

Administration

Office of the Regional Clerk

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977

www.niagararegion.ca

May 28, 2024

CL 7- 2024, May 23, 2024

Distribution List***SENT ELECTRONICALLY*****Motion Reaffirming Niagara Region's Commitment to the Expansion of All-day, Two-way GO Train Service**

Regional Council, at its special meeting held on May 23, 2024, passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Niagara Region, and the 12 local communities, have been consistent in their support for all day, two-way GO Train service between Niagara Falls and Union Station;

WHEREAS a \$40 million capital budget for enabling GO service to Niagara stations was approved to fund the activities approved in Council's GO Station Development Strategy;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region and local municipalities have made significant financial investments into key infrastructure surrounding the train stations in Grimsby, St. Catharines, and Niagara Falls which enable the expansion of service to Niagara;

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has stated its commitment to expansion of GO service to Niagara;

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has made historic investments in the expansion of its GO Transit network;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region, in collaboration and cooperation with the 12 local communities, and with connectivity to GO Transit as one of its primary drivers, amalgamated public transit service across the region, culminating in the creation of the Niagara Transit Commission;

WHEREAS the cost to Niagara Region to complete this amalgamation of Niagara's transit systems was substantial;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region has introduced NRT OnDemand Transit service to establish and enable first/last mile connections to existing Grimsby and Lincoln GO stops, in addition to connecting all of Niagara's rural communities with the GO network;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region funded the completion of a Metrolinx-approved Initial Business Case demonstrating the significant value of establishing GO Train service to Lincoln;

WHEREAS efforts to secure enhanced daily GO Train service have resulted in a positive but inadequate outcome of three round trips a day between Niagara Falls and Union Station;

WHEREAS recent projections indicate that there are over 130,000 potential commuters identified within Niagara for the purposes of post-secondary education, employment, and recreation;

WHEREAS the Niagara region continues to grow, with over \$1.8 billion in residential building permits issued and with 30,000 approved units;

WHEREAS Niagara's investments and leadership have met or exceeded all of the prerequisite local conditions required to secure a reliable two-way, all-day GO Train service pattern identified for success by the Provincial Government and Metrolinx; and

WHEREAS the Niagara Region, in partnership with the 12 local municipalities, believes that a robust GO Train service pattern with increased frequency and reliability is needed in order to drive ridership, thereby boosting the provincial economy and removing cars from congested highways.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Regional Council **REAFFIRM** its explicit commitment that securing all-day, two-way GO Train service between Niagara Falls and Union Station, with stops in St. Catharines, Grimsby and Lincoln, is a top priority;
2. That the Regional Chair's Office **BE DIRECTED** to lead an advocacy campaign, in partnership with the 12 local municipalities, to help influence provincial decision makers to increase the frequency and reliability of GO Train service patterns to Niagara;
3. That the Chief Administrative Officer **BE DIRECTED** to make necessary resources and personnel required to support this campaign to help secure a more conducive GO Train service pattern available;

4. That the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to send a copy of this motion to Niagara's 12 local councils, Metrolinx and the City of Hamilton; and
5. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send a copy of this motion to Niagara's four Members of Provincial Parliament and any appropriate provincial transportation ministries.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

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CLK-C 2024-060

Distribution List:

Local Area Municipalities
D. Wright, Board Chair, Metrolinx
P. Verster, Chief Executive Officer, Metrolinx
City of Hamilton