



Niagara Transit Commission

Transit Master Planning Project

Accessibility Advisory Committee: NTC Today and Tomorrow
July 23, 2024

NIAGARA

EVERYONE WELCOME

Introductions

Project Team



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Project Support

Agenda

- Project overview and update
- Preliminary Engagement Findings
- Open-ended questions
- Next steps

Transit Facilities, Strategic Assets & Service Network Master Plan

- Transit services across the Niagara region and 12 municipalities were consolidated and combined on January 1, 2023
- This plan is the first master plan for transit since the start of the new Niagara Region Transit
- **Objective:** Create a bold vision for what an integrated regional transit could look like and how it can meet all resident needs

Project Scope

What this plan **is** about

- Ensuring consistent and efficient transit services across the region
 - Including connectivity between on-demand, specialized, and conventional
- Developing a 10-year and 20-year transit network
- Planning for assets (buses, facilities) to meet future needs

What this plan **is not** about

- Specialized transit consolidation (separate effort)
- Specific scheduling changes for existing services
- Complaints about specific trips
- Operational policies and public policies

Project Timelines



Facilities, Assets and Service Network Master Plan								
Condensed Work Plan and Schedule		Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025
Task ID	Task							
- A -	Project Management							
- B -	Communications & Engagement							
	Stakeholder and Public Engagement							
- C -	Context-Setting							
- D -	Transit Assets and Facilities							
- E -	Transit Service Network							
- F -	Implementation Planning							
- G -	Reporting and Presentations							

Why are we engaging and when?



Round 1: NTC Today and Tomorrow

- Understand current perspectives on NTC
- Receive input and guidance on future priorities
- Today

Round 2: Exploring Possibilities

- Share potential future concepts (network and services)
- Receive feedback
- Q4 2024

Round 3: Feedback on the Plan

- Share draft plan publicly
- Receive feedback
- Q2 2025

Preliminary Engagement Findings

15% of survey respondents identified as having a disability. Some of the barriers they experience on **specialized transit** include:

- Long wait times
- Needing to book trips far in advance (no spontaneous trips)
- Trips are modified on the day of
- Poor notifications and vehicle/trip tracking

Preliminary Engagement Findings continued

Some barriers respondents experience on **conventional transit**:

- Not all drivers consistently use bus kneeling
- Need extra time to find a seat/secure mobility device before the bus moves, no storage space for device
- Accessible seating is not always available
- Stop announcements should be louder
- Stop accessibility: snow clearing, not level pavement, shelters
- Signs should be bigger and easier to read, maps should be available
- Transit app is not accessible for me
- Washroom availability

What do you think?

- What is working well?
- What could be improved?
- What should NTC prioritize in the next 10 years?

Funding for transit

- Do you think that funding for transit should be increased?
- If yes, how? Through taxes, fares, moving funding from other regional services?

Next Steps




Context Setting and Transit Assets

- LTRT analyzing provided data
- CIMA+ assessing existing fleet

Transit Service Network

- Once analysis is done and feedback collected, we will begin on the 10-year network



Thank you!
Any
questions?

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Additional Questions

Time permitting

Trade off 1



Better frequency

The bus coming more often should be a priority, even if it means that service does not go everywhere I want.

More connections

Connecting to more places should be prioritized, even if it means the bus comes less often.

Trade off 2



Better connections within my local community

More travel options within my municipality and/or community should be prioritized.

Better connections across the Niagara Region

More travel options to and across the region should be prioritized.

Trade off 3



Fewer transfers and longer travel times

I would prefer to not change vehicles, even if it means my trip takes more time.

More transfers and shorter travel times

I would prefer faster travel times, even if it means changing vehicles and waiting twice.