

## **MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Transit Facilities, Strategic Assets & Service Network Master Plan Update**

**Date: February 18, 2025**

**To: Niagara Transit Commission Board**

**From: Heather Talbot, Manager of Integration & Transformation**

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The purpose of this memo is to provide the comprehensive background study (stage 1) of the NTC Transit Facilities, Strategic Assets & Service Network Master Plan being completed by the consulting firm Left Turn Right Turn. This study includes an analysis of current transit systems, community needs assessment, and potential areas for improvement.

These findings will serve as the foundation for Stage 2 of our Growth and Strategic Long-Term Implementation Plan, ensuring that our public transit systems meet the evolving needs of our community. The study emphasizes stakeholder engagement, innovative solutions, and sustainability in transit planning.

## **Background**

As Niagara Region continues to experience growth and demographic changes, there is an increasing demand for efficient and reliable public transit options. A well-structured Master Plan will not only enhance connectivity within the region but also promote sustainable transportation practices, reduce traffic congestion, and improve overall quality of life for residents.

## **Objectives of Stage 1: Background Study**

### **1. Data Collection and Analysis:**

- Gather relevant data on current transit usage, demographics, land use patterns, and future growth projections.
- Analyze existing transit services and identify gaps in coverage and efficiency.

## **2. Stakeholder Engagement:**

- Engage with key stakeholders, including local municipalities, transit providers, community organizations, and residents, to gather insights and feedback.
- Foster collaboration to ensure that the transit plan aligns with regional goals and community needs.

## **3. Best Practices Review:**

- Review successful public transit models from other regions to identify the best practices that can be adapted for Niagara.
- Assess innovative technologies and strategies that could enhance service delivery.

## **4. Sustainability Considerations:**

- Evaluate the environmental impact of current transit operations and propose sustainable alternatives.

## **5. Financial Assessment:**

- Conduct a preliminary financial analysis to estimate costs associated with proposed transit improvements and explore funding opportunities.

The background study is a critical step in developing a robust Master Plan that will support the Niagara Region's growth and guide strategic transit innovations and implementation for years to come. By completing this study, we can ensure that our transit system is responsive to community needs, environmentally sustainable, and economically viable.

## **Next Steps**

- Develop various regionwide transit service network strategies which provide options covering modest to substantial investments.
- Conduct round-two stakeholder consultations to collect feedback on various service options and willingness to pay to realize each option.
- Develop transit service guidelines which will be used to provide a structures approach to planning, managing and improving transit service across the region.

Respectfully submitted and signed by



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**Prepared by:**

Heather Talbot

Manager of Integration and Transformation

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1

Niagara TMP Background Context Report