



Project Update

May 2013

The Region of Waterloo's Rapid Transit Division continues to work diligently on a number of fronts, some of which are highlighted below.

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 at the end of May or early June 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 RFP and to raise issues that require clarification. The meetings also give each consortium the chance to confidentially 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 hosted a Rapid Transit Tradeshow at Bingemans. More than 50 local businesses had the unique opportunity to meet one-on-one with the three short-listed consortiums that are in the running to design, build, finance, operate and maintain Stage 1 of the Region's LRT project.

Thank you to all the participants and to our Chamber of Commerce partners for making the tradeshow event a huge success.

Branding

On May 8, 2013, Regional Council approved ION as the name of the Region's Rapid Transit service. ION has a number of meanings, including 'going' in Greek. It links to the academic and scientific communities in Waterloo Region as well as the pioneering heritage of electricity in the area. It is a unique, memorable and distinct name that will provide plenty of inspiration for the Region to tell the Rapid Transit story now and in the future.

With the brand name approved, work has begun on the logo design, including graphics, typeface and colours.

Public consultation on the logo development will be collected through a series of focus group sessions. The feedback and comments received from residents during these sessions will help Regional staff make a recommendation to Council on the logo this summer.

For more information:

- Website: regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit
- Phone: **519-575-4757 x3242**
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- Email: rtinfo@regionofwaterloo.ca
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Rapid Transit



Construction: Utility Relocations

Regional staff are working with various utility providers to finalize the design and coordinate scheduling of construction for 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 in the Region, including Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro and Kitchener Utilities.

Bell Canada, Rogers, Telus and Union Gas will begin their work shortly with the bulk of their construction taking place on King Street between Wellington and William Street.

Property Acquisition

Legal and Real Estate Services staff have completed all 35 property acquisitions for Phase I of the Rapid Transit property requirements. Agreements are signed for the three additional supplementary properties for Phase 1, which are now going through the final stages of completion.

Property acquisitions for Phase II and Phase III will be presented to Council this month.

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.

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