

Sent via Email

November 3, 2025

Regional Chair Karen Redman
Waterloo Regional Council
150 Frederick Street
Kitchener, ON N2G 4J3
KRedman@regionofwaterloo.ca

Dear Chair Redman and Members of Waterloo Regional Council,

Re: Support for the Stage 2 ION Extension to Cambridge

On behalf of the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and its Board of Directors, I am writing to express our strong support for the staff recommendation outlined in *Report TSD-RTS-25-003: Rapid Transit to Cambridge – Initial Business Case Recommended Option*. We commend Regional staff for the thoroughness of their engagement process and for advancing a vision that reflects the long-term needs of our growing and interconnected communities.

As the official representative body for more than 36,000 undergraduate students at the University of Waterloo, WUSA recognizes that public transit is vital to student life and to the economic and social fabric of Waterloo Region. In our [Local and Regional Transit Advocacy Position Statement \(February 2024\)](#), we call for sustained investment in accessible, reliable, and affordable public transit as an essential service that connects students to campus, employment, and community life.

This investment is especially significant for students studying at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture in Cambridge, who would directly benefit from improved transit connections between campuses and the broader community.

Extending Light Rail Transit (LRT) from Fairway Station to Downtown Cambridge delivers on that by:

- **Strengthening regional connectivity** – linking all three cities through a continuous rapid transit corridor that supports academic, residential, and employment growth;

- **Advancing equitable access** – ensuring that students and residents across the region can depend on reliable, all-day transit rather than car-dependent alternatives;
- **Promoting sustainable growth** – enabling transit-oriented development that reduces emissions, expands housing options, and supports local businesses; and
- **Enhancing student mobility** – providing a dependable option for the thousands of students who rely on Grand River Transit and interregional transit connections to reach campus, co-op placements, part-time work, and personal and social networks.

We were encouraged to see that both the public and stakeholder feedback demonstrate overwhelming support for the full LRT extension. This reflects the shared belief that completing the ION network will bring lasting benefits for students, residents, and future generations.

WUSA therefore fully supports the staff recommendation to:

1. **Endorse a full-length extension from Fairway Station in Kitchener to Downtown Cambridge as the preferred route;**
2. **Endorse Light Rail Transit as the preferred vehicle technology; and**
3. **Pursue full project funding from the Provincial and Federal governments.**

We look forward to continued collaboration with the Region, Grand River Transit, and other post-secondary partners to ensure that this transformative project continues to prioritize accessibility, student needs, and long-term benefit across our region.

Sincerely,



Damian Mikhail
President, Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association