

GO Station Development Strategy 2025 Update

Committee of the Whole

July 3, 2025

Cheryl Selig, Strategic Initiatives Manager

Update

- Priorities for GO Transit Service
- Advocacy Update
- Niagara Falls Station
- St. Catharines Station Site
- Beamsville Station
- Grimsby Station
- Next Steps

Niagara's Priorities for GO Service

To secure two-way, all-day GO Train service between Niagara Falls and Union Station, with stops in St. Catharines, Lincoln, and Grimsby.

GOALS



Decrease travel times to Union



Operational flexibility at stations to ensure service certainty



Increase service frequency



Expanded GO bus routes/connections to Welland + Fort Erie



Establish Niagara's four GO stations



Seamless payment between all transit services

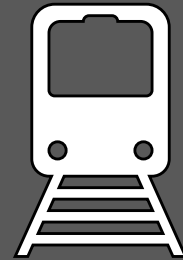
Enabling the Future State (2023-2026)

Niagara Region

- Existing station building renovations
- Station site works (parking, bus loops, etc.)
- Station access and road network improvements
- NT service connections for full train schedule

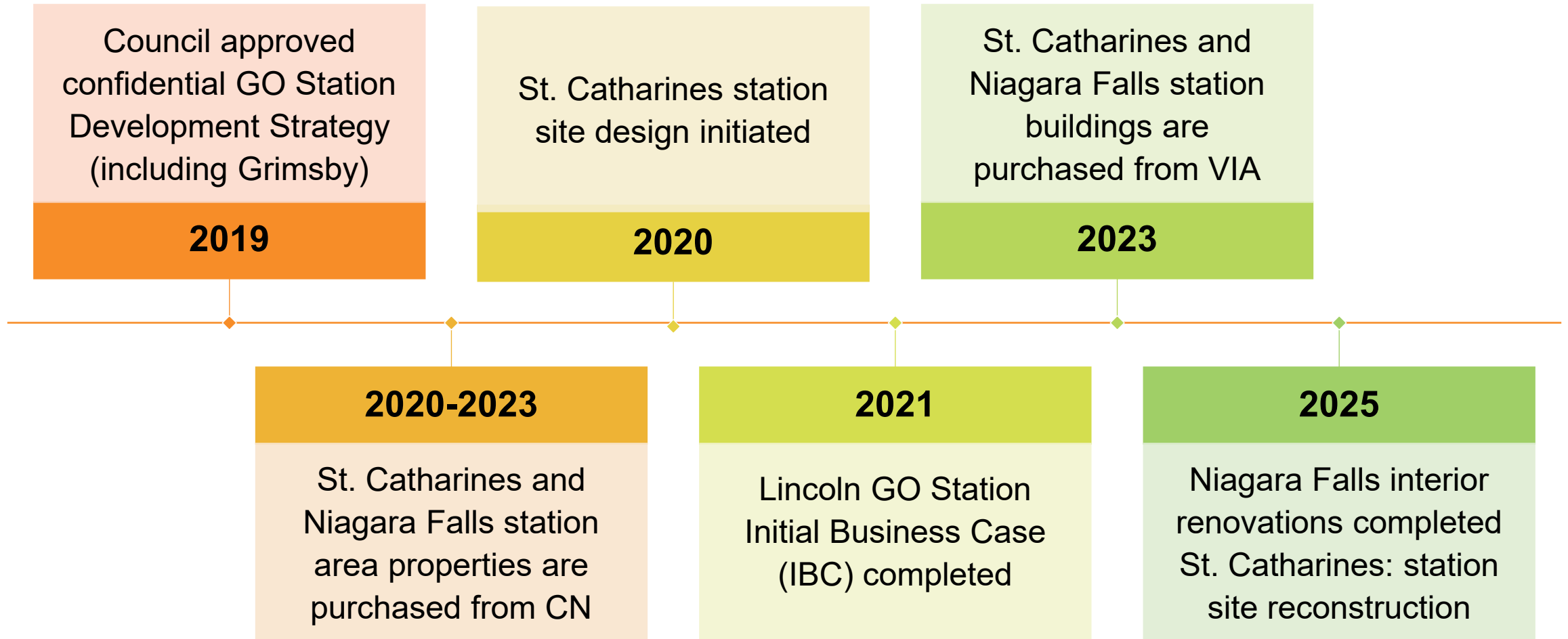
Metrolinx

- GO Transit Niagara Falls Operations Layover
- Hamilton West Harbour Station mainline connection
- In-corridor signal improvements



Completion of capital investments drives the opportunity for increased GO train and bus service to Niagara

Niagara Region's Investment



GO Train and Bus Service Milestones

Weekday GO Train Service introduced

2019

Three **daily round-trip GO** Train **service becomes** permanent

2023

2019

Weekend GO Train service becomes year-round instead of seasonal

2023

New **GO bus** route 18K **added, serving** St. Catharines Train Station and Brock **University**

Niagara's Ridership Growth

**GO Weekend Passes
to Niagara**

42% of ridership in
March 2024

+20%

2024

1,257,055 riders

+111%

2023

1,044,967
riders

2022

493,000 riders

GO Advocacy Work

- May 2024 – Council affirms priority of two-way, all-day GO Train service
- Jan. 2025—Provincial announcement commits to a Grimsby GO Station and to two-way, all-day GO train service to Niagara
- Feb. 2025—All political parties' platforms include a commitment to two-way, all-day GO train service to Niagara

GO Advocacy Work (continued)

- Provincial Budget 2025 – two-way all day GO service to Niagara
- 2025 – Ongoing meetings with multiple Ministers (MTO/MOI)

‘Niagara Line’ Solution

- Corridor purchase is how Metrolinx’s best-served routes have evolved across the GTA and GO Transit network
- Corridor purchase option supported by key players
- Upgrading Corridor with CN: long lead time for needed infrastructure to add more trains
- Buying the CN Grimsby Subdivision: can immediately increase service to 9 daily round trips

Corridor ownership is the best way to increase GO service immediately, while also controlling the corridor for future capital and operating upgrades

Benefits of Corridor Ownership



Asset for Province



More Trains, Now

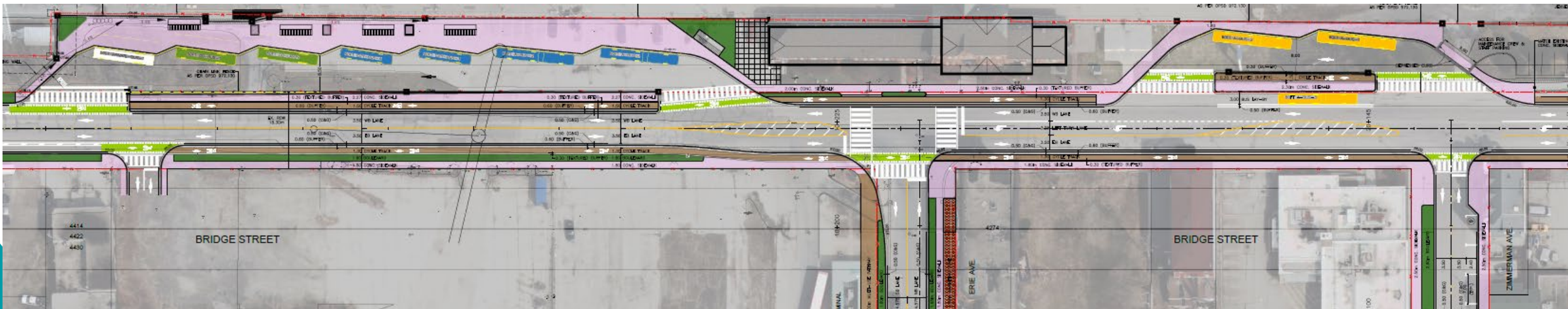


Full Control of Future Expansion

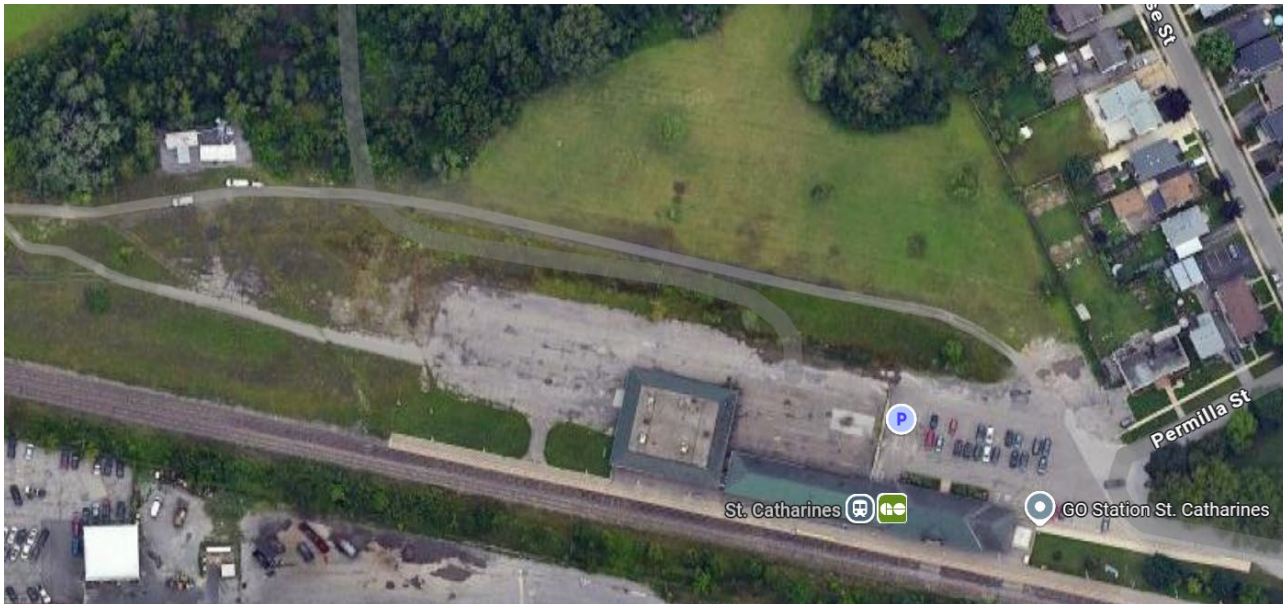


Ensures Continued Freight Access

Niagara Falls Station Upgrades



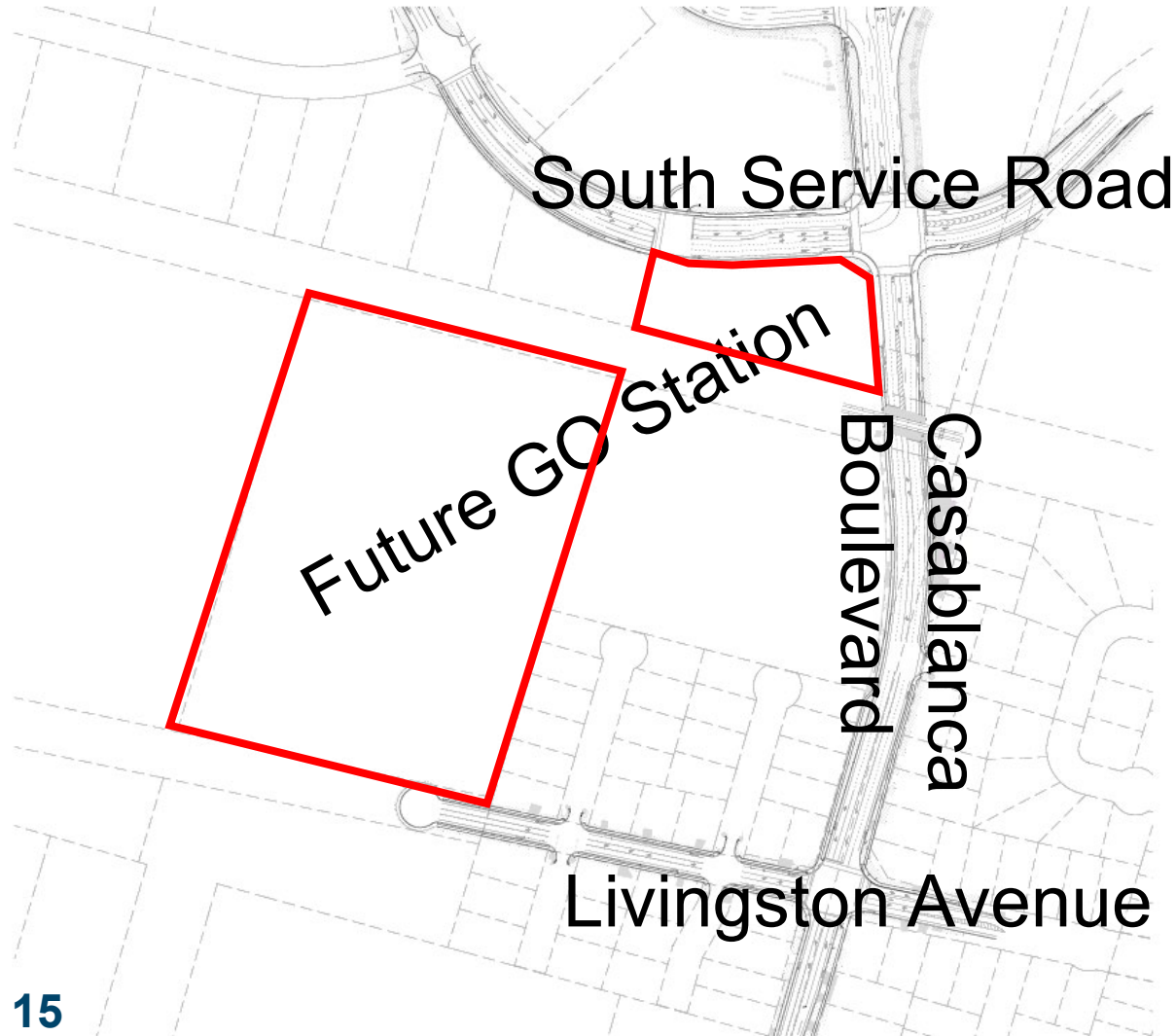
St. Catharines Site Reconstruction



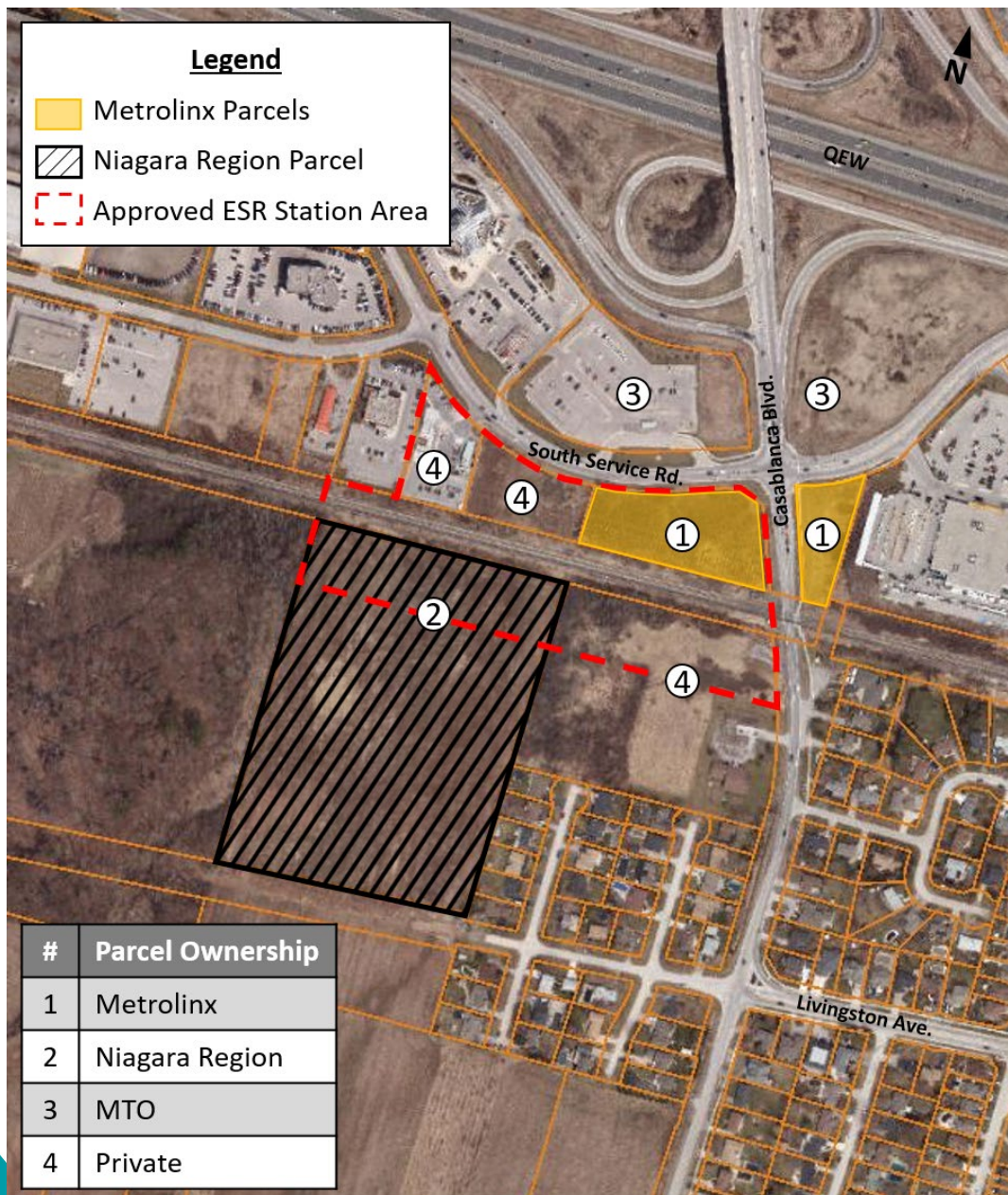
Beamsville Station

- Metrolinx Initial Business Case completed in 2021
- Subject to province's TOC policy for new station development
- Landowner engaged with Metrolinx and the Town
- Work at Grimsby and advocacy work by Niagara Region will help inform and support establishing a station in Beamsville

Transportation Network Improvements



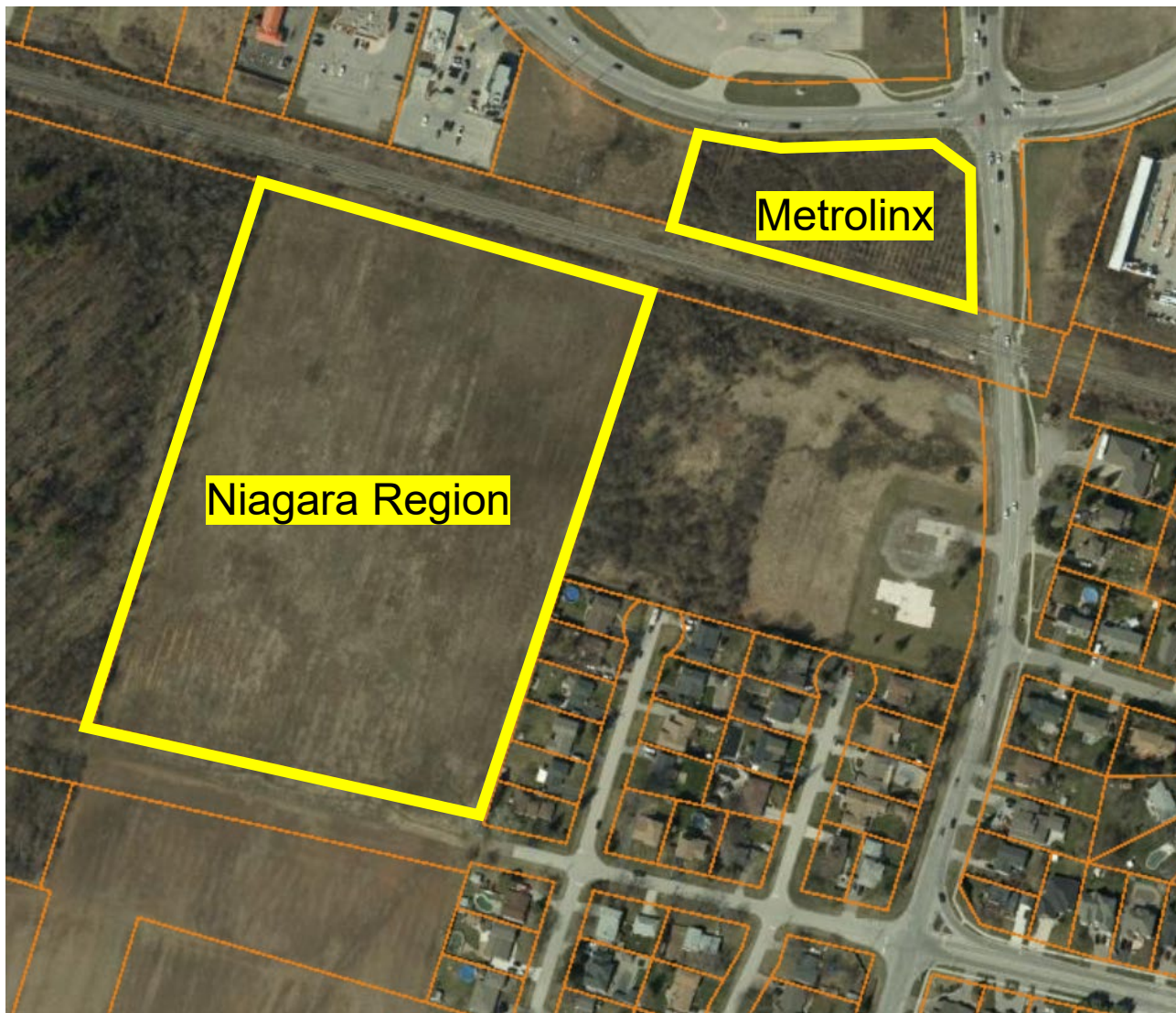
- Increase lane capacity
- Access to Niagara Region owned parcel on Livingston Avenue
- Active transportation infrastructure



2011 Proposed Grimsby Station Location

Grimsby Station Design Process

Project Challenges	Response
Legislative changes (Environmental Assessment Act)	Only advance required studies and/or pursue exemption
Cost to construct full build (both north + south sides)	Day 1 infrastructure requirements to minimum viable infrastructure
North side constructability issues due to corridor restrictions (i.e. OPG, CN)	Day 1 station infrastructure built on south side only (Region- owned parcel)



Proposed Future Station Location (full build out)



Proposed Day 1 Station Location

Next Steps

- Continue political commitment to expand two-way, all-day GO Train service
- Undertake Transit and Rail Project Assessment Process (TRPAP) or exemption to the process
- Deliver Council 30% Preliminary Design

**Thank you!
Questions?**

