

More Transit Southern Ontario
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Regional Municipality of Waterloo Council

150 Frederick St., Kitchener, ON N2G 4J3

Subject: Advocacy for the Guelph-Cambridge Rail Link

Dear Regional Chair Karen Redman and Waterloo Regional Councillors,

On behalf of More Transit Southern Ontario (MTSO), a grassroots organization of riders advocating for more connected, frequent, and reliable transit across Southern Ontario, we are writing to express our strong support for a Guelph to Cambridge rail link, and urge all levels of governments and regions to advance this project. MTSO believes that a Guelph to Cambridge passenger rail line would provide a much-needed transportation link between these two growing regions, addressing large gaps in our current transit infrastructure. By connecting Guelph to Cambridge and, at large, the broader GO Transit network which includes connections to Toronto and beyond, this project would:

- **Enhance mobility between Guelph, Cambridge and the Region of Waterloo:** A reliable, frequent rail link between Guelph and Cambridge would provide a convenient alternative to driving, improving commute times between both cities.
- **Support Economic Growth:** Improved connectivity between Guelph and Cambridge would foster economic development by making it easier for workers, students, and businesses to access opportunities in both cities, strengthening both regional economies.
- **Promote Environmental Sustainability:** Automobile transportation is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. By providing a low-emission transit option, the Guelph to Cambridge rail link would help communities reduce their carbon footprint and move closer to achieving shared climate action goals.
- **Improve Quality of Life:** Access to efficient and affordable public transit is essential for building inclusive, livable communities. This project would provide residents with greater access to education, mobility, occupational and recreational opportunities, while also reducing the financial burden of car ownership.

As an advocacy group, we are committed to seeing this project move forward and believe that collaboration between Guelph, Cambridge, the Region of Waterloo and the Province of Ontario is essential to its success. We urge both cities councils and the regional council to take action in advancing this project's construction by:

- Formally endorsing the Guelph to Cambridge train initiative and including it as a priority in strategic plans at the municipal and regional levels.
- Engaging with provincial and federal partners to secure funding and support for the project.
- Raising awareness among residents about the benefits of the train and encouraging public support across the region.
- Endorsing frequent service on the interim bus route to allow for an immediate connection for commuters.
- Planning for ION stage 2 to increase ridership on both the Guelph-Cambridge rail line and ION Light rail.

The Guelph to Cambridge rail link is not just a transportation project; it's an investment in the future of our communities. By working together, Guelph, Cambridge, and the Region of Waterloo can demonstrate their commitment to sustainable growth, economic prosperity, and the well-being of residents across the region.

We, the members of MTSO, stand ready to support this effort in any way we can. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to seeing strong leadership and collaboration on this transportation initiative.

Sincerely,

Noah Dykstra

Kitchener-Waterloo City Lead

Mohammed Abdallah

Guelph City Lead

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