

From: PF-Mailbox-01
To: Norio, Ann-Marie; Trennum, Matthew
Subject: FW: Online Form - Request to Speak at a Standing Committee or Regional Council
Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021 4:31:41 PM
Attachments: BUSU - Transit Support Letter.pdf

From: Niagara Region Website
Sent: Thursday, 18 November 2021 16:31:15 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Clerks
Subject: Online Form - Request to Speak at a Standing Committee or Regional Council

Request to Speak at a Standing Committee or Regional Council

To reply, copy the email address from below and put into 'To'. (if resident entered their email address)

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Rafay Rehan

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Organization

Brock University Students' Union

standing committee

Regional Council

Presentation Topic

Amalgamated Transit System Support

Presentation includes slides

No

Previously presented topic

No

Presentation Details

President of Brock University Students' Union, Rafay Rehan, would like to speak in favour of an amalgamated transit system for the Region on behalf of the undergraduate students at Brock. Attached is our letter of support. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at krossetto@brockbusu.ca. Thank you, Kayleigh Rossetto Director, Governance and Advocacy, BUSU

Video Consent

Yes

Support_File_1

BUSU - Transit Support Letter.pdf



November 18, 2020

Attn: Niagara Regional Council Members,

Please consider this letter of support for an amalgamated transit system for the Niagara Region on behalf of the undergraduate students at Brock.

The Brock University Students' Union held a campus wide referendum in March 2003 where we asked students if they supported the creation of a Universal Bus Pass to provide access to transit across the Region. The referendum passed and the U-Pass was put into place that September, creating the second oldest transit system in Canada.

Since then, BUSU has worked diligently with each transit provider and pays over 4 million dollars per year to have our students receive bus pass stickers. We also have been at the table to discuss adding and modifying routes to better suit our students' needs.

In a survey circulated to undergraduate students in the 2019-2020 year, 89.3% (which works out to roughly 16,000 students) responded that they use the transit system to get to Brock and around the Region. While the majority reside in St. Catharines and Thorold, we have students who live in the 10 other municipalities across the region. These students have the difficult task of navigating multiple transit systems to get to campus, often with routes that don't line up in a time efficient manner. In the [2020 Students on the Move report](#), **16% of Brock students indicated that it takes them over 45 minutes to get to campus via public transportation.**

One student, Emma, commutes in from Welland every morning. Her first bus comes every hour on the 15-minute mark (1:15, 2:15, etc.) and the second bus comes every hour on the 20-minute mark (1:20, 2:20, etc.). She shared that her first bus is often behind schedule causing her to miss the second one. As a result, she catches the first bus an hour early to ensure she can get to campus on time.

Another student, Sumin, commutes in from Niagara Falls to Brock and to the Outlet Collection (workplace) in Niagara on the Lake. Her commute to Brock requires a 30-minute walk because of the limited routes available. Her commute from her work to Brock requires two busses with conflicting transfer times. As a result, she opts to take an Uber up to 10 times per month.

One of our key objectives at BUSU is to provide students with resources, services, and support to enrich their time at Brock. With an amalgamated transit system in Niagara, students from outside of Thorold and St. Catharines will have an easier time getting to campus and traveling across the region, resulting in more students living, visiting, and working in cities outside of Thorold and St. Catharines.

BUSU is excited at the possibility of this streamlined transit system and is fully in support moving forward.

Thank you,

Rafay Rehan

President, Brock University Students' Union (BUSU)