



## ION Progress Update

### January 11, 2017

#### Roads re-open along the ION corridor

As 2016 came to an end, so did many ION-related intersection and road closures. At the end of December 2016 the following intersections re-opened to traffic:

- Duke and Frederick
- King and Frederick
- Duke and Ontario
- King and Wellington
- Ottawa and Mill

The following roads have returned to full traffic movements:

- Courtland, from Hayward to Manitou
- Hayward, from Courtland to Lennox Lewis

GrandLinq crews have now completed almost 90 per cent of the work required to get ION up and running in 2018, including:

- 100 per cent of the 56 kilometres of new underground pipe needed, including new watermain, storm sewers, and sanitary systems
- Nearly 92 per cent of the 34,000 metres of LRT track

- 100 per cent of the footings and 68 per cent of the poles that make up the Overhead Catenary System, which provide electric power to the light rail vehicles
- Nearly 78 per cent of the over 56,000 m<sup>2</sup> of new sidewalk

#### Stage 2 ION

Stay tuned for an announcement on the next round of Public Consultation Centers (PCCs) for Stage 2 ION: LRT from Kitchener to Cambridge.

Stage 2 ION will see the ION bus rapid transit (BRT) service between Kitchener and Cambridge converted to light rail transit (LRT), creating a continuous LRT network across the region's three urban centres.

To stay updated on Stage 2 announcements, visit [www.Stage2ION.ca](http://www.Stage2ION.ca).



- Project Website: [regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit](http://regionofwaterloo.ca/rapidtransit)
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- Construction website: [www.rideION.ca](http://www.rideION.ca)
- Questions about construction?
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## New by-law includes no stopping or parking on the LRT tracks

New changes to the Region of Waterloo's Traffic and Parking by-law includes no stopping or parking on the LRT tracks. The new by-law went into effect on January 1, 2017.

The new by-law means that any vehicle stopped or parked anywhere along the LRT route will be fined or towed at the owner's expense. The LRT tracks are reserved for light rail vehicles and construction or maintenance vehicles only.

For more information, visit our [website](#).



## Cambridge Centre Station begins operations, public art unveiled

In December 2016, Grand River Transit officially celebrated the opening of the new Cambridge Centre Station.

The new station is located in front of Cambridge Centre Mall, just off Hespeler Road. The central location means streamlined and faster travel for ION BRT service, as the ION bus will now travel directly down Hespeler Road instead of circling into the mall. Riders will be able to transfer directly from local routes to ION and GO Transit buses at the new station. Better passenger facilities and faster travel times will help to build ridership along the ION corridor.

Local artist Ken Hall was on hand to unveil his public art sculpture "Pin Art," which adds a playful element to the station. For more information, please visit the [GRT website](#).



Mike Murray, Regional Chief Administrative Officer, speaking at the grand opening ceremony

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## ION and GRT winter care package giveaway

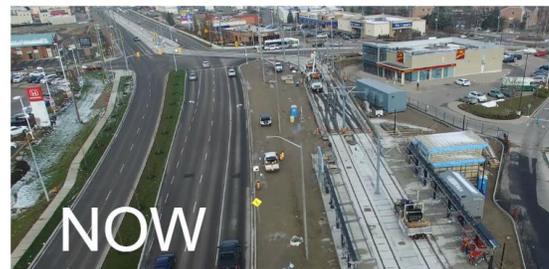
## Holiday #TweetYourReceiptWR contest wrap up

ION will have the same fare as all other GRT services, and riders can easily transfer between bus and train services. To help spread this message, ION and GRT are giving away ION/GRT branded hats and gloves to lucky GRT riders all winter long. How can you win? All you have to do is continue to use GRT and you may be surprised while waiting for your bus with a winter care package. The full package includes ION and GRT branded hats and gloves, a GRT mug and more.

In the lead up to the holidays, every receipt tweeted from a business along the ION corridor using the hashtag #TweetYourReceiptWR was entered into a draw for a chance to win \$250 in UpTown Waterloo dollars or Downtown Kitchener dollars. The winners were announced on December 19, check our [Twitter page](#) to view the winners.

Giveaways started this month, follow us on [Twitter](#) to see photos of the lucky winners.

## Now and Then: Conestoga ION stop



Follow us on social media for more Now and Then features: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

GRT riders were surprised with ION/GRT hats and gloves to promote the one system, one fare message

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## About ION

ION, the Region of Waterloo's rapid transit service, which was approved by Council in June 2011, is a visionary plan that will help shape our community for the future by bringing LRT to the region in two stages.

Stage 1 includes a 19 kilometre LRT route from the Conestoga Mall transit terminal in Waterloo to the Fairview Park Mall transit terminal in Kitchener. Construction of ION LRT is underway, with the service set to launch in 2018.

Stage 1 also features a 17 kilometre route of BRT from the Ainslie Street transit terminal in Cambridge to the Fairview Park Mall transit terminal in Kitchener. ION BRT service began operating in September 2015.

Stage 2 ION will see the Region replace the BRT line with LRT, creating a seamless LRT route between Cambridge and Waterloo.

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