

November 13, 2025

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

As a member of TAAG and someone who works with local businesses, I see firsthand how reliable public transit shapes a city's economy and quality of life. I'm concerned the proposed 2026 budget could delay the Quality Transit Network (QTN), including high-frequency service and critical Transit Priority Measures in key corridors of intensification.

Firstly, transit isn't just for students or low-income residents who don't have a car; it's essential for everyone. Workers, families, and businesses. It connects us to jobs, services, and opportunities.

A proactive investment in transit is a big win, **even for taxpayers who never ride the bus.**

Strong transit attracts housing development, supports downtown vitality, and reduces congestion for all. When transit service lags, it creates a cycle: poor service reduces ridership, which limits economic opportunity and discourages investment - making it even harder to improve later.

I urge Council to:

1. Commit to phased, cost-effective improvements like Transit Priority Measures along the Mainline route and other pedestrianized or high-density corridors.
2. Improve pedestrian safety and connectivity to bus stops to make transit accessible for all residents.
3. Require clear accountability for fleet availability during refurbishments.
4. **Invest early** in transit infrastructure and operational funding to support future growth, ensuring new housing developments and businesses have strong service (ie. high frequency routes) from the start.
5. Expand youth transit programs to encourage lifelong ridership, and extend free service to seniors.

Investment in transit is worth paying for. We don't need to cut other priorities to make this happen - and we can do it in an affordable way. Transit should be funded as a smart investment in Guelph's future because the return is clear: reduced congestion, stronger economic growth, and a city that attracts talent and opportunity. Delaying investment is a choice to delay Guelph's growth.

Let's make transit a priority for the people who keep this city thriving.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

My best,

Eric Unger
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Resident of Guelph and member of Transit Action Alliance of Guelph (TAAG)