

# Updated financial modeling and governance structures for inter-municipal transit received; City requests deferral to 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 8, 2021**

**Welland, ON** – Receiving an updated report from the Niagara Region on revised strategies for a consolidated transit system, Welland city council reiterated its support for inter-municipal transit services but maintained concerns about the financial, governance, and service models.

These concerns prompted council to receive and support a subsequent staff report requesting the deferral of the project until 2023.

“At the end of the day, we want to make sure we get this right for our riders and our taxpayers,” said CAO Steve Zorbas. “We fully support inter-municipal transit and are very pleased to be a large contributor of that service. However, we have a chance to get this right by taking some more time to review the model, and that’s what we’re going to do.”

The City remains concerned with the proposed allocation of inter-municipal transit costs (including operating and transit capital) on Welland taxpayers, governance representation, and service levels.

Staff also recommend a review of transit fare structures for low-income riders to be completed and presented to council in October. The City is committed to providing fair-cost services to its users. It ensures that affordable transit services continue to be provided during the transition leading to the implementation of inter-regional transit.

A consolidated transit system has been a topic of discussion for many years. However, Welland city council and staff believe that moving ahead with a comprehensive change requires additional details to become cleared before voting on its approval.

Overall, the City of Welland supports the move to a consolidated transit system within Niagara, making it easier for everyone to get to and from their desired destinations. However, Welland city council and staff requested deferral to 2023 to ensure the model voted on to receive triple majority approval is accurate, cost-effective, and beneficial to all municipalities equally across Niagara.

In the interim, Welland, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, and the Niagara Region continue to provide inter-municipal transit under the current service delivery model.

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