Notice of Status Update Report to Council



Stage 2 ION: LRT from Kitchener to Cambridge

In June 2011, Region of Waterloo Council approved a staged approach to light rail transit (LRT). Stage 1 ION, currently under construction, includes LRT from Kitchener to Waterloo and bus rapid transit (BRT) between Cambridge and Kitchener. ION BRT service began operating in September 2015, while Stage 1 ION LRT will launch in 2018. Stage 2 ION will see BRT replaced by LRT, creating a seamless LRT service across Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo.

The Stage 2 ION study commenced in 2015, and the first round of Public Consultation Centres were held in November 2015. During the first Public Consultation Centre, various route options were introduced along with the criteria to be used during the evaluation process of these route options.

In February and March of 2017, a second round of Public Consultation Centres were held in Kitchener and Cambridge to present and receive feedback on the route evaluation results as well as the Preliminary Preferred Route for Stage 2 ION. Region staff received feedback during, and after, these Public Consultation Centres.

On June 20, 2017, a project update report will be brought to Regional Council for information purposes only. This report will summarize the feedback received during the recent round of public consultations and will outline additional work proposed as a result of the recent feedback. No decisions are being made at this time on Stage 2 ION.

As the study for Stage 2 ION progresses, there will be many more opportunities for residents to provide input and comments, including additional Public Consultation Centres planned for early-2018.

The Stage 2 ION Update Report will be available as part of the Planning and Works Committee Agenda on the Region of Waterloo's website at 4 p.m. on June 16, 2017. It will also be available on the Region's Rapid Transit website.

All information on Stage 2 ION is available at <u>www.stage2ION.ca</u>, and from the Region's Administrative Headquarters located at 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener.

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