



**Report:** TES-RTS-15-05

**Region of Waterloo**  
**Transportation and Environmental Services**  
**Rapid Transit**

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**To:** Chair Tom Galloway and Members of the Planning and Works Committee

**Date:** May 5, 2015                      **File Code:** A02-30/PW

**Subject:** **Public Consultation Centres for ION Stop Anchor Wall Designs**

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**Recommendation:**

For information.

**Summary:**

Nil

**Report:**

This report outlines the design and public engagement process for the ION light rail transit (LRT) stop anchor wall designs. The design of the ION stops is critical to the success of the Region of Waterloo's rapid transit (RT) service. Stops are the first point of contact for users of the system. Therefore, it is important that they reflect the identity of the community, while also ensuring durability, comfort, and ease of use. A key feature of the ION stop designs is the anchor wall. The anchor wall is an architectural feature that reflects area specific design considerations, and provides visual prominence and wayfinding functionality. The draft ION anchor wall designs will be presented at Planning and Works Committee on May 5, 2015. A short presentation of the designs and hard copies showing each anchor wall design will be provided.

**ION LRT Stop Design Process**

ION LRT stop designs have been in development since 2013 when concepts were first shared with stakeholders and the public for feedback. Original concepts, created by the Region's General Engineering Consultant in coordination with Region staff, showed a stop design that consisted of a modular design. This meant that although the stops

would have a common language of elements to identify the stop as ION, modular components could be manipulated to create a unique context for each stop. One of the key variable elements of the stop design was the anchor wall. The anchor wall is an architectural feature that reflects area or neighbourhood specific design considerations, and provides visual prominence and wayfinding functionality. The design intent is for all 19 stops to have a unique design which will aid users in identifying each stop along the ION route.

Following the 2013 consultation process, Region staff incorporated the public and stakeholder feedback received into the output specifications for the ION project Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP indicated to the potential Design Build Finance Operate Maintain (DBFOM) contractors which functional and design elements were required as part of final designs. The successful DBFOM contractor was GrandLinq, who is responsible for completing stop designs in coordination with Region staff.

The GrandLinq stop design in its entirety is nearing completion; this includes amenities, functional design requirements, and structural elements. However, our intent is to take the anchor wall designs through a public feedback process prior to being finalized. One impressive feature of the GrandLinq design is the prominence of the anchor walls. The GrandLinq design incorporates a larger anchor wall than the original 2013 concepts, standing more than 4.5 metres tall, which will incorporate a variety of materials, colours, and patterns. Material options, selected in coordination with Region staff, include ceramic in any colour, nine colours of glass, and six local stone options. These materials will be implemented in a panel design with multiple colours of a finish available for each wall to create a unique pattern.

Using these designated materials and panel design, Region staff and the General Engineering Consultant architects and designers created recommended anchor wall designs for each stop. In creating these recommended concepts the following criteria and questions were considered:

- What is the stop serving?
- What landmarks are in the vicinity of the stop?
- What material best represents the area? (e.g. stone tends to give a feeling of warmth, heritage, and nature whereas glass is more modern)
- What ought the colours represent? How will the colours make users feel?
- Is it more appropriate to blend in with the area or to provide bold contrast? (e.g. if it is an area of redevelopment where no existing landmarks exist the stop design should be bold.)
- How can symbolism be incorporated?

Recommended anchor wall design concepts were generated based on these criteria and shared with focus groups and stakeholders prior to being completed for public

consultation. Stakeholders included the cities, universities, Public Art Advisory Committee, and the Downtown Kitchener and UpTown Waterloo BIAs, etc. The anchor wall concepts were also reviewed and commented on by the Rapid Transit Steering Committee and Regional Councillors from Kitchener and Waterloo. A presentation and hard copies of the anchor wall designs will be provided to Council on May 5, 2015. This will be the start of the broader public consultation period.

Through this consultation period, recommended anchor wall concepts will be shared for public feedback. Feedback gathered will serve two purposes. First, public impressions of each ION stop anchor wall will help create a story for each design. This story will be incorporated into the stop potentially via a plaque or poster and will create a sense of ownership for users of the system. Secondly, feedback may reflect the need for considering modifications for specific locations. Any modifications will be based on the same criteria that were used when generating the original recommendations. Final recommendations for anchor wall designs will be brought to Regional Council for approval after the public consultation process is complete in June 2015.

### **Public Consultation**

Public Consultation Centres (PCCs) to present the recommended ION stop anchor wall designs have been scheduled for:

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 (Drop-in from 3 to 8 p.m.)

Location: Knox Presbyterian Church

Address: 50 Erb Street West, Waterloo, Ontario

Date: Thursday May 21, 2015 (Drop-in from 3 to 8 p.m.)

Location: Region of Waterloo Administrative Headquarters

Address: 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

Letters will be sent to the ION eNewsletter subscribers, inviting them to participate in the Public Consultation Centres (PCCs) and newspaper advertisements will be placed in the Waterloo Chronicle and the Kitchener Post. The PCCs will also be advertised on the ION website and through social media.

### **Public Art**

To help establish a neighbourhood identity for each ION stop, Regional staff are also working with the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) and area municipalities to develop the process for providing public art at priority ION stops and the surrounding area. The public engagement process for public art will be undertaken separately from the ION stop anchor wall design. A separate report on this process will be presented at the May 26, 2015 Planning and Works Committee Meeting.

**Corporate Strategic Plan:**

This report supports Focus Area 3 Sustainable Transportation of the Region's Corporate Strategic Plan to implement a light rail transit system in the central transit corridor, fully integrated with an expanded conventional transit system.

**Financial Implications:** Nil

**Other Department Consultations/Concurrence:** Nil

**Attachments**

Attachment A: Public Comment Sheet

Attachment B: eNewsletter Invite

**Prepared By:** Danielle Bury, Rapid Transit Planner

**Approved By:** Thomas Schmidt, Commissioner, Transportation and Environmental Services

**Attachment A: Public Comment Sheet**



**ION Stop Anchor Wall Designs  
Public Consultation Centre – Comment Form**

**Stop Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your first impression of this anchor wall design?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe your impression of how this anchor wall design reflects the character of the stop area.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Circle up to five (5) words you associate with this anchor wall design.

Bold Serene Warm Exciting Modern Nature Community Heritage Fun Intelligence  
ION Unique Sustainability Creative Practical Clean Busy Textured Vibrant Timeless  
Simple Future World-Class Neighbourhood "Waterloo Region" Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there anything controversial about this anchor wall design? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Stop Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your first impression of this anchor wall design?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe your impression of how this anchor wall design reflects the character of the stop area.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Circle up to five (5) words you associate with this anchor wall design.

Bold Serene Warm Exciting Modern Nature Community Heritage Fun Intelligence  
ION Unique Sustainability Creative Practical Clean Busy Textured Vibrant Timeless  
Simple Future World-Class Neighbourhood "Waterloo Region" Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there anything controversial about this anchor wall design? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Stop Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your first impression of this anchor wall design?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe your impression of how this anchor wall design reflects the character of the stop area.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Circle up to five (5) words you associate with this anchor wall design.

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ION Unique Sustainability Creative Practical Clean Busy Textured Vibrant Timeless  
Simple Future World-Class Neighbourhood "Waterloo Region" Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there anything controversial about this anchor wall design? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Stop Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your first impression of this anchor wall design?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe your impression of how this anchor wall design reflects the character of the stop area.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Circle up to five (5) words you associate with this anchor wall design.

Bold Serene Warm Exciting Modern Nature Community Heritage Fun Intelligence  
ION Unique Sustainability Creative Practical Clean Busy Textured Vibrant Timeless  
Simple Future World-Class Neighbourhood "Waterloo Region" Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there anything controversial about this anchor wall design? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which stop(s) will you use most frequently? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment B: eNewsletter Invite****Re: Notice of Public Consultation Centres for ION Stop Anchor Wall Designs**

ION, the Region of Waterloo's Rapid Transit service is moving forward, with construction well underway and operation beginning in 2017. ION stops are the first point of contact for users of the system. Therefore, it is important that they reflect the identity of the community, while also ensuring durability, comfort, and ease of use. A key design element of the stop that helps to achieve these goals is the anchor wall. The anchor wall is an architectural feature that provides area specific design considerations, visual prominence and wayfinding functionality.

You are invited to provide feedback on the recommended ION stop anchor wall design concepts at the following Public Consultation Centres:

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 (Drop-in from 3 to 8 p.m.)

Location: Knox Presbyterian Church

Address: 50 Erb Street West, Waterloo, Ontario

Date: Thursday May 21, 2015 (Drop-in from 3 to 8 p.m.)

Location: Region of Waterloo Administrative Headquarters

Address: 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario'

Can't attend but still want to be involved? Check us out at:

[facebook.com/rideION](https://facebook.com/rideION)

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

[www.rideion.ca](http://www.rideion.ca)

[www.regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit)

All locations are accessible by transit; please see [grt.ca](http://grt.ca) or call 519-585-7555 for routes and schedules.