



## Project Update

April 2013

April will be a busy month for the Region of Waterloo's Rapid Transit Division as progress continues moving forward on a number of fronts.

### Procurement Process

The final stage of the Region's procurement process gets underway when the Request for Proposal (RFP) is released to the three short-listed consortiums in the running to design, build, finance, operate and maintain Stage 1 of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) project.

The RFP is expected to be released in May and will close in the fall of 2013. During this time, Regional staff will work with each of the three consortiums on various aspects of their proposal. The goal is to allow each of the consortiums an opportunity to provide comments on the Region's Project Agreement and to raise issues that require clarification. The meetings also give each consortium the chance to present their design proposal to the Region during its developmental stage in order to receive feedback on ideas and concepts related to the submission.

When the RFP closes, Regional staff will begin evaluating each submission. A preferred proponent or successful bidder will be identified in early-2014 with construction scheduled to begin shortly thereafter.

### Rapid Transit Tradeshow: April 23

On April 23, in partnership with the Greater Kitchener Waterloo and Cambridge Chambers of

Commerce, the Region will host a Rapid Transit Tradeshow at Bingemans. The purpose of the event is to connect local businesses with the three consortiums who will design, build, finance, operate and maintain Stage 1 of the Region's LRT project.

Participants will exhibit at the event as well as highlight their businesses during one-on-one meetings with each of the consortiums. For more information, contact Julie Tedesco at 519-749-6052 or [jtedesco@greaterkwchamber.com](mailto:jtedesco@greaterkwchamber.com).

### Branding

A final recommendation on the brand name for the Region's Rapid Transit service will come before Regional Council on April 30.

The selection of a brand name marks an important milestone for the Region. Branding will help create public awareness, build anticipation and excitement for the launch as well as assist in communicating the visionary goals of the service to the community, including current and future users.

### Grand River Hospital Stop

In partnership with Grand River Hospital and the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, the Region hosted a Public Information Centre (PIC) in March.

On April 9, Regional staff presented a report to Council that summarized the outcome of the PIC, which was well received. The Council report recommends the following modifications to King Street between Union and Green streets:

- Shift the RT station stop from Pine Street to a new intersection at the existing main entrance to the hospital
- A new traffic signal to be added at the existing

### For more information:

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# Rapid Transit



- main entrance to the hospital to maintain left turn access and the existing fire route
- A new traffic signal to be added at Mount Hope Street to accommodate the proposed relocation of the hospital's emergency entrance via Mount Hope Street
- The existing traffic signal at Pine Street to be removed, with the intersection becoming right-in and right-out only. Existing left turn movements at Pine Street will be accommodated via U-turns at Green Street and Mount Hope Street

This design will result in minimal neighbourhood cut-through traffic and out of direction travel.

## Construction: Utility Relocations

Regional staff are working with various utility providers to finalize the design and coordinate scheduling of construction for the utility relocation of several services along the LRT corridor. Staff have been, and will continue to, communicate the progress of construction with local businesses and City staff.

Early utility relocation construction is already underway in several locations and will soon be starting along King Street.

Recently, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro completed the installation of temporary hydro poles along Duke Street (between Frederick Street and Ontario Street). In April, they will begin installing permanent hydro poles along Courtland Avenue East (between Manitou Drive and Hayward Avenue).

Bell Canada, Telus and Rogers Communications will begin working on King Street (between Wellington Street North and William Street West) in June. Construction for Bell Canada will last through

the fall of 2013, while the work for Telus and Rogers will be completed by August 2013.

Kitchener Utilities will begin working on King Street (between Union Street East and Green Street) in April with construction expected to last about a month.

## New Manager of Engineering

Derick Finn, P.Eng. has been hired as the new Manager of Rapid Transit Engineering. Derick brings more than 25 years of diverse experience to the position, including a management role at the Toronto Transit Commission. For the past year, he has served as Senior Project Manager for the Rapid Transit project.

## About Rapid Transit

The Region of Waterloo's Rapid Transit Project, 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 rapid transit system of 23 stations between Cambridge and Waterloo. For more information on the Region's Rapid Transit Project, visit [www.regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit).

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