



Friday February 7, 2025

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of the Council,

On behalf of the Transit Action Alliance of Guelph (TAAG), we express our strong support for the proposed train service linking Guelph and Cambridge, as outlined in the 2024 Initial Business Case for the [Cambridge to Union Passenger Rail Connection](#). This transit initiative represents a significant and necessary first step toward bridging the transit gap between Guelph, Cambridge, and other watershed cities like Kitchener, Waterloo, and Brantford.

While the train service is the ultimate goal, introducing an initial bus service between Guelph and Cambridge will help build the business case for the rail project. This phased approach ensures that the demand and feasibility of such a connection are demonstrated, laying a strong foundation for the eventual implementation of passenger rail service. For your reference, we have also attached a fact sheet summarizing the key benefits of this project.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to make Guelph a sustainable and equitable transportation leader. We look forward to working together to achieve this important milestone for our community and region.

Sincerely,

Steven Petric
Vice Chair (Advocacy)
Transit Action Alliance of Guelph (TAAG)



Benefits Fact Sheet

Economic Growth and Regional Development

- Improves access to jobs, education, services, and key institutions like the University of Guelph and Conestoga College.
- Attracts businesses and workers, boosting the regional economy and supporting local job markets while fostering collaboration between Guelph and Cambridge.
- Strengthens local economies by creating tourism opportunities and increasing foot traffic to shops, restaurants, and cultural attractions.
- Encourages higher-density development around transit hubs, like Guelph Central Station, enabling mixed-use development and addressing housing needs by allowing people to live in one city and work or go to school in another.

Environmental Sustainability and Health

- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion, promoting a cleaner environment.
- Encourages active transportation (walking, biking) alongside transit, improving public health.
- Offers sustainable transit alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles, supporting Guelph's climate action goals and the Transportation Master Plan.

Accessibility and Regional Connectivity

- Improves connectivity between Guelph, Cambridge, and surrounding areas, enhancing regional collaboration.
- Provides affordable and accessible transit for all residents, including students, seniors, and low-income individuals.
- Provides GO Transit connections, aligning with provincial transit goals and supporting regional integration with Toronto and the GTA.

Cost Efficiency and Long-Term Sustainability

- Reduces transportation costs for households and businesses, while decreasing infrastructure strain.
- Provides scalable infrastructure that adapts to population growth and future needs.
- Explores new service models and partnerships to ensure flexibility and innovation in transit delivery.