \$92.3 million for 14 vehicles, parts and contingencies. The Region also has the option to purchase an additional 14 vehicles in the future.

Branding ION

On April 30, Regional Council approved ION as the brand name for the rapid transit service. Following that decision, work began on the logo development. The logo represents the visual identity of the ION brand and will include graphics, typeface and colours.

Public consultation, through a series of focus group sessions, took place in early July. A recommendation regarding the final logo is expected to be brought to Council this fall.

Procurement Process

Since the release of the Request for Proposal on June 5, Commercially Confidential and Design/Technical meetings between the three shortlisted teams (GrandLinq, Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Transit Partners and Tricity Transit System) and the Region have taken place. P1 Consulting, the Region's fairness monitor, has also attended each meeting to ensure a transparent and fair process.

The mid-way point of the six-month proposal preparation phase for the three teams is fast approaching. It is anticipated that final proposals will be received in November 2013.

The Region will then evaluate and review the submissions. A recommendation on the preferred team will be provided to Regional Council in early 2014.

For more information:

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Rapid Transit



Early Utility Construction

Early utility relocations continue along King Street, with the majority of the work taking place between Francis Street in Downtown Kitchener and William Street in UpTown Waterloo. Moving utilities out of the way in advance of ION construction is important as it reduces the time needed to build the LRT infrastructure and lowers the overall cost of the project.

Bell Canada, which began its relocation work in mid-July, is the most obvious construction taking place right now. The team is currently working on King Street, between Agnes Street and Breithaupt Street, drilling underground for the placement of new infrastructure, including new man holes. Following the completion of this work, Bell will head north, with construction focused on King Street between Agnes Street and Green Street.

Euclid Avenue, between Erb Street West and William Street, is where Union Gas will be this month for its early utility work. Union Gas is upgrading and relocating the gas main in this area.

As work progresses with Bell, Union Gas and other utility providers, including Kitchener Wilmot Hydro, Rogers, Telus and Kitchener Utilities (Gas), Rapid Transit staff will continue coordinating schedules and communicating details those with local residents and businesses.

Property Acquisition

The Region has acquired title to all lands that are required for Phases I and II of the land acquisition and expropriation process for ION. The Region continues to negotiate land acquisitions for Phase III. Regional staff expect to seek final approval from

Council to proceed with the expropriation of Phase III properties in late-2013 to early-2014.

About ION

The Region of Waterloo's Rapid Transit service, as approved by Council in June 2011, is a visionary plan that will fundamentally shape the community for the future by bringing LRT in two stages.

Stage 1, which is expected to open in 2017, features a 19 km LRT route from Conestoga Mall to Fairview Park Mall, with stops in Downtown Kitchener, Grand River Hospital, UpTown Waterloo and both Universities. It also includes a 17 km route of adapted Bus Rapid Transit (aBRT) from Fairview Park Mall to the Ainslie Street Terminal. The aBRT service is expected to begin operating in late-2014 or early-2015.

Stage 2 will convert the aBRT line to LRT, creating a seamless 37 km ION service of 23 stations between Cambridge and Waterloo.

For more information on ION, visit www.regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit.

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