REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
MASTER PLAN
Summary

MOVING FORWARD
2031
Executive Summary

With an increasing population and changing demographics, Waterloo Region must ensure that growth is both sustainable and affordable. Implementing Moving Forward 2031 – The Regional Transportation Master Plan to address our future transportation needs will help us balance our cultural, economic, environmental and social needs to ensure Waterloo Region will continue to be a great place to live and work.

Officially passed by Region of Waterloo Council in June 2010, the Moving Forward 2031 –The Regional Transportation Master Plan builds on the progress we have already made in transit, walking and cycling, and recognizes that travel by auto will still be an important part of our future transportation network.

What is the Regional Transportation Master Plan?

Moving Forward 2031 –The Regional Transportation Master Plan is a document that defines how our transportation system will grow and change in the coming decades. It will help the Region provide more travel choices to residents, and ensure our future transportation system is both affordable and environmentally sustainable.

What factors influenced the development of the Regional Transportation Master Plan?

Work on the plan started in 2007 and included valuable input from the public at all stages of the process. Development of the plan was also guided by existing Regional and Provincial policies such as the:

• Regional Official Plan;
• Regional Growth Management Strategy;
• Regional Cycling Master Plan;
• Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment; and
• Province of Ontario’s Places to Grow Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
What has happened since the last Regional Transportation Master Plan?

The last Regional Transportation Master Plan (RTMP) was approved in 1999. Since then, our community has grown significantly, and faster than anticipated, and there is a greater demand on our transportation system. This demand will continue as the Region continues to grow over the next 25 years, and just building new roads is not an affordable or sustainable solution. We would need to add about 500 new kilometres of lanes within our cities to deal with future demand. That’s equal to building about 25 new Hespeler Roads!

What are the goals of the plan?

The Plan projects that, by 2031:

• 15% of all trips in Waterloo Region will be by transit and
• 12% of all trips will be by cycling or walking.

Other goals are to:

• limit urban sprawl;
• manage traffic congestion;
• preserve Waterloo Region’s environmental resources;
• increase the amount of walkable communities; and
• delay the need for construction and maintenance of new roads.
How will we achieve our goals?

- A transportation network that puts more emphasis on transit, with a rapid transit system connecting Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge;
- More cycling lanes and pedestrian-friendly routes;
- An expanded bus network with more express bus service to feed rapid transit terminals and better serve busy residential and commercial centres outside the rapid transit corridor;
- Strategic road improvements to ensure goods movement, help traffic problems or to support transit; and
- Supporting policies and programs that will help the Region to encourage transit ridership, cycling and walking, manage congestion, and promote vibrant urban places.

How will the Regional Transportation Master Plan be implemented?

The RTMP is an ambitious, forward-looking plan that will help manage the Region’s future growth and transportation needs. In order to ensure that future funding is available to successfully implement the Plan, an annual increase to the tax levy will be required in the range of 1.15% to 1.2% in the first five years and 1.30% to 1.5% for the next 20 years. As the RTMP is implemented, a monitoring program will be put in place to help measure success and determine the need for any updates or adjustments.

For more detailed information on Moving Forward 2031 – The Regional Transportation Master Plan, please visit: www.movingforward2031.ca