



## Transportation and Mobility



People having equitable access to a range of affordable, sustainable transportation choices; and ease of movement of people and goods are essential for quality of life.

## What's Emerging

- The investment required to maintain the Niagara-wide transit system is being affected by inflation, an aging vehicle fleet and escalating fuel costs.
- Collision data for Niagara shows that the total number of collisions is increasing on our roads. The Niagara Region Vision Zero Road Safety Initiative aims to improve road safety for all users, through four automated speed enforcement units, being rotated through Niagara's community safety zones on Regional roads. Each unit will remain in place for approximately 90 days before being rotated to the next location. In 2023, automated speed enforcement cameras were set up to rotate near schools throughout the region.
- A number of local area municipalities in Niagara are working on either updating, or developing their Active Transportation or Transportation Master Plans. The plans include a growing focus on active and multi-modal transportation throughout the region.
- Interest in cycling in Niagara is growing, among local residents and tourists alike. Several trails, including the Greater Niagara Circle Route and Greenbelt Route are promoted on the Niagara Region Cycling Map. Information about cycling clubs, associations and committees in Niagara is provided on the Niagara Region website.

## Suggested Community Action Steps

- Examine, and build upon synergies between planning which focuses on transportation, complete streets, active transportation, Age-Friendly Communities, Community Well-Being, Equity/Diversity/Inclusion, the Active and Safe Routes to School program, and the work of the Niagara Climate Change Action Network.
- Emphasize the importance of a highly-efficient, safe, accessible, multi-modal transportation system that connects rural and urban municipalities as Niagara continues to grow.
- Be mindful of who is using transit when setting fees. Affordability is a key to making transit ridership accessible.
- Continue to promote the importance, across Niagara of: Improving safety on Regional roads; Reducing vehicular speeds; Encouraging compliance with speed limits; Reducing collisions resulting in fatalities and severe injuries; and Supporting walkable and safe communities.

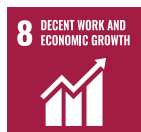
## Indicators

- **Collision Rates in Niagara Municipalities**
- **Affordability and Accessibility of Transportation**
- **Transportation Planning in Niagara**
- **Transportation Routes and Volume**



## Happening Now

- In January 2023, Niagara Region Transit assumed responsibility for transit routes and services in Niagara. As part of the transition to unified transit, funding for the system shifted from local municipality budgets to a designated levy through Niagara Region. Establishment of a Niagara-wide transit system is seen to be beneficial for inclusion, equity, the economy and the environment.
- OnDemand Transit is a component of the Niagara Region Transit system. It is available in Grimsby, Lincoln, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham, Port Colborne, Wainfleet and West Lincoln, with other service delivery models available in Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Thorold, St. Catharines and Welland, primarily in areas not currently covered by fixed transit routes. Riders can request trips in real-time through an app or over the phone by selecting a pickup point and destination.
- Transit ridership in Niagara reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, primarily due to post-secondary institutions holding classes almost entirely online. Niagara Region estimates that, by the end of 2021, ridership had fallen to approximately 25% of 2019 levels. To date, ridership has seen a considerable rebound, reaching 95% of pre-COVID ridership levels.
- GO Transit train service to Niagara Falls is available 7 days a week, and GO train service to the St. Catharines VIA station has resumed.
- The Road Closures in Niagara web page provides a full list of road closures in the Niagara Region; and the information can also be mapped on Municipal511.
- Active Transportation and Active Living Advisory Committees in local municipalities in Niagara advise on active transportation priorities, such as connectivity; bike lanes; safe and active routes to school; and public education about the benefits, necessities and safety considerations of active transportation.
- More than 1,680 businesses are certified as bicycle friendly by Ontario By Bike. The 2023 Ontario Cycle Tourism's Cycling Activity Report shows that cycle tourism is growing in Ontario, and is making a valuable contribution to the tourism economy.
- In 2023, the St. Catharines Downtown Association was certified as a bicycle-friendly business area within the Ontario By Bike Network, the first such organization in Niagara to be designated.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND

