

Open Letter: Call for Restoration of Night Transit in Waterloo Region

To: Grand River Transit and the Region of Waterloo

CC: WUSA, GSA, WLUSU, WLUGSA, Dr Vivek Goel, Eleanor McMahon, Dr Deborah MacLatchy, Jason Coolman

As the public transit operator for the Region of Waterloo, GRT has failed to execute on its responsibility to serve the transit needs for students and transit users in the Waterloo region. As transit continues to hit record highs, GRT has not adequately scaled service to meet the growing needs of the region.

One thing that GRT has failed to do thus far is the restoration of night transit. Prior to the pandemic, the region provided overnight service to the university district. This was an essential service, allowing students and residents to get a safe ride home at all hours enabling them to participate in social life, build community, and support local businesses. This service particularly helped shift workers who work late nights and no longer have public transit as an option.

Night transit was originally part of the agreement with the Waterloo student union (FEDS at the time) for the U-Pass. Waterloo, Laurier, and Conestoga students contribute millions of dollars in revenue to the GRT each year, yet the service we pay for is no longer meeting our needs. This failure is preventing a significant amount of students from comfortably relying on public transit. Students put significant funding into our system and GRT's side of the agreement must be held up.

Today, the region sees more public transit users than ever before. As a result, it's time to restore and expand on the previous night transit system. This is why the UWaterloo NDP, the UWaterloo Climate Justice Ecosystem club and other student signatories at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University are calling for the Region to work with the University of Waterloo to bring:

- 1) The restoration of night transit in the region by the start of 2024's Fall term, in particular through returning the old Route 91 and Route 92 as night routes; and
- 2) For the Regional Council to pass a motion that directs city staff to provide proposals in time for the next budget session for the further expansion of overnight transit throughout the region; and

Signatories

Waterloo Planning Students
Association

Waterloo Association of Geography
Students

UWaterloo NDP Club

Climate Justice Ecosystem

UWaterloo African Student
Association

Chai and Verse

UWaterloo Cooking Club

Dungeon and Ducks

UWaterloo FemPhys

UWaterloo Indian Cultural
Association

Laurier Philosophy Club

Public Service Alliance of Canada,
Local 902

Pure Math, Applied Math,
Combinatorics and Optimization Club

Students Supporting Opioid
Stewardship/Harm Reduction

Waterloo Young Liberals