



March 17, 2016

Niagara Municipalities unite to develop Inter-municipal Transit throughout Niagara

FAQ's

1. Who is working on IMT?

The Cities of St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls, along with the Niagara Region are working together to consider transit requirements for an integrated Inter-municipal Transit (IMT) System.

Work is underway to develop options for a joint transit system that meets the needs of all municipalities, in response to a motion from the Niagara Regional Council (March, 2015) and subsequent support by the City of St. Catharines, City of Welland and City of Niagara Falls. Representatives involved in the work report back to their respective Councils as key milestones are reached.

2. Why is IMT a priority?

- It moves people to work, school and health services
- It supports current GO Bus and future GO Rail Service in Niagara
- It facilitates economic development
- It contributes to a high quality of life for Niagara residents
- It supports sustainable development

In keeping with Regional priorities and strategic initiatives of the City Councils of the cities working together, this effort is important to residents. It will be related to other critical transportation initiatives including Niagara's Transportation Master Plan, a comprehensive strategic planning document that will define the policies, programs and infrastructure improvements needed to address Niagara's transportation needs now through to 2041, including GO Transit.

Links to important documents detailing transportation priorities are as follows:

- NIAGARA REGION: <http://www.niagararegion.ca/priorities/default.aspx>
- NIAGARA FALLS: <https://www.niagarafalls.ca/city-hall/administration/strategic-priorities.aspx>
- ST. CATHARINES: <https://www.stcatharines.ca/en/livein/PublicTransportation.asp>
- WELLAND: <http://www.welland.ca/Transit/Inter-MunicipalTransit.asp>



3. How will this impact Niagara's ability to secure GO Train service to residents?

The recent inclusion of Niagara GO Service in the Provincial Government's 2016 budget indicates that GO Train service is a priority for the Province. While inter-municipal transit is not a pre-requisite to GO Rail service in Niagara, an integrated system will not only serve to enhance transit offerings to residents of the Region, but will be a meaningful step and serious indication to the Provincial Government that preparations are in place for GO and that a streamlined transit system throughout Niagara's communities is a priority.

Inter-municipal transit is just one initiative underway to support GO Rail service in Niagara. For more information please visit: <http://niagarago.ca/>

4. What work has this group undertaken?

In order to carry out the direction of municipal councils, a three part work-plan was developed by in January 2016. The three key components of the work plan are:

1. Determine preferred options for inter-municipal transit beyond the current pilot project
 - The working group is currently procuring external services to assist in developing options that are integrated within Niagara and across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). This work will be cost shared between the participating municipalities.
 - This work is different from past efforts because it employs a system-wide approach that encompasses the resources of all municipalities which operate transit services in Niagara. More than establishing routes that can connect cities, it is about utilizing the fullest potential of all transit systems involved.
 - It is anticipated that options will be put forward for consideration by the end of 2016; a 20-month work plan goal was indicated in Regional Council's initial motion.
2. Continue to make the existing pilot the best it can be, including ensuring better services for Brock University and Niagara College.
3. Participate in uncovering new, leading edge technologies and service delivery arrangements
 - The group is investigating new options that will allow for easier fare payment and trip planning system-wide, as well as how transit can be delivered in places more efficiently than traditional buses.

For More information visit: <http://www.niagararegion.ca/priorities/intermunicipal-transit.aspx>