



Transportation & Mobility

Everyone in our community having access to a range of affordable, sustainable transportation choices, and ease of movement of people and goods are essential for quality of life.

Happening Now

- The NRT OnDemand Ridesharing Pilot Project for communities in West Niagara launched in August, 2020. Riders can request trips in real-time through an app or over the phone by selecting a pickup point and destination. For a \$3 fare, residents of Grimsby, Lincoln and Pelham can access trips within their municipality. For a \$6 fare, residents of Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Wainfleet and West Lincoln can access trips to other communities. NRT OnDemand riders arriving at any of NRT's three transit hubs (St. Catharines Bus Terminal; Welland Bus Terminal; Port Colborne City Hall) can transfer onto Regional or local transit to complete their trip.
- The work of integrating municipal transit is underway. A Niagara Transit Governance Study completed in October, 2020 found a significant opportunity to increase transit use in the region through amalgamation. The study recommends a Full Commission Model because of its autonomy and financial benefits.
- Six local municipalities, and Niagara Region have Active Transportation (AT) Advisory Committees. These committees advise on AT 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.
- As of 2019, the Ontario by Bike Network had certified 1,531 bicycle-friendly businesses in the province, including 163 in Niagara. In 2018, the GO Transit Toronto-Niagara Seasonal Service Route transported a total of 2,557 bicycles. Top activity preferences by Ontario cycling tourists, in order, are: visiting museums and cultural sites; wine and beer tastings; going to the beach; hiking and other outdoor activities; and arts and studio tours.



What's Emerging

- The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the important role of community-based transportation and shuttle services, in supporting vulnerable individuals and those with complex challenges to be able to access health and human services.
- Local municipal governments are working with Niagara Regional Council to refine financial, governance and service planning aspects of an integrated transit model for Niagara.
- Overall transit ridership across Niagara is projected to grow by up to 80% by 2031. It is projected that most local municipal transit services in the region can expect over 25% growth. The highest rates of increase are projected for the Town of Lincoln; the Town of Pelham; and the City of Port Colborne.
- The NRT OnDemand Ridesharing Pilot Project launch was well-received, and ridership is expected to grow. Between mid-August, 2020 and the end of February, 2021, a total of 11,342 rides were taken within and between Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, West Lincoln, St. Catharines, Welland, Wainfleet and Port Colborne.
- A Complete Streets Design Manual is being developed by Niagara Region Public Works, to guide Regional Road system planning and design. The complete streets approach considers the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and motorists; and focuses on building streets that balance these needs and prioritize road safety. Consideration is also given to creating places in streets that contribute to healthy ecosystems, social inclusion, and vibrant business activity.
- Planning and capital works projects continue, for expanded GO service in Niagara. In 2020, a Metrolinx business case update specified that there will be 11 GO trains daily, 7 days a week, to and from Niagara. The service pattern will include 6 outbound trains from Niagara Falls to Union Station, and 5 trains inbound from Union Station to Niagara Falls.

Suggested Community Action Steps

- Build upon momentum toward transit integration and enhanced GO service in Niagara, to maximize resources and take advantage of growth opportunities as our community emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continue to support active transportation and complete streets planning and community action.
- Bring municipal and community agency transportation leaders together to share information. Do this for the purpose of achieving cohesion and continual improvement, by collectively looking through an inclusivity lens.

Indicators Measures for these indicators can be found at: www.livinginniagarareport.com

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