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Cambridge, Ontario
N3C 4J9

November 3, 2025

Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Development Committee
Region of Waterloo
50 Frederick Street
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4J3

RE: TSD-RTS-25-003, Stage 2 ION Initial Business Case Results

To the Members of the Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Development Committee:

I am writing today to urge you to support the recommended motion regarding the Stage 2 ION Initial Business Case of applying to the federal and provincial governments to fund the building of the LRT extension from Fairway Station to Downtown Cambridge, thereby creating one continuous LRT route across the Region's three urban centres.

When my wife and young family moved back to Waterloo Region in 2017, settling in Preston after spending nearly a decade away living in Toronto, we were really excited about the prospects of the LRT traversing our new neighbourhood. We were already imagining our children as teenagers being able to access the LRT for all their future endeavours, whether that was for their extra-curricular activities, work, or school.

We are now eight years later and we're still wondering if the LRT will ever be built.

Since its completion in June 2019, ION Stage 1 has proven incredibly successful for the City of Kitchener and the City of Waterloo. Several grassroots organizations, such as [Citizens for Cambridge](#) and the [Tri-Cities Transport Action Group](#), have outlined many of the positive attributes the ION has provided, including boosts to the local economy and that it has made it easier for people to travel in an accessible, affordable and environmentally friendly-way.

These same positive outcomes will undoubtedly also occur in the City of Cambridge and we cannot afford to wait.

Additionally, the extension of the LRT to the City of Cambridge will also create sustainable and connected communities that will assist with improving its long-term infrastructure costs. In [You'll Pay For This: How We Can Afford a Great City for Everyone, Forever](#), Michael Durand-Wood notes that one of the major challenges cities face from a financial perspective is that they have built more infrastructure than they can reasonably afford. Cities have primarily invested in sprawling development patterns that cost more to maintain and service than its return in taxable

economic value, resulting in cities having to cut services and to raise property taxes in order to maintain a balanced budget.

As such in order for cities (and the Region) to obtain a better ratio of tax base to infrastructure, we are going to need to build using less land. We will need to intensify development in our neighbourhoods, update our restrictive zoning bylaws to allow residential, commercial, and even some industries to be side-by-side, and find ways to move people around our cities in safe, pleasant, and more convenient ways.

The LRT will assist us in this endeavour. Having more accessible transit can help all of us.

Cambridge is a world-class city. But in order for us to remain that way, we need to be thinking about what it looks like in the future. We must embrace small, but continuous change. To ensure our city thrives and is sustainable, we need to build the LRT now. The status quo is no longer an option.

Please support this motion

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Donkersgoed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being more prominent than the last name.

Jeff Donkersgoed
Ward 2 Resident - City of Cambridge