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To All, concerning a Regional Transit System:

The following message is my personal opinion only. I am a resident of central St. Catharines, and a daily (including weekends) user of public transit being provided on all three levels.

Creating a single Niagara regional transit service to replace the existing two-tier structure is a logical step, particularly to facilitate integration with the continuing expansion of GO Transit and Metrolinx into Niagara.

Any expansion contemplated by a regional transit commission beyond existing levels of service should be done by concentrating on using the on-demand type of model, such as the 'Going My Way' or 'trans-cab' or other similar operations. Throughout Niagara, the various municipalities have plenty of experience with this approach.

The regional transit commission should also have the aim in the short-term or medium-term of privatizing the complete service. In the urban areas of southern Ontario, there are adequate examples of local bus systems being contracted out by municipalities. Most importantly, optimum-quality service must be provided for the differently-abled, even if that means striving for even more efficiencies than would seem possible in the operation of the regular system.

All the best with your deliberations, and I hope that a region-wide transit system is a reality in a year or so.

Regards, and best of health.

Frank Goldspink
St. Catharines ON
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