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## **MEMORANDUM**

**PDS-C 3-2019**

**Subject: Update on the Status of GO Service to Grimsby**

**Date: February 20, 2019**

**To: Planning and Economic Development Committee**

**From: Matt Robinson – Director, GO Implementation**

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Further to the recent announcement by Ontario's Minister of Transportation Jeff Yurek and Niagara West MPP Sam Oosterhoff regarding the expansion of daily GO train service in Niagara effective January 7, 2019, staff wanted to provide Regional Council with an update on the status of GO service particularly as it relates to Grimsby.

While the delivery of the Grimsby station will now be procured differently based on the provincial government's direction to explore partnerships with the private sector (referred to as Transit-Oriented Development), the commitment to the 2021 service plan and delivering train service to Grimsby as quickly as possible remains in place. As such, many enabling projects in support of a GO Station in Grimsby are moving forward in alignment with the 2021 service timeline.

There are three key areas where work is moving forward regarding Grimsby's status in relation to GO:

**#1. Regional infrastructure projects are underway to ensure Grimsby is well positioned to receive GO train service, including:**

- Casablanca Boulevard and South Service Road improvements completed by 2021 through the Casablanca EA. These improvements will accommodate existing and future traffic volumes.
- Implementing a Regional transit strategy to support GO train rider access to the station (including a study to determine what West Niagara transit infrastructure would be located on the Region-owned parcel adjacent to the GO station)
- Inclusion of extensive active transportation infrastructure on the north and south sides of the GO Station to ensure residents and GO riders can access the new station using walking or cycling options.

**#2. Representatives from Niagara Region and the Town of Grimsby continue to work closely with Metrolinx and the Provincial Government to ensure the project meets capital and operating milestones.**

Led by Council's GO Working Group (Regional Chair, Mayors and CAOs from Grimsby, Lincoln, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls) all parties meet regularly and remain in continual contact regarding the station, its design and the project's timelines. These important meetings ensure that the project continues to progress well and it successfully meets the 2021 timeframe set forth by the Province. It also advances and engages executive level discussions that allow for comprehensive and informed decision making across the whole Niagara Expansion program delivery.

**#3: The 2021 timeline for service extension to Grimsby outlined by the Provincial Government continues to remain in place.**

Minister Yurek's recent announcement to extend daily GO train service to Niagara, MPP Oosterhoff's recent strong and supportive statements (including affirmation for this memo), a recent all-party endorsed motion in the provincial legislature by Welland MPP Jeff Burch, as well as Niagara's active partnership with Metrolinx, have all worked to reaffirm the timelines in place for GO service to Grimsby. Significant work to deliver a GO Station and daily service to Grimsby continues with the expectation that the building could be delivered sooner if a transit-oriented development through a public private partnership is in place for the station construction project. With the introduction of daily GO service to St. Catharines and Niagara Falls four (4) years ahead of the original 2023 timeline, GO trains are now running in both directions through Niagara. Based on the above commitments, daily GO trains in Grimsby are still expected by 2021.

Respectfully submitted and signed by,

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Matt Robinson  
Director, GO Implementation