



Dear Chair and Members of Council,

Barrier-Free Cambridge strongly supports the completion of the ION Light Rail Transit extension from Fairway Station to Downtown Cambridge. This project represents a once in a generation opportunity to build a truly accessible, inclusive, and connected transportation network across Waterloo Region.

The existing LRT system has already set a high standard for accessibility. Level boarding platforms, wide doors, tactile wayfinding, and dedicated spaces for mobility devices make the ION one of the most barrier-free forms of transit in the province. Extending that same accessible experience to Cambridge residents is essential. A continuous rail connection will allow people who use wheelchairs, scooters, canes, or strollers to board and disembark independently and safely without the physical strain and unpredictability of transferring to other forms of transportation.

Beyond the vehicles themselves, the infrastructure that surrounds ION stations also matters. The extension will bring new accessible sidewalks, safe crosswalks, lighting, and curb cuts to areas that have long needed them. Each station has the potential to become a hub of inclusive design, complete with accessible wayfinding, resting spaces, and safe, universally designed public features that benefit everyone.

This project also brings broader social benefits. Transit investment of this scale consistently sparks new housing and mixed-use development around stations. When guided by strong accessibility and affordability policies, that growth can directly expand the supply of affordable and accessible housing options, something Cambridge urgently needs. The ION corridor can help ensure that future development includes barrier-free units close to transit, reducing isolation and improving quality of life for residents with disabilities and seniors.



In short, extending the ION to Cambridge isn't just about moving people, it's about connecting communities. It's about ensuring that accessibility, affordability, and inclusion are woven into the Region's future growth.

Barrier-Free Cambridge urges Regional Council to approve and prioritize the ION Phase 2 extension, and to embed accessibility and universal design standards throughout every stage of planning, design, and construction. A connected, barrier-free LRT will help make Waterloo Region a model of accessible, sustainable urban development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Devin Sisak".

Devin Sisak  
Founder, Barrier-free Cambridge