



## ION Update

### December 2013

Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! While you're enjoying the festive season, be sure to check out the latest news on ION, the Region of Waterloo's rapid transit service.

### LRT Procurement Process

Final proposals from the three short-listed teams (GrandLinq, Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Transit Partners and Tricity Transit System) have been received by the Region. This is an important milestone for ION as it brings the open period of the Request for Proposals to a close.

Over the next few months, the Region and its advisors will evaluate each of the submissions and recommend a preferred team to Regional Council in March 2014.

### Early Utility Construction

Early utility construction continues in December. Moving utilities out of the way in advance of ION construction is important as it reduces the time needed to build the LRT infrastructure as well as lowers the overall cost of the project.

Bell construction will continue at King and Union this month before a short break for the holidays. The crew will return in January to rebuild their maintenance hole at King and George, from January 6 to February 7.

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro's focus will be on Downtown Kitchener. The relocated duct bank at Duke and Frederick will be completed by the end of

December, while the new hydro vault at College and Duke is expected to be completed in January 2014.

### Small Business Workshop Series



The first of four free *Getting Ready for ION Construction Workshops* took place in November. Aimed at small business owners, participants were presented with financial management ideas, tools and tips that could be incorporated prior to and during ION construction.

The second workshop will take place in February 2014 and focus on marketing and communications plans and activities. Stay tuned for more information about the event and how to register.

### Public Information Centre

On December 4, residents reviewed the proposed intersection modifications at Mill and Ottawa Street. During the event, residents had the opportunity to discuss the alternatives with staff and provide their feedback/comments. A report on the final recommendation will be presented to Council in early 2014.

### 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. Negotiations for Phase III are ongoing.

### For more information:

- Website: [regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit](http://regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit)
- Phone: **519-575-4400**
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- Email: [rtinfo@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:rtinfo@regionofwaterloo.ca)
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## About ION

ION, the Region'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, includes a 19 km LRT route from Conestoga Mall to Fairview Park Mall, with stops in Downtown Kitchener, Grand River Hospital, UpTown Waterloo, both Universities and Waterloo Park. It also features a 17 km route of adapted Bus Rapid Transit (aBRT) from Fairview Park Mall to the Ainslie Street Terminal, with four stops along Hespeler Road. The aBRT service will begin operating in late-2014.

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

For more information on ION, visit [www.regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit).

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