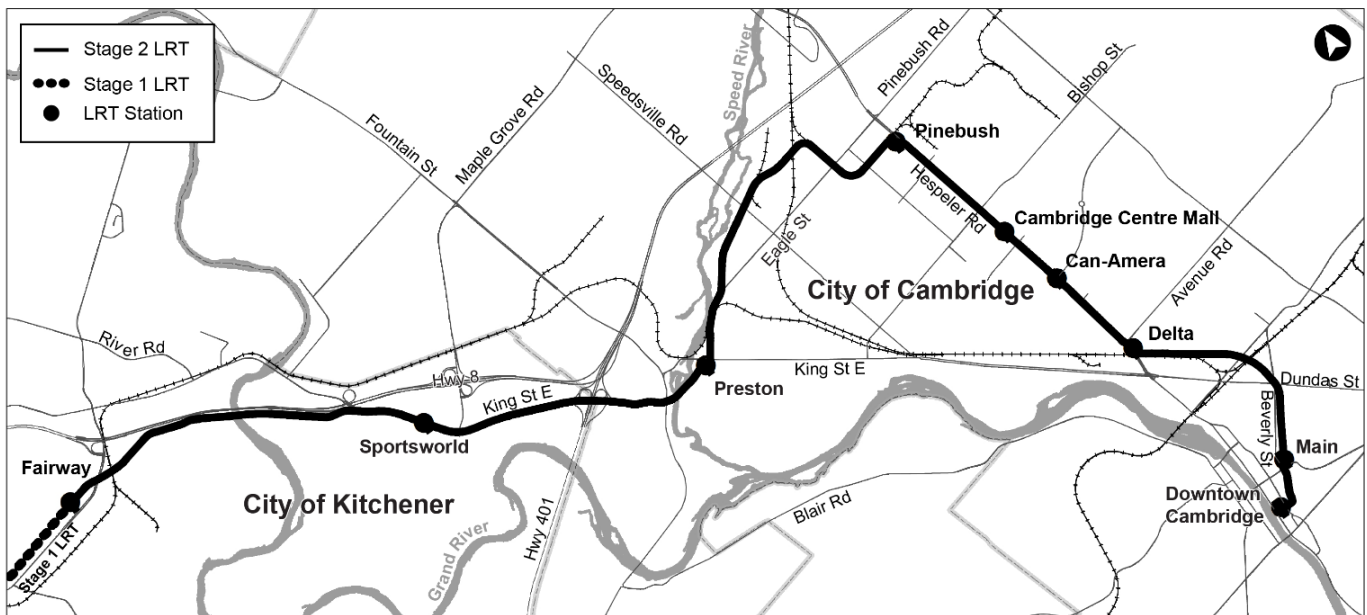


Notice of Commencement of Transit Project Assessment Process Stage 2 ION: LRT from Kitchener to Cambridge

The Project

The Region of Waterloo is proposing to extend the ION LRT system an additional 18 km from Fairway station in Kitchener to Downtown Cambridge with eight new stations, creating a continuous LRT service across the Region's three urban centres. Regional Council endorsed the Preferred Route (see map below) in June 2019 and the preliminary design in April 2020.



Background

In June 2011, Region of Waterloo Council approved the implementation of a Light Rail Transit (LRT) system, linking the Region's three major urban centres of the Cities of Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge. This project was approved as part of a strategic framework to manage long-term growth within the Region, as set out in the Regional Official Plan and the Regional Transportation Master Plan (2011, updated in 2018).

Stage 1 ION opened in June 2019, a 19 km long route from Conestoga Station in Waterloo to Fairway Station in Kitchener.

The environmental impact of this transit project is being assessed through the transit project assessment process (TPAP) as outlined in Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 231/08, Transit Projects and Metrolinx Undertakings.

As part of the TPAP, a draft Environmental Project Report (EPR) has been prepared by the Region of Waterloo, and is now available for public review and comment (along with supporting environmental and technical studies, and public meeting materials) until **February 12, 2021** at regionofwaterloo.ca/Stage2ION and Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at:

Regional Clerks Office
150 Frederick St, 2nd Floor
Kitchener, ON
519-575-4400

Regional Operations Centre
100 Maple Grove Rd, Front Reception
Cambridge, ON
519-575-4400

Cambridge City Hall, 1st Floor
50 Dickson Street
Cambridge, ON
519-623-1340

Kitchener City Hall*
200 King St W
Kitchener, ON

*By appointment only, contact Steve Allen at 519-590-6466 or steve.allen@kitchener.ca

NOTE: Please call ahead to confirm the facility is open to the public and whether an appointment is required to view the material.

Consultation and engagement has been carried out during the preliminary planning phase, and all materials are available on the project website and in the draft EPR. Commencing on **December 10, 2020**, members of the public, agencies, Indigenous communities and other interested persons may access a virtual presentation at regionofwaterloo.ca/Stage2ION which will provide an overview of the project and key aspects of the draft EPR. Comments on the draft EPR may be submitted via an online survey or directly to the Project Team, as detailed below, until **February 12, 2021**. Following this period, the Project Team will consider the input received, revise the EPR, and publish the Notice of Completion of the EPR. The final EPR will then be posted to the project website for a 30-day period for review and comment.

Your participation is an important part of this process and we welcome your input. Comments may be submitted by accessing the online survey at engagewr.ca/Stage2ION, or by contacting:

Matthew O'Neil, Senior Engineer, Rapid Transit
Region of Waterloo
20 Weber St E, 4th Floor
Kitchener, ON N2H 1C3
Phone: 519-575-4400 | TTY: 519-575-4608
Email: Stage2ION@regionofwaterloo.ca

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and will be released, if requested, to any person.

This notice was first issued on **December 10, 2020**.