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Friday, May 2, 2025

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Sherri-Marie Millar, P.Eng.
Director of Infrastructure Services/City Engineer
Jen Croswell
Water/Sewer Compliance Supervisor

DATE: Friday, May 2, 2025

SUBJECT: 2024 Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report

Purpose:

This memorandum and the 2024 Welland Water Distribution System Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report (Annual Report, Appendix I) have been prepared to satisfy requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, Ontario Regulation 170/03, for the Welland Water Distribution System.

Key Points:

- The City of Welland (the City) continues to provide clean and safe drinking water to consumers;
- The Annual Report (Appendix I) has been prepared to meet legislated requirements for the Welland Water Distribution System and includes, water quality results, an evaluation for lead replacement, monthly water volume totals, and non-compliance information;
- The Annual Report is available to the public on the external website or by request; and
- The annual drinking water system inspection (2024-2025) resulted in zero non-compliances and an inspection rating of 100 percent.

Background:

As the Operating Authority of the Welland Distribution System, the City is required to provide a drinking water summary report to Council on an annual basis, under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022 (Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems).

The summary report must include:

- a description of any failure to meet the requirements of any governing Act, Regulation, Order or Approval that the Drinking Water System operates under, along with the actions the Operating Authority undertook to mitigate any such non-compliance; and
- a summary of water flow rates including maximum daily flow rates and instantaneous peak flow rates in comparison with the capacity of the water works identified in the drinking water license and permit.

Niagara Region is responsible for treatment and system storage and the City is responsible for distribution of water to consumers. Due to the two-tier nature of water treatment and distribution, the summary of water flows is reflective of monthly water volume purchased from Niagara Region. For information related to maximum daily and peak flow rates, see the Welland Water Treatment Plant - 2024 Summary Report (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/water-quality-reports/welland/default.aspx>), prepared by Niagara Region.

To meet other legislated annual reporting requirements, the City must prepare a water quality report and a lead evaluation report. These reports are not required to be provided to Council. To promote transparency and highlight operational performance, a combined report has been prepared for all three reporting obligations and covers the reporting period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, inclusive.

For additional background information, see the Annual Report (Appendix I).

Discussion:

The Annual Report (Appendix I) has been prepared for Council review and public access. The report includes water quality results, an evaluation for lead replacement, monthly water volume totals, and non-compliance information. It can be accessed from the City's website (<https://www.welland.ca/Finance/DWQA.asp>) or by request from City staff.

Highlights from Appendix I are included below.

Water Quality Results

In 2024, the City collected 1,453 microbiological samples (E. coli, total coliforms) and performed 4,886 operational tests (free chlorine) to monitor and maintain water quality within the distribution system.

All water quality sample results for the reporting period were responded to in accordance with regulatory requirements or met the prescribed health standards identified by Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards and operational testing requirements of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

Changes to the City's distribution system sampling, testing, and monitoring program, throughout 2024, resulted in a reduction in the total number of samples for the 2024 sampling year. Additional sample reductions are expected in 2025. These changes are being implemented to better align sampling practices with municipal standard practice and support the overall monitoring and optimization of the distribution system.

Adverse Water Quality Incidents

The following table summarizes the notices of adverse water quality incidents submitted in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Adverse water quality incidents are reported to the Spills Action Centre and the Medical Officer of Health.

All corrective actions to resolve all incidents were completed to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health.

Incident Date	Adverse Condition	Corrective Action	Completion Date
2024-06-13	Free Chlorine Below Standard	- Flush watermain - Confirmation of free chlorine residual - One set of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream)	2024-06-16
2024-07-17	Free Chlorine Below Standard	- Flush watermain - Confirmation of free chlorine residual - One set of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream)	2024-07-22
2024-09-09	Total Coliform Detection	- Flush watermain - Confirmation of free chlorine residual - Two sets of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream) 24 hours apart	2024-09-17

Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Welland Distribution System received zero non-compliances and an inspection rating of 100% for the 2024-2025 annual drinking water system inspection. The inspection was conducted by a Provincial Officer with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Conclusion:

The Annual Report (Appendix I) has been prepared to meet legislated requirements for the Welland Water Distribution System and includes, water quality results, an evaluation for lead replacement, monthly water volume totals, and non-compliance information and is available to the public on the external website or by request.

The annual drinking water system inspection (2024-2025) resulted in zero non-compliances and an inspection rating of 100 percent, and the City continues to provide clean and safe drinking water to consumers.

Attachments

Appendix I – 2024 Welland Water Distribution System Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report



**Welland Distribution System (Drinking Water)
City of Welland**

2024 Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report
(Prepared under Ontario Regulation 170/03)

January 1 to December 31, 2024

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

**Municipal Drinking Water Licence # 076-101
Drinking Water Works Permit # 076-201**

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1. Water Quality Report

This annual water quality report summarizes the quality of drinking water from the Welland Distribution System, Drinking Water System number (DWS) 260003149, from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

Additional water quality information for the Welland Water Treatment Plant can be accessed from Niagara Region's Water Quality Report website (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/water-quality-reports/welland/default.aspx>).

This report satisfies the requirements of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

1.1. Description of Drinking Water System

The City of Welland (City) is the owner and operating authority of the Welland Distribution System (DWS 260003149).

The City purchases wholesale drinking water for the Welland Distribution System from Niagara Region, the owner and operating authority of the Welland Water Treatment Plant (DWS 2200002048), located at 4 Cross Street North in Welland, Ontario.

The Welland Water Treatment Plant obtains source water indirectly from Lake Erie, via the Welland Canal and the Welland Recreational Waterway (Old Welland canal). The Welland Water Treatment Plant is a conventional surface water treatment plant and, though not used, can operate as a direct filtration plant. The water treatment process uses aluminum sulphate and primary disinfection is achieved using sodium hypochlorite with ultraviolet light as enhancement.

The Welland Distribution System provides water to the City of Thorold (DWS 260049621) and the Highlands Resident's Association (DWS 260093522). Drinking water is conveyed to consumers via 274.4 km of City owned watermain and 30.7 km of Niagara Region owned watermain, which range in size from 50 mm (2") to 750 mm (30").

The City does not add additional chemicals within the distribution system for the purpose of drinking water treatment.

1.2. Monetary Expenses Incurred

To ensure safe and efficient operations, the following major repairs or upgrade projects took place:

- Capital watermain replacement, modelling, and studies – \$5,175,750

Costs are approximate.

1.3. Summary of Adverse Water Quality Incidents

The following table summarizes the notices of adverse water quality incidents submitted in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Adverse water quality incidents are reported to the Spills Action Centre and the Medical Officer of Health.

Where there have been no adverse water quality incidents for the reporting period, the table will show “NIL”.

Incident Date	Adverse Condition	Corrective Action	Corrective Actions Complete Date
2024-06-13	Free Chlorine Below Standard	▪ Flush watermain ▪ Confirmation of free chlorine residual ▪ One set of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream)	2024-06-16
2024-07-17	Free Chlorine Below Standard	▪ Flush watermain ▪ Confirmation of free chlorine residual ▪ One set of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream)	2024-07-22
2024-09-09	Total Coliform Detection	▪ Flush watermain ▪ Confirmation of free chlorine residual ▪ Two sets of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream) 24 hours apart	2024-09-17

1.4. Water Quality Test Results

Reported results that are shown with “ND” (non-detect) instead of a numerical value indicate that the sample result is below the lowest possible detection limit for the parameter.

1.4.1. Microbiological Testing

Microbiological testing carried out under Schedule 10 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water systems, during this reporting period.

Location	Number of Samples	Range of E. coli Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Range of Total Coliform Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure
Distribution	1453	Not detectable	0 – 1	Not detectable	CFU/100ml

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

1.4.2. Heterotrophic Plate Count Testing

Heterotrophic plate count (HPC) testing is conducted on some distribution system samples. The HPC test is used as a tool to monitor overall quality, but the results are not indicators of water safety. There is no prescribed standard for HPC.

Location	Number of Samples	Range of HPC Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Unit of Measure
Distribution	1453	0 – 97	CFU/ml

1.4.3. Operational Testing

Operational testing carried out under Schedule 7 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period.

Location	Number of Samples	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Unit of Measure
Turbidity	4952	0 – 23	NTU*
Chlorine	4886	0.04 – 1.18	mg/L

*NTU (nephelometric turbidity units) is a unit that measures the lack of water clarity.

1.4.4. Additional Testing

Summary of additional testing and sampling carried out in accordance with the requirement of an approval, order, or other legal instrument.

Date of Legal Instrument Issued	Location: Parameter	Date Sampled	Result Value or Range (minimum number – maximum number)	Requirement	Unit of Measure
NIL					

1.4.5. Inorganic Testing

Inorganic parameter testing carried out under Schedule 13 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period. Inorganic substances include heavy metals and dissolved minerals that may be present in treated drinking water.

Parameter	Number of Samples	Last Sample Date	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure	Exceedance
NIL						

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The prescribed standard for sodium is copied from Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

1.4.6. Lead Testing

Lead testing carried out under Schedule 15.1 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period. Additional information for lead sampling is summarized in Section 2.

Parameter	Number of Sample Sets	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure	Exceedance
Distribution	NIL				
Plumbing	40	0.00003 – 0.03980	0.010	mg/L	Yes (6)

1.4.7. Organic Testing

Organic parameter testing carried out under Schedule 13 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period.

Parameter	Number of Samples	Results (running annual average)	Prescribed Standard* (running annual average)	Unit of Measure	Exceedance
HAA – Distribution	4	0.009	0.080	mg/L	No
THM – Distribution	4	0.040	0.100	mg/L	No

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

1.5. Parameters Exceeding Prescribed Half-Standard

Any inorganic or organic parameter(s) that exceeded half the standard prescribed in Schedule 2 of prescribed standards documented in Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards or prescribed standards documented within Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems for large municipal residential drinking water systems.

Where there have been no instances of a half-standard exceedance for the reporting period, the table will show “NIL”.

Parameter	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure	Date of Sample
NIL				

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The prescribed standard for sodium is copied from Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

2. Lead Evaluation Report

This report summarizes the actions taken to monitor the effectiveness of the lead service line replacement program for the Welland Distribution System, Drinking Water System (DWS) number 260003149, from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

This report satisfies the requirements of Schedule D, Section 1.0 Lead Regulatory Relief of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence (Issue 8).

2.1.1. Summary of Current Lead Reduction Strategies

Current lead reduction strategies undertaken by the City include:

- Public lead service replacement
- Private lead service replacement (Lead Replacement Program)
- Lead sample collection and analysis for private premise plumbing (residential)
- Resident education and outreach
- Notification and coordination with Niagara Region Public Health

Historically, lead samples collected from the Welland Distribution System meet the prescribed lead standard of 0.010 mg/L required by Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. Results for lead sampling in the distribution system (2022) ranged from 0.00002 to 0.00029 mg/L and met the prescribed standard. Distribution lead sampling was not conducted since 2022 due to consistent results that meet drinking water standards.

On occasion, lead samples collected from private premise plumbing did exceed the prescribed standard for lead. In 2024, 6 private premise plumbing sample sets exceeded this standard. See Section 2.3 Sample Results for a summary of sample results.

Previous lead sample results for private premise plumbing suggest that efforts to replace City owned lead services have reduced lead levels (full or partial replacement).

2.2. Summary of Results and Implementation

2.2.1. Lead Service Replacement Progress

In 2024, a two-year public lead service replacement project targeting all remaining known public lead services that were not captured under planned capital improvements was completed. As a result, 125 lead services were replaced through capital projects and 21 were replaced through routine operations. The remaining known public lead services, approximately six, are scheduled for replacement in 2025 under planned capital projects.

The City continues to monitor private service material inventories based on available information and continues to fund and promote the Lead Replacement Program. The program provides grants to residents when replacing a private lead service. Grant

amounts are typically limited to \$1,500; however, provisions may allow amounts up to \$2,000 if certain conditions are met.

In 2024, eight private lead services were replaced through the program with approximately 974 remaining.

Additional lead services (City and privately owned) may be identified during watermain replacement and repair work. When this occurs, the City arranges for replacement of public lead services and, where applicable, encourages resident participation in voluntary private lead sampling offered through Public Works and the Lead Replacement Program.

2.2.2. Outreach and Education

City staff continue to provide outreach and education to the public regarding lead service lines and lead in drinking water through:

- The City of Welland website (<https://www.welland.ca/Building/LASSR.asp>).
- Direct communication with residents when lead service lines are discovered.
- Door to door requests for private premise lead sampling.
- Proactive outreach (letter) to areas with known or probable lead services.

Communication to residents includes information on lead in drinking water and information about the City's Lead Replacement Program.

2.2.3. Faucet Filter Program

The City of Welland does not offer a Faucet Filter program to residents. Where appropriate, the benefits of having a lead rated filter to reduce lead levels at the tap are communicated to residents. The information provided is prepared by Niagara Region Public Health.

2.2.4. Involvement of Public Health Authorities

Niagara Region Public Health provides education and outreach to residents when requested by City staff.

In addition, Niagara Region Public Health is notified of any lead sample exceedance for the Welland Distribution System or private premise plumbing; these results are reported as an exceedance of a prescribed drinking water sample under Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems and appropriate corrective actions are taken should they arise.

2.3. Sample Results

Lead samples are collected based on the requirements of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence and Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

In 2024, 42 lead samples were collected from private premise plumbing and resulted in 6 exceedances of the prescribed lead standard of 0.010 mg/L (Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards).

Twenty samples were collected during sample period one. One sample was collected in between sampling periods and has been included in the summary below; however, it has not been included in the total samples per sample period. Twenty-one samples were collected during sample period two. Two samples exceeded sample retention times and, as a result, were unable to be analyzed.

A summary of private residence lead samples completed in 2024 is shown below.

Sample Date (dd/mmm/yy)	Sample Location	Sample 1 Result (mg/L)	Sample 2 Result (mg/L)	Exceedance	Replaced
14-Feb-24	Redacted	0.00043	0.00018	No	No
14-Feb-24	Redacted	0.00075	0.00070	No	No
23-Feb-24	Redacted	0.00020	0.00008	No	No
23-Feb-24	Redacted	0.00095	0.00039	No	No
27-Feb-24	Redacted	0.00049	0.00019	No	No
28-Feb-24	Redacted	0.00033	0.00013	No	No
5-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00014	0.00007	No	No
7-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00003	0.00003	No	No
12-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00056	0.00019	No	No
12-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00036	0.00022	No	No
13-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00009	0.00007	No	No
13-Mar-24	Redacted	0.02540	0.02100	Yes	No
13-Mar-24	Redacted	0.01270	0.01110	Yes	No
14-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00006	0.00007	No	No
14-Mar-24	Redacted	0.01400	0.00623	Yes	No
15-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00527	0.00506	No	No
15-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00528	0.00514	No	No
15-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00564	0.00467	No	No
27-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00032	0.00011	No	No
27-Mar-24	Redacted	0.00022	0.00008	No	No
3-Apr-24	Redacted	0.01160	0.01080	Yes	Yes
23-May-24	Redacted	0.00013	0.00012	No	No
19-Jul-24	Redacted	0.00019	0.00008	No	No
8-Aug-24	Redacted	0.00221	0.00232	No	Yes
26-Sep-24	Redacted	-	-	-	-
26-Sep-24	Redacted	-	-	-	-
1-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00478	0.00507	No	No
1-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00156	0.00062	No	No

Sample Date (dd/mmm/yy)	Sample Location	Sample 1 Result (mg/L)	Sample 2 Result (mg/L)	Exceedance	Replaced
2-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00260	0.00248	No	No
2-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00014	0.00011	No	No
2-Oct-24	Redacted	0.02130	0.03980	Yes	No
2-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00018	0.00012	No	No
3-Oct-24	Redacted	0.01200	0.01800	Yes	No
3-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00014	0.00034	No	No
4-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00018	0.00010	No	No
7-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00007	0.00006	No	No
8-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00010	0.00010	No	No
8-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00008	0.00005	No	No
8-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00007	0.00010	No	No
9-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00011	0.00009	No	No
9-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00007	0.00014	No	No
15-Oct-24	Redacted	0.00032	0.00029	No	No

3. Summary Report – Regulatory Non-Compliance and Water Volume

This report summarizes the water volume by month, provided by Niagara Region, to the Welland Distribution System (DWS 260003149), from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

This report satisfies the requirements of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

3.1. Summary of Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Welland Distribution System received zero non-compliances and an inspection rating of 100% for the 2024–2025 annual drinking water system inspection. The inspection was conducted by a Provincial Officer with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

3.2. Summary of Water Volume

The drinking water volumes captured below are reflective of the wholesale water billing volumes supplied by Niagara Region.

Month	Total Water Volume (m ³)
January	585,479
February	551,661
March	575,413
April	553,204
May	607,863
June	640,911
July	675,074
August	665,286
September	626,362
October	617,020
November	571,267
December	630,352
2024 Total Volume	7,299,892

April 30, 2025

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Re: Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada

Please be advised that at its meeting of April 29, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet passed the following motion:

"THAT Correspondence Item C099 from the Town of Grimsby respecting Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada be supported; and

THAT this resolution be sent to all listed recipients on the original correspondence."

Should you have any questions, please contact me at achrastina@wainfleet.ca or 905-899-3463 ext. 224. Thank you.

Regards,



Amber Chrastina
Clerk

CC: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Honourable David McGuinty, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
The Honourable Stephen Crawford, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Dean Allison, MP Niagara West
Tony Baldinelli, MP Niagara Falls-Niagara-on-the-Lake

Chris Bittle, MP St. Catharines
Vance Badawey, MP Niagara South
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West
Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls
Jennie Stevens, MPP St. Catharines
Jeff Burch, MPP Niagara Centre
Local Area Municipalities



**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5

Phone: 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

Email: vssteel@grimsby.ca

Received April 9, 2025

C-2025-099

April 9, 2025

SENT VIA E-MAIL

mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Mark Carney

Prime Minister of Canada

80 Wellington Street

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Attention: The Right Honourable Mark Carney

RE: Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on March 31, 2025, passed the following resolution at the recommendation of the Town of Grimsby and Town of Lincoln's Joint Fire Services Advisory Committee:

Moved by: Councillor Delight Davoli

Seconded by: Mayor Sandra Easton

Whereas fire protection services are a critical component of public safety in every Canadian municipality;

And whereas the majority of fire trucks and emergency response vehicles and their associated major components are currently manufactured outside of Canada, contributing to extended delivery times, rising costs, and supply chain vulnerabilities;

And whereas building fire trucks domestically would strengthen Canada's emergency preparedness, create high-quality skilled jobs, stimulate local economies, reduce risk and exposures due to tariffs, and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers;

RE: Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada

And whereas Canadian municipalities continue to experience increased demand for reliable and timely delivery of fire and emergency service vehicles due to growth and modernization of fleets;

Therefore be it resolved that the Joint Fire Services Advisory Committee recommend to the Councils of the Town of Lincoln and Grimsby calls on the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario to explore opportunities to incentivize and support the manufacturing of fire trucks and emergency response vehicles within Canada;

And further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of Ontario, the Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Federal Minister of Public Safety, the Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Ontario Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Region of Niagara, Local Area Municipalities, and local MPs and MPPs for their consideration and support.

If you require any additional information, please reach out.

Regards,



Victoria Steele
Town Clerk

RE: Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada

CC: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario premier@ontario.ca; The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca; The Honourable David McGuinty, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness David.mcguinty@parl.gc.ca; The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org; The Honourable Stephen Crawford, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement Stephen.crawford@pc.ola.org; The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob.flack@pc.ola.org; Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolutions@fcm.ca; Association of Municipalities of Ontario policy@amo.on.ca; Julie Kirkelos, Clerk, Town of Lincoln jkirkelos@lincoln.ca; Jessica Dyson, Director of Legal and Legislative Services, Township of West Lincoln jdyson@westlincoln.ca; Amber Chrastina, Clerk, Township of Wainfleet achrastina@wainfleet.ca; Tara Stephens, Clerk, City of Welland tara.stephens@welland.ca; Peter Todd, Clerk, Town of Fort Erie ptodd@forterie.ca; Sarah Leach, Clerk, Town of Pelham sleach@pelham.ca; Bill Matson, Clerk, City of Niagara Falls bmatson@niagarafalls.ca; Charlotte Cooper-Madden, Clerk, City of Port Colborne cityclerk@portcolborne.ca; Donna Delvecchio, Clerk, City of St. Catharines ddelvecchio@stcatharines.ca; Nicholas Debono, Clerk, City of Thorold clerk@thorold.ca; Grant Bivol, Clerk, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake clerks@notl.com; Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Region of Niagara ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca; Dean Allison, MP Niagara West dean.allison@parl.gc.ca; Tony Baldinelli, MP Niagara Falls-Niagara-on-the-Lake Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca; Chris Bittle MP St. Catharines chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca; Vance Badawey MP Niagara South vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca; Sam Oosterhoff MPP Niagara West Sam.Oosterhoff@pc.ola.org; Wayne Gates MPP Niagara Falls wgates-qp@ndp.on.ca; Jennie Stevens MPP St. Catharines jstevens-qp@ndp.on.ca; Jeff Burch MPP Niagara Centre jburch-qp@ndp.on.ca



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD
BEAMSVILLE, ON L0R 1B1
905-563-8205

April 30, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Right Hon. Prime Minister, Mark Carney
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

**RE: Joint Fire Services Advisory Committee Resolution – Manufacturing of
Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada**

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its meeting held on April 28, 2025, endorsed correspondence from the Joint Fire Services Advisory Committee (attached) regarding the manufacturing of emergency vehicles in Canada with the following resolution:

Resolution Number: RC-2025-31
Moved by Mayor Easton; Seconded by Councillor J.D. Pachereva

That Council endorse the correspondence from the Joint Fire Services Advisory Committee regarding exploring opportunities to incentivize and support the manufacturing of fire trucks and emergency response vehicles within Canada.

CARRIED

Regards,

Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

- c.c. Premier of Ontario
 - Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
 - Federal Minister of Public Safety
 - Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
 - Ontario Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
 - Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
 - Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - Niagara Region
 - Niagara MPs and MPPs
 - Town of Grimsby
 - Local Area Municipalities



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD
BEAMSVILLE, ON L0R 1B1
905-563-8205

April 24, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Right Hon. Prime Minister, Mark Carney
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

**RE: Joint Fire Services Advisory Committee Resolution – Manufacturing of
Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada**

Please be advised that the Joint Fire Services Advisory Committee (JFSAC), at its meeting held on March 18, 2025, passed the following resolution regarding the manufacturing of emergency response vehicles in Canada.

This resolution was subsequently ratified by the Town of Lincoln's Committee of the Whole on March 24, 2025 (Resolution No. GBF-2025-02), and by Town Council at its regular meeting on March 31, 2025 (Resolution No. RC-2025-22).

Resolution Number: JFSAC-25-34
Moved by Councillor Davoli; Seconded by Mayor Easton

WHEREAS fire protection services are a critical component of public safety in every Canadian municipality.

WHEREAS the majority of fire trucks and emergency response vehicles and their associated major components are currently manufactured outside of Canada, contributing to extended delivery times, rising costs, and supply chain vulnerabilities.

WHEREAS building fire trucks domestically would strengthen Canada's emergency preparedness, create high-quality skilled jobs, stimulate local economies, reduce risk and exposures due to tariffs, and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers.

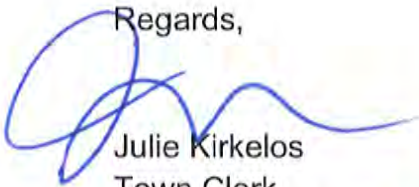
WHEREAS Canadian municipalities continue to experience increased demand for reliable and timely delivery of fire and emergency service vehicles due to growth and modernization of fleets.

Therefore be it resolved that the JFSAC recommend to the Councils of the Town of Lincoln and Grimsby calls on the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario to explore opportunities to incentivize and support the manufacturing of fire trucks and emergency response vehicles within Canada;

And further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of Ontario, the Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Federal Minister of Public Safety, the Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Ontario Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Region of Niagara, Local Area Municipalities, and local MPs and MPPs for their consideration and support.

CARRIED

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

c.c. Premier of Ontario
Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Federal Minister of Public Safety
Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Ontario Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Niagara Region
Niagara MPs and MPPs
Town of Grimsby
Local Area Municipalities

Administration

Office of the Regional Clerk

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977

www.niagararegion.ca

April 28, 2025

CL 6-2025, April 24, 2025

PEDC 3-2025, April 9, 2025

PDS 7-2025, April 9, 2025

Local Area Municipalities

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2024 Progress Report

PDS 7-2025

Regional Council, at its meeting held on April 24, 2025, passed the following recommendation of its Planning and Economic Development Committee:

That Report PDS 7-2025, dated April 9, 2025, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2024 Progress Report, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities.

A copy of PDS 7-2025 is enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

js

CLK-C 2025-041

cc: C. Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Relations
M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2024 Progress Report

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Recommendations

1. That Report PDS 7-2025 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That Report PDS 7-2025 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide the annual update on the progress of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2027. This follows the commitment made in report CAO 12-2022 when the Plan was approved by Regional Council.
- This Plan is vital for achieving the Equitable Region Council's Strategic Priority by creating opportunities for a safe and inclusive Niagara, ensuring the Region is welcoming, inclusive, and free from discrimination.
- As of December 2024, the Plan has a 38 per cent completion rate. Of the 44 action items, 12 are completed, 11 are progressing, and 21 are upcoming. Five action items were completed in 2024.
- At the end of 2024, 80 per cent of all active staff completed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fundamentals e-modules, including 87 per cent of all People Leaders.
- The workforce of Niagara Region is meeting the goal of reflecting the region's diverse population.

Financial Considerations

Expenses for the completed deliverables in 2024 were accommodated within the Council approved 2024 Growth Strategy and Economic Development Administration budget. The planned activities described in this report are within the Council approved 2025 Strategic Initiatives budget.

Analysis

The Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team, in collaboration with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee, Regional staff, and community members, developed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2027. Its vision is a welcoming and inclusive Niagara region where diversity and equity are valued and reflected. The mission is to advance equity, foster welcoming and inclusive communities and workplaces, and eliminate barriers and discrimination. The plan identifies six focus areas with a primary focus on the Niagara Region as an organization.

To ensure Council and the community are updated on implementation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan, staff have committed to provide annual update reports.

As of December 2024, the Plan is 38 per cent complete. Of the 44 action items identified in the Plan, 12 are completed, 11 are progressing, and 21 are upcoming. Appendix 1 includes a summary document with a selection of the action items completed or that made progress in 2024, as well as a summary of the demographic results from the 2024 Employee Engagement Survey.

The demographic data from the Employee Engagement Survey is used to track the diversity of Niagara Region's workforce in comparison to the demographics of the community. This is part of Focus Area C in the Plan. The data is used to identify potential barriers and implement best practices in recruitment and hiring to address those barriers, with the aim to increase the diversity of the workforce.

According to the 2021 Canadian Census, the population in Niagara is 13 per cent racialized, 18 per cent were not born in Canada, and five per cent were part of a religious minority. Based on the 2024 Employee Engagement Survey, the employees at the Region are 14 per cent racialized, 19 per cent were not born in Canada, and five per cent were part of a religious minority.

Additionally, progress updates can be tracked on a public dashboard, accessible through the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023 - 2027 Dashboard](https://performance.envisio.com/dashboard/niagararegion101) (<https://performance.envisio.com/dashboard/niagararegion101>).

Some of the accomplishments in 2024 include the following:

- Thirty-one employees were recognized through the Corporate Employee Recognition Program and Team (CERT) Awards for their contributions to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Three Community of Practice meetings were held. There are currently 123 members representing 87 organizations participating in the Community of Practice.
- At the end of 2024, 80 per cent of all active Region staff (3,274 out of 4,077) had completed the e-module training, including 87 per cent of People Leaders.
- Ninety-six per cent of People Leaders (383) participated in a one-hour in-person training on Inclusive Leadership.
- The workforce of Niagara Region is meeting the goal of reflecting the region's diverse population.
- The 2024 Calendar of Significant Events were used to provide monthly summaries of 247 significant dates and 45 individual spotlight dates. In 2024, the monthly summaries had 2,700 total views and the spotlight date posts had 4,195 total views.

Some of the key actions that will continue or begin in 2025 include the following:

- Develop and promote the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Handbook.
- Create and promote a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Charter.
- Deliver diversity, equity, and inclusion learning for all staff, Councillors, and volunteers.
- Implement best practices to eliminate barriers in recruitment and hiring processes.
- Report on periodic community diversity, equity, and inclusion surveys that include evaluating the impact of Niagara Region programs and services.
- Review Niagara Region policies and procedures using the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Handbook.
- Work with Region staff to recognize and showcase significant dates.

Alternatives Reviewed

No alternatives were reviewed.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2027 aligns with Regional Council's Strategic Priorities by offering a framework to address diversity, equity, inclusion. This Plan contributes to creating an Equitable Region by fostering a safe and inclusive environment in Niagara. It is an action in the Priorities that emphasizes responding to community needs, planning for future growth, and ensuring the Region remains welcoming and free from discrimination. The Plan contributes to the strategic lens of diversity, equity, inclusion and Indigenous reconciliation by providing training and resources for staff to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion and reconciliation in all Niagara Region projects, programs and services.

Other Pertinent Reports

- [CAO 12-2022 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2027](https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=28405)
(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=28405>)
- [PDS 12-2024 – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023 Progress Report](https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=36719)
(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=36719>)

Prepared by:

Cassandra Ogguniyi, PhD, MSocSci
Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion,
and Indigenous Relations
Office of the Deputy CAO

Recommended by:

Michelle Sergi, MCIP, RPP
Deputy CAO
Office of the Deputy CAO

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Yusuf Al-Harazi, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisor, and reviewed by Jimmy Huynh, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Intern; Suzanne Madder, Associate Director, Strategic Initiatives; Angela Stea, Director, Strategic Initiatives; Janine Tessmer, Communications Consultant; and Susan White, Program Financial Specialist.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2024 Progress Report

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2024 Progress Report

April 9, 2025

Introduction

The Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team, in collaboration with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee, Regional staff, and community members, developed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2027. Its vision is a welcoming and inclusive Niagara region where diversity and equity are valued and reflected. The mission is to advance equity, foster welcoming and inclusive communities and workplaces, and eliminate barriers and discrimination. The plan identifies six focus areas based on staff and community consultations.

To ensure Council and the community are updated on implementation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan, staff have committed to provide annual update reports.

Progress updates can be tracked on a public dashboard launched in 2024, accessible through the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023 - 2027 Dashboard](https://performance.envisio.com/dashboard/niagararegion101) (<https://performance.envisio.com/dashboard/niagararegion101>).

As of December 2024, the Plan has a 38 per cent completion rate. Of the 44 action items, 12 are completed, 11 are progressing, and 21 are upcoming. Five action items were completed in 2024. This report includes a selection of the action items which were completed or made progress in 2024.





Focus Area A: Inclusive workplace culture, leadership, and accountability

Enabling an organization where leaders are accountable and provide an environment where staff and community members feel heard and respected.

Goal 1.1: Increase per cent of Niagara Region staff who report that they feel heard, respected, and valued by their managers by five per cent.

Create a program that recognizes staff who advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Status: Completed

Thirty-one employees were recognized through the Corporate Employee Recognition Program and Team (CERT) Awards for their contributions to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. This marked the second year of the diversity, equity, and inclusion category within the program.

Develop and distribute a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Handbook.

Status: On Track

Development of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Handbook continues with significant consultation and staff participation throughout the organization. The handbook will help Regional staff integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion into their daily work.

Establish and lead a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Community of Practice.

Status: Completed

In 2024, three Community of Practice meetings were held. There are currently 123 members representing 87 organizations participating in the Community of Practice.

Create and promote a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Charter.

Status: On Track

The Niagara Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Community of Practice (which includes Area Municipalities) is creating an Inclusion Charter to guide the work of the Community of Practice.

Performance Measure:

Goal 1.1: In 2024, 75 per cent of Niagara Region staff report that they feel heard, respected, and valued by their managers (Employee Engagement Survey, 2024).

Target: 84 per cent. **Current:** Trending down.





Focus Area B: Increased Understanding and Humility Through Learning

Providing knowledge, skills, and learning opportunities for staff, Councillors, volunteers, and community members to increase their ability to understand and use diversity equity, and inclusion principles and demonstrate cultural humility.

Goal 2.1: Increase the knowledge, skills, and competencies of staff, Councillors, and volunteers to be equipped to support the diverse population of Niagara by ten per cent.

Deliver diversity, equity, and inclusion learning for all staff and volunteers.

Status: On Track

Completed first full year of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training which included mandatory e-modules for all staff on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fundamentals. At the end of 2024, 80 per cent of all active staff (3,274 out of 4,077) had completed the e-modules, including 348 (87 per cent) of active People Leaders and 2,865 (79 per cent) of non-People Leaders.

Implement inclusive leadership development.

Status: On Track

383 (96 per cent) People Leaders participated in a one-hour in-person training on Inclusive Leadership. This included 45 new leaders who participated in the Leader's Edge program.

Deliver diversity, equity, and inclusion learning for all Councillors.

Status: On Track

Leela MadhavaRau provided Council training in May 2024 on how to integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into policy decisions.

Performance Measure:

Goal 2.1: Average 17.6 per cent knowledge growth for People Leaders through Inclusive Leadership sessions (Training session assessments, 2024).

Target: 10 per cent.

Current: Trending up.





Focus Area C: Diverse Workforce Reflective of Niagara's Community

Using evidence informed best practices to recruit, hire, retain, and promote a more diverse workforce.

Goal 3.1: Use a variety of inclusive strategies to hire, retain, and promote the workforce of Niagara Region to reflect the region's diverse population based on the Canadian Census.

Implement best practices to eliminate barriers in recruitment, hiring, and promotion processes.

Status: On Track

In 2024, the Employee Equity statement was updated on Niagara Region job postings. Training on best practices was included in Inclusive Leadership through the Leader's Edge program.

Monitor, report, and celebrate the diversity of workplace composition.

Status: On Track

Compared to the 2021 Canadian Census, the workforce of Niagara Region is equally or more diverse than the population in Niagara. See appendix A for full tables of the 2024 staff demographic data.

Promote the business case for diversity, equity, and inclusion

Status: Completed

The business case for diversity, equity, and inclusion was communicated through various methods, including staff training sessions, as well as internal and external communications. Three videos were produced to highlight the progress of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan.

Performance Measure:

Goal 3.1: The workforce of Niagara Region is meeting the goal of reflecting the region's diverse population in comparison to the 2021 Census (Employee Engagement Survey, 2024).

Target: 13 per cent racialized, 18 per cent not born in Canada, 5 per cent religious minority.

Current: 14 per cent racialized, 19 per cent not born in Canada, 5 per cent religious minority.





Focus Area D: Programs and Services Meet the Needs of Everyone

Providing evidence-informed best practices and resources to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into Niagara Region programs and services.

Goal 4.1: One hundred per cent of Niagara Region Divisions have incorporated diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into their work.

Improve the process for complaints within Niagara Region programs and services relating to bias or discrimination.

Status: Upcoming

Working towards improving the process for complaints in partnership with the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, which was finalized and approved in December 2024.



Focus Area E: Addressing Discrimination

Reviewing and revising policies and processes, in partnership with diverse communities, to address and reduce discrimination experienced in Niagara.

Goal 5.1: Increase the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion score for Niagara Region employees by five per cent.

Publish a formal anti-discrimination acknowledgement statement.

Status: On Track

Work has begun to create an anti-discrimination acknowledgement statement, including a discussion at the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Performance Measure:

Goal 5.1: The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Score remained the same at 75 per cent for Niagara Region employees (Employee Engagement Survey, 2024).

Target: 80 per cent.

Current: No change from 2021.





Focus Area F: Inclusive Communication

Providing clear, inclusive, representative communication for staff and community members to showcase significant dates, provide key information, and recognize leaders that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Goal 6.1 Ninety per cent of Niagara Region staff feel represented and included in diversity, equity, and inclusion related communications and initiatives.

Publish a calendar of significant dates.

Status: Completed

The 2024 Calendar of Significant Events were used to provide monthly summaries of 247 significant dates and 45 individual spotlight dates. In 2024, the monthly summaries had 2,700 total views with an average of 225 views per monthly summary and 4,195 total views for the spotlight date posts with an average of 93 views per post on Vine.

Ensure diverse staff are recognized.

Status: Completed

A “Stories of Diversity” series was launched to highlight the innovative diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within the organization and to showcase individual stories. This

included three features on the Supervised Practice Experience Partnership program for foreign-trained nurses, which garnered significant positive feedback from staff.

Support events with community partners to recognize special days and events showcasing diversity.

Status: Completed

Four external events with community partners were organized in 2024. Two staff awareness events were organized. A panel discussion for Black History Month was held in February. A decorating contest and celebration with dancers, drummers, and Indian food took place at the end of October for Diwali. Positive feedback was received from staff and Long Term Care residents about the celebration events held throughout the year.



Appendix A: 2024 Employee Engagement Survey Results

The following data are from the 2024 Niagara Region Employee Engagement Survey. A total of 2,604 responses were received, a 71 per cent response rate.

Table 1: Employee Engagement Survey Results for Race.

Race	Total %	People Leader %	Non People Leader %	2021 Census ¹
White	72%	85%	70%	87%
Racialized (combined calculation of Asian, Black, Latin American, and Middle Eastern)	14%	5%	15%	13%
Prefer not to answer	12%	9%	13%	N/A
Asian (South)	4%	1%	4%	3%
Black	3%	1%	4%	3%
Asian (South East)	3%	1%	4%	1%
Not listed, please describe	2%	2%	2%	N/A
Indigenous	2%	1%	2%	3%
Asian (East)	2%	1%	2%	3%
Latin American	2%	1%	2%	2%
Middle Eastern	1%	1%	1%	1%
Do not know	0%	1%	0%	N/A

Table 2: Employee Engagement Survey Results for Length of Time in Canada.

Length of Time in Canada	Total %	People Leader %	Non People Leader %	2021 Census ¹
I was born in Canada	74%	83%	72%	81%
I was not born in Canada (combined calculation of 0 to more than 10 years)	19%	12%	20%	18%
More than 10 years	13%	12%	13%	14%
Prefer not to answer	7%	4%	8%	N/A
6 to 10 years	3%	0%	3%	1%
0 to 5 years	3%	0%	3%	2%



Table 3: Employee Engagement Survey Results for Disability.

Disability	Total %	People Leader %	Non People Leader %
No chronic health concern or disability	52%	68%	49%
Identifies as having a chronic health concern or disability (combined calculation of all disabilities listed)	27%	19%	28%
Prefer not to answer	20%	12%	21%
Mental health disability [example: bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety]	16%	10%	17%
Physical/chronic illness and/or pain [examples: diabetes, heart condition, kidney disease, lung disease, rheumatoid arthritis]	9%	8%	9%
Learning disability [example: dyslexia]	3%	1%	3%
Not listed, please describe	3%	2%	4%
Deaf, deafened or hard of hearing	2%	1%	2%
Do not know	2%	1%	3%
Addiction (alcohol, drugs, gambling or other)	1%	1%	1%
Blindness or low vision [does not include vision correctable by glasses or contact lenses]	1%	1%	1%
Mobility disability [examples: cane, wheelchair]	1%	0%	1%
Neurologic disorders [example: Parkinson's disease]	1%	0%	1%
Physical, coordination, manual dexterity, or strength [example: handling objects]	1%	1%	1%
Speech and language disability [not caused by hearing loss]	1%	0%	1%
Substance (over)use or dependence	1%	0%	1%
Developmental or cognitive disability [example: Down syndrome]	0%	0%	0%



Table 4: Employee Engagement Survey Results for Religion

Religion	Total %	People Leader %	Non People Leader %	2021 Census ¹
Christian	21%	20%	22%	31%
No religious affiliation	21%	25%	20%	34%
Roman Catholic	19%	23%	19%	29%
Prefer not to answer	16%	10%	17%	N/A
Atheist	6%	6%	5%	N/A
Agnostic	5%	8%	5%	N/A
Religious Minority (Calculated compilation of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Indigenous Spirituality, Jewish)	5%	3%	6%	5%
Not listed, please specify	3%	3%	3%	N/A
Protestant	3%	3%	3%	N/A
Hindu	1%	0%	1%	1%
Muslim	1%	1%	1%	2%
Sikh	1%	0%	1%	1%
Buddhist	1%	1%	1%	1%
Indigenous Spirituality	1%	0%	1%	0%

Table 5: Employee Engagement Survey Results for Sexuality. There is no related Census data available.

Sexuality	Total %	People Leader %	Non People Leader %
Heterosexual or Straight	76%	88%	74%
Prefer not to answer	17%	10%	18%
Number of people who identify as another sexual orientation (Combined calculation of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Queer, Two Spirit)	6%	2%	7%
Bisexual	3%	1%	3%
Queer	1%	0%	1%
Do not know	1%	0%	1%
Not listed, please describe	1%	0%	1%
Gay	0%	1%	0%
Lesbian	0%	0%	1%



Table 6: Employee Engagement Survey Results for Gender

Gender	Total %	People Leader %	Non People Leader %	2021 Census ¹
Woman	61%	52%	62%	51%
Man	26%	38%	24%	49%
Prefer not to answer	11%	10%	12%	N/A
Gender Diverse (combined calculation of Non-binary, Trans man, Trans woman, Two Spirit)	1%	0%	1%	N/A
Not listed, please describe	1%	0%	1%	N/A

References

1. Statistics Canada. 2022. Census Profile. Niagara Region. 2021 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released October 26, 2022. (www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E)



April 24, 2025

Mayor and Council
60 East Main St.
Welland, ON
L3B 3X4

Dear Mayor Campion and Council,

I am pleased to present the General Manager's Annual Report for Niagara Transit for 2024. This annual report reflects our achievements and the challenges we faced in our second year of operation, as well as providing key performance indicators (KPIs) we measure our service by.

Additionally, I have also provided the 2025 Q1 statistics from our commingled services, as we will be providing this data to our Board, Regional Council, and local municipalities on an ongoing basis moving forward. The improvements in our commingled metrics reflect the intensive work staff have done with our contractor and the changes that were implemented at the beginning of 2025.

Thank you for your ongoing support of transit. Together we're continuing to create a truly connected, barrier free Niagara.

Sincerely,



Carla Stout
General Manager, Niagara Transit



Niagara
Transit



General Manager's 2024 Annual Report

General Manager's Message

On behalf of Niagara Transit, I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual General Manager's Report. This report is a snapshot of our successes and challenges throughout the year. It provides insight into where we've been and where we're going, in 2025 and beyond.

We would not be where we are today without the many individuals that have contributed, and continue to contribute, their talent, hard work, dedication and passion to make transit in Niagara a truly connected network that serves our ridership and the broader community. Our board, our staff and our ridership have all contributed to how far we have come in such a short period of time. I want to make special mention of our operators and front-line staff who keep our wheels turning on a daily basis. Your dedication and professionalism are never taken for granted.

Everything we do at Niagara Transit is guided by our core values and foundational pillars.

Service Excellence Safety Customer Focus
Affordability Employee Success

In 2024 we made significant strides in all these areas and will make even more in 2025.

Our on-time performance (OTP) led our industry peers, our ridership continued to significantly outpace our budget, we launched our new brand, made improvements to our customer service hours, replaced the 'Red Line' and made other service improvements to our conventional and microtransit services.

As we move into our third year, I am excited by what the future holds for transit in Niagara. This year we will complete our master plan that will modernize our operations and lay out the path for where we are headed for the next ten years. We are reshaping our specialized transit service to meet the needs of our most vulnerable riders. We are harmonizing fares across the system and introducing the Transit Benefit Pass to make transit affordable for those in our community who receive Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program assistance.

Thank you for your continued commitment to transit in Niagara. Our service truly makes a difference to our ridership and the Niagara community. It is an exciting time to be a part of Niagara Transit! We're just getting started!

Sincerely,



Carla Stout, DPA, General Manager





2024 Board of Directors

Chair Mayor Mathew Siscoe	St. Catharines
Vice-Chair Mayor Wayne Redekop	Fort Erie
Councillor Reg Freake	Grimsby
Councillor J.D. Pachereva	Lincoln
Councillor Joyce Morocco	Niagara Falls
Councillor Maria Mavridis	Niagara-on-the-Lake
Councillor Wayne Olson	Pelham
Councillor Eric Beauregard	Port Colborne
Councillor Dawn Dodge	St. Catharines
Councillor Caleb Ratzlaff	St. Catharines
Councillor Anthony Longo	Thorold
Councillor Wayne Cambell	Niagara Falls
Mayor Brian Grant	Wainfleet
Councillor Leo VanVliet	Welland
Councillor William Reilly	West Lincoln

In memory of Wayne Campbell



Niagara Transit is deeply saddened by the passing of Niagara Falls local councillor, Wayne Campbell. Councillor Campbell was a valued Niagara Transit Commission Board member since its inception, and his dedication to our community will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and the community during this difficult time.



In 2024 the Niagara Transit Board adopted our mission, vision and values. They will guide Niagara Transit now and in the future in all our decision making and planning processes.

Mission

Providing safe, reliable, and sustainable transit service in Niagara.

Vision

Working together towards a more connected region.

Purpose

Helping every person in Niagara experience independence, freedom, and a sense of discovery.

Values

Service Excellence

Safety

Customer Focus

Affordability

Employee Success

2024 Highlights

Service Excellence

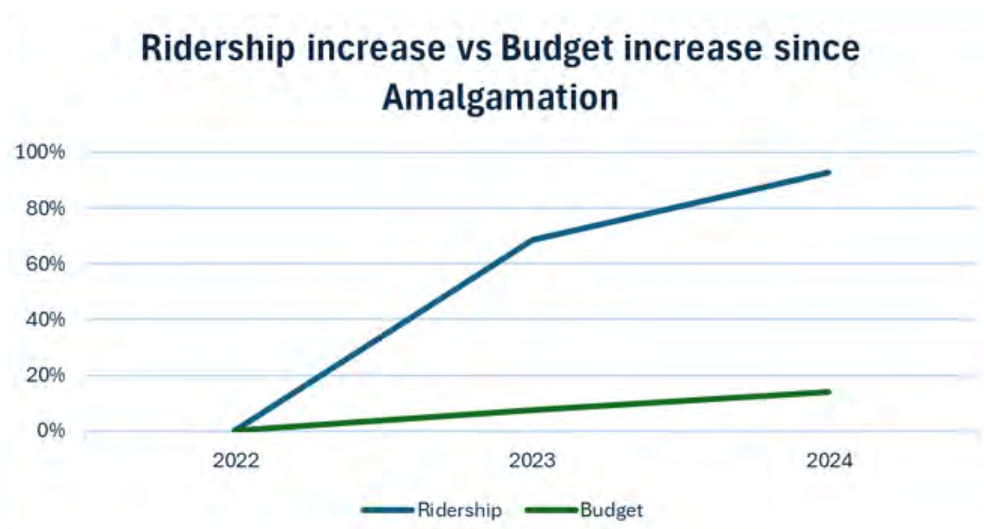
Strong Service Delivery and OTP on our Conventional Service!

We are proud to have nearly 100% service delivery and 83% on-time performance (OTP) in 2024 on our conventional routes. The average OTP for peer transit services in Ontario is 79%. We are taking delivery of new conventional buses and specialized vehicles in 2025 and expect even greater performance!



Ridership Continues to Outpace Budget

Ridership has seen drastic increases since Niagara Transit was amalgamated in 2022. We have met this demand by harnessing the efficiencies we have found through the amalgamation process. This has been achieved while contending with having to create new reserves, address inflationary pressures, provide enhanced customer service and absorb the cost of standing up a new organization. While this is an exceptional achievement, there is now minimal room for greater efficiencies. To make further improvements to service, like the standardization of service hours and adding intermunicipal Sunday and holiday service, greater investment will be required. As demand continues to grow, we don't want to leave riders behind.



Service Excellence

cont'd

New Niagara Transit Brand Launched!

In 2024 we completed and launched the new Niagara Transit brand! We are transitioning all our previously separate fleets to the new brand over time to unify the service and manage costs responsibly. You will also begin to see our brand on our on-street signage and bus shelters we have assumed from Pattison Outdoor.

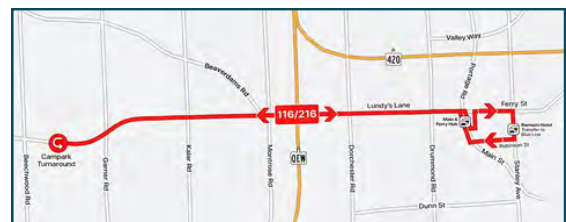


New Specialized Operator Training

After assuming Niagara Falls' Chair-a-Van service in 2024 we developed and delivered a 3-day training program to all operators that provide specialized service. Training included safe vehicle operation, best practices for loading and unloading ambulatory and non-ambulatory passengers, mobility device securement, review of AODA Customer Service Standards, visiting frequently accessed locations in the City, and how to assist passengers with mobility, visual, speech, and developmental/psychological impairments.

Replacing the WEGO Service

This year the Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) took over what was previously WEGO. To maintain service for local transit riders in Niagara Falls we replaced the former 'Red Line' with the 116/216 route, maintaining its connection to the NPC's 'Blue Line' at Stanley Avenue in the tourism core. We continue to support the NPC's operations with transit expertise.



Safety

Onboard Camera Installation

Camera installations on our full fleet were completed in 2024. All fixed route buses and specialized vehicles were upgraded to 8 or 9 camera full digital IP systems including over the air updates along with wireless video download requests. All of our non-revenue (operations and maintenance) vehicles were also equipped with single front facing camera systems.



Niagara Riders Feel Safe

We consistently monitor rider safety and gather their feedback. In 2024 over 90% of riders reported feeling safe taking Niagara Transit. As a benchmark, the average among Canadian transit systems is 86%. Rider safety is a top priority and we will continue to focus on it in 2025.

Implemented Video Surveillance Policy

Niagara Transit implemented our video surveillance policy this year. The policy creates system design guidelines, notice of use requirements, and access and recording procedures. It ensures riders feel safe and staff have clear procedures to follow when dealing with surveillance of our fleet and facilities.



Customer Focus

Customer Experience Department

The new Customer Experience Department rollout was completed in 2024. Thirteen dedicated customer service representatives were introduced to improve accountability, communications and customer support. The introduction of this service saw a 229% increase in trip booking calls and 191% increase in general customer service inquiries!



Introduced a New Client & Community Coordinator

Since September, our Client & Community Coordinator has engaged with the Niagara community and met with seniors groups, not-for-profit organizations, student groups and public organizations to educate residents about transit and gather feedback to help make service improvements.

Began Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings

In 2024 our Public Advisory Committee began meeting and developing their workplan. The committee has a member from each local municipality in Niagara and several system stakeholders. Staff attended all PAC meetings to gather feedback and engage in discussions with the committee regarding transit services.



External Survey

In 2024 we conducted a survey of transit riders and non-transit riders to gather feedback. We had more than 700 responses, with close to 75% riders and 25% non-riders. This information is highly valuable to inform what we do moving forward on things like rider communications, demand planning, transit funding, and service improvements.

What is the main purpose of your most frequent trip? Please select one response.



Affordability

Strong Budget Performance

Niagara Transit had a strong budget performance in 2024. This was due in part to higher than anticipated UPASS and fare revenue, unbudgeted supplemental tax revenue, and savings on things like the commingled contract and fuel prices. The end of the year saw a significant surplus that allowed us to transfer funds to much needed reserves.



Consolidated Niagara Falls and Welland Operations

Welland staff shifted operations to the Niagara Falls garage in 2024. Having a single location for all south operations staff will ensure more efficient fleet maintenance and consistent access to transit leadership and dispatch staff for operators. It has also allowed for a repurposing of the Welland location into an interim training facility.

ZETF Application

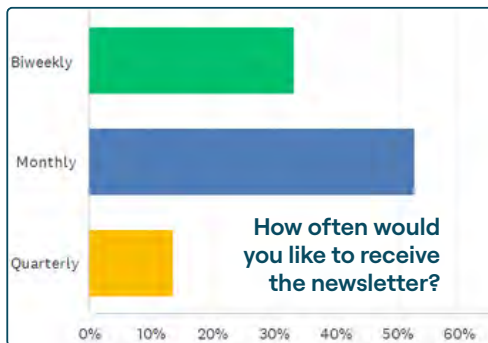
The transit industry is moving away from fossil fuels and towards zero-emission vehicles. To ensure we are providing the best value for Niagara taxpayers we are looking to take advantage of federal and provincial programs including the federal government's Zero Emission Transit Fund, which we applied for this year. This fund will assist with our capital requirements to purchase new, zero-emission vehicles.



Employee Success

New Bus Operator Recruitment Model

To expedite the hiring process for applicants and maximize staff time we have moved to a new “recruitment day” model. This allows the interview and testing process to be completed for 40-50 pre-screened, invited candidates over a two-day period that would have previously taken weeks to complete.



Internal Communications Survey

In 2024 we conducted a fulsome communications survey with all Niagara Transit employees to help shape the development of the new employee newsletter and forthcoming intranet. The results will help us build these tools to best connect and inform all NT staff.

Job Analysis & Evaluation

We worked with a 3rd party to conduct job analysis and evaluation of all non-unionized roles. This standardizes our job descriptions within the organization and provides role clarity for our teams, helping to align the roles to our organizational objectives.



What's Next in 2025?

Niagara's First Transit Master Plan

In 2025 we will finalize the first ever Transit Master Plan for Niagara. This plan will guide how we move forward to improve and invest to keep people moving over the next 10 years. It's scheduled to be finalized in the fall of this year.



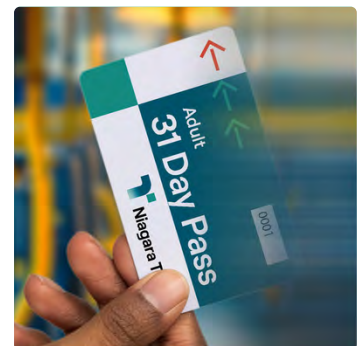
A New Approach for Commingled Microtransit

In 2024 we rolled out the commingling of our microtransit services; including all formerly contracted ondemand and specialized services.

In 2025 we will continue to refine service to ensure AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) compliance and provide reliable transportation for the most vulnerable in our community. It is an important step in creating a truly connected, barrier free Niagara.

Transit Benefit Pass

For the first time in Niagara we will be launching the Transit Benefit Pass. This low-cost, monthly pass will support those receiving Ontario Works assistance, the Ontario Disability Support Program, or those meeting a low-income threshold. It will make transit available to nearly 50,000 more Niagara residents! We have partnered with Niagara Region's Social Assistance Services office to administer the program and to mitigate the cost to the taxpayer.



What's Next in 2025?

cont'd

Fare Harmonization

Niagara Transit's fares will be harmonized for all trips at \$3.50 beginning on July 1, 2025! This is an important step to make trips across the region affordable for riders and to prepare for future connections to the GO network and other transit providers in the Greater Golden Horsehoe.



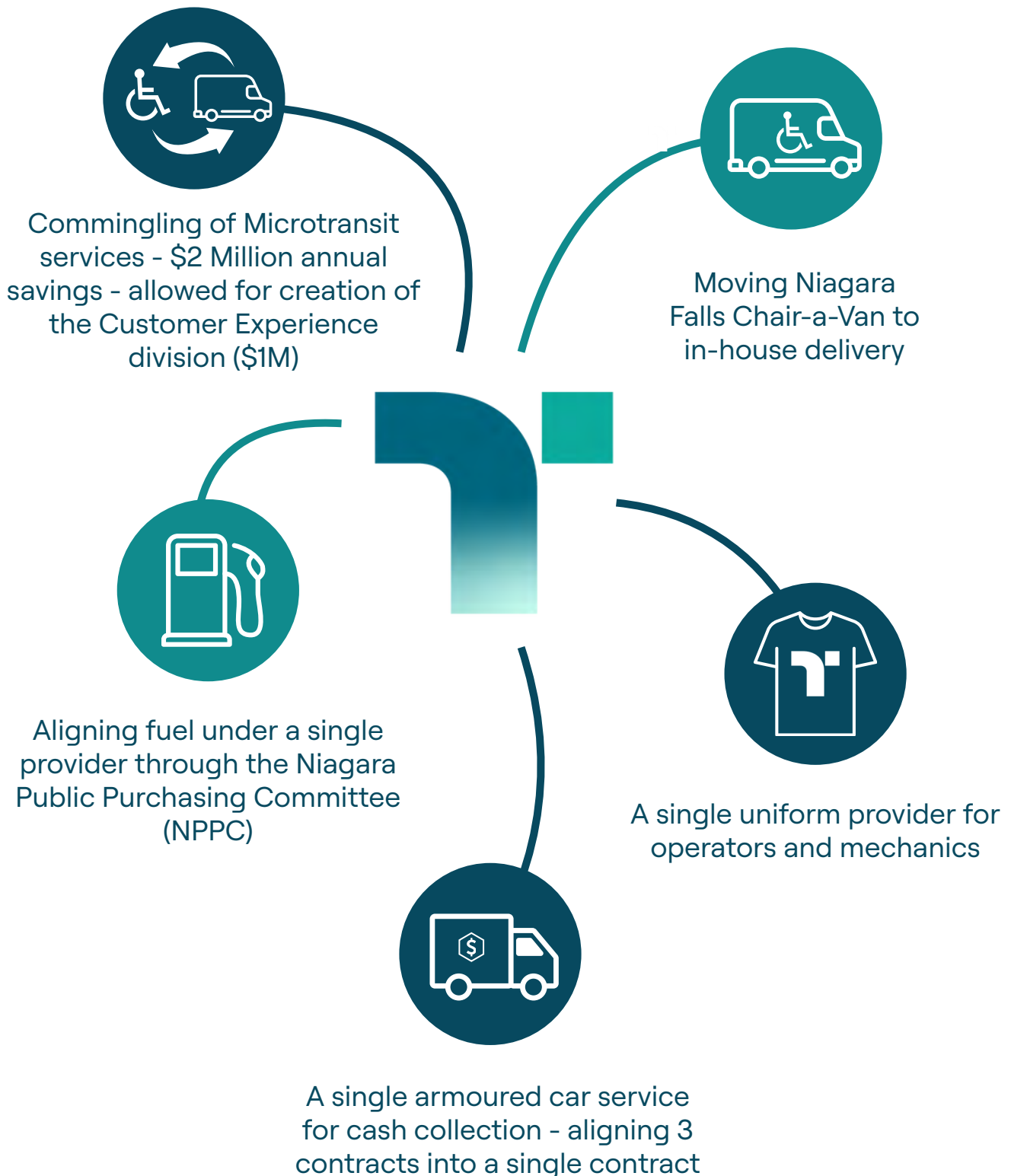
New Buses and Specialized Vehicles Arriving

While many gains in service can be achieved through planning, there is no substitute for a reliable fleet that's size matches the demand for transit in our community. In 2025 we will be taking delivery of a number of new vehicles, both conventional and specialized, to replace our oldest and most challenging assets from a maintenance perspective. This will improve on-time performance (OTP) and reduce maintenance costs which have been heavy since Niagara Transit was formed. They will also display our great new brand, unifying it over time across the fleet!



2024 Key Performance Indicators

2024 Efficiencies Highlights

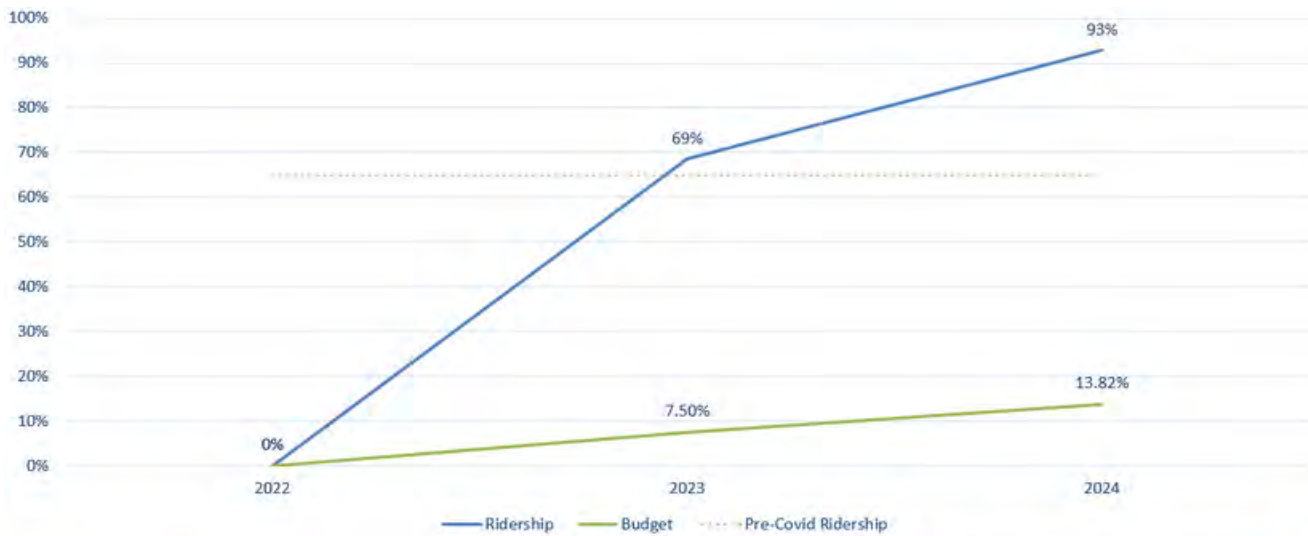


Reliable and Consistent On-Time
Conventional Service

Nearly **100%** service delivery.

On-Time Performance of **83%**
vs. 79% industry peer average

Ridership Increase vs Budget Increase
Since Amalgamation



	2022	2023	2024
Ridership	5.6 million	9.5 million	10.9 million
Cost per Ride	\$8.06	\$5.57	\$5.22
Cost per Ride (excluding Capital Reserve)		\$5.34	\$5.02

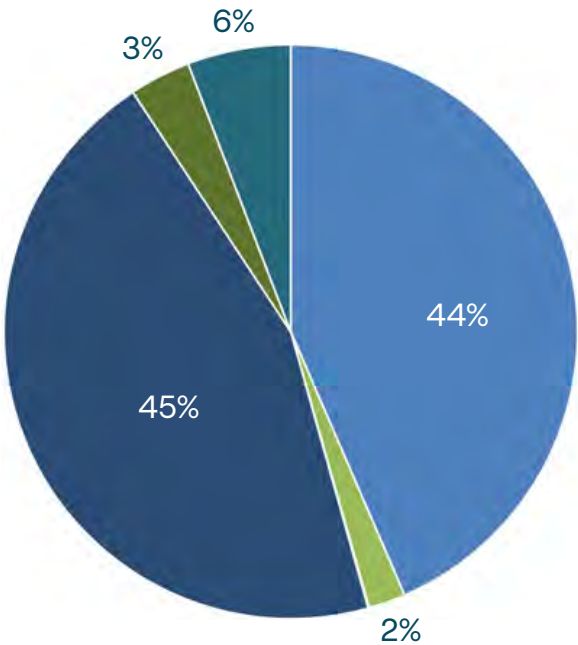
(Blended rate for all transit services)

Niagara Transit Snapshot

Number of Local Routes	88
Number of IMT Routes	11
2024 Staff *	451
Number of 40' buses	151
Number of 60' buses	14
Average age of 40' and 60' bus	8
Number of specialized transit buses	23
Average age of specialized buses	6
Number of support vehicles	40

*2024 Budgeted Full Time Equivalent staff including temporary staff

Who Rides Our System?



Classification	Definition
Adult	18+
Child	Under 12
Youth	13 to 17
Senior	65+
Post Secondary	Brock & Niagara College

Adult

Post-secondary Student

Senior

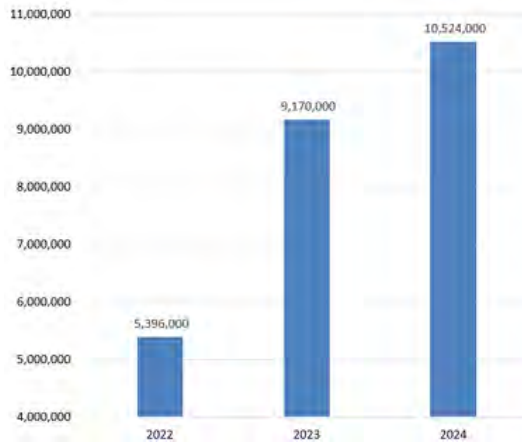
Youth

Child

2024 KPI's

cont'd

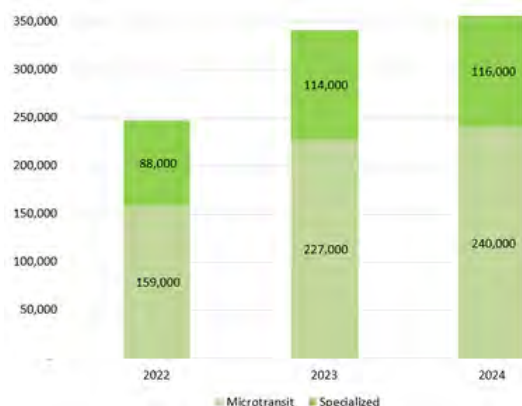
Conventional Ridership



	Ridership Per Revenue Vehicle Hour	Revenue Vehicle Hours Per Capita
2022 Prov. Avg ¹	16.7	1.2
2023 Prov. Avg ¹	21.7	1.2
2023 NTC Conventional	21.4	1.1
2024 NTC Conventional	23.0	1.1

¹Provincial Average is based on Canadian Urban Transit Association Data. Comparing similar sized Transit Agencies (pop. 100k to 750k), which may or may not include Microtransit

Specialized and Microtransit Ridership



	Specialized Transit		Microtransit
	Ridership Per Revenue Vehicle Hour	Revenue Vehicle Hours Per Capita	Ridership Per Revenue Vehicle Hour ***
2022 Prov. Avg ¹	1.9	0.2	n/a
2023 Prov. Avg ¹	2.3	0.2	n/a
2023 NTC	1.7 ²	0.1 ²	2.8
2024 NTC	1.8	0.1	2.9

¹Provincial Average is based on Canadian Urban Transit Association Data Comparing similar sized Transit Agencies (pop. 100k to 750k)
²Revised

Specialized & Microtransit	
Average Time on Vehicle ¹	19 mins
Average Distance per Trip	9.64 km
Average Wait Time *	5.75 mins

¹From July 1, 2024 onward

2024 KPI's

cont'd

Social Media



Visits	20.7K	416%	2.9K	284%
Follows	723	244%	537	-
Interactions	4.1K	542%	678	100%
Clicks	992	629%	49	100%
Reach	86K	390%	13.6K	414%

Website

Active Users	259K	416%
New Users	255K	244%
Sessions	486K+	542%
Page Views	1.2M	629%
Avg. Engagement	1m 54s	390%



General Manager's 2024 Annual Report

Overall NT+ Service Metrics - 2025 (Q1)

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers
94,330

Number of Trips
83,628

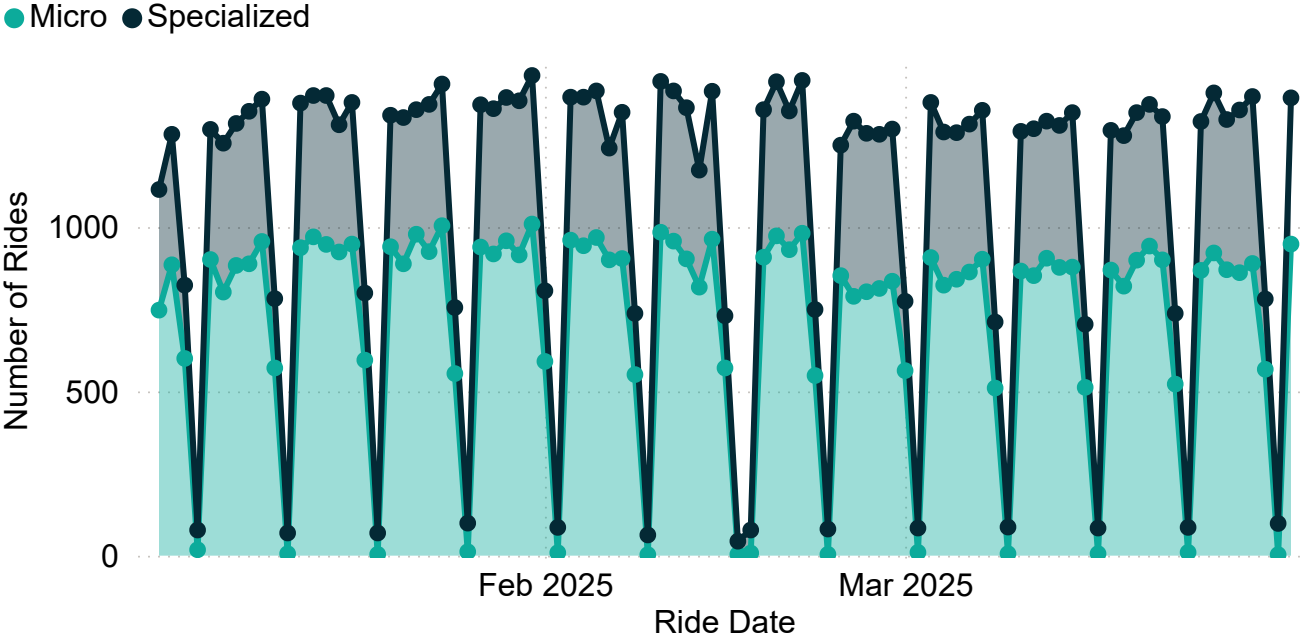
Number of Accessible Trips
12,989

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device
1,239

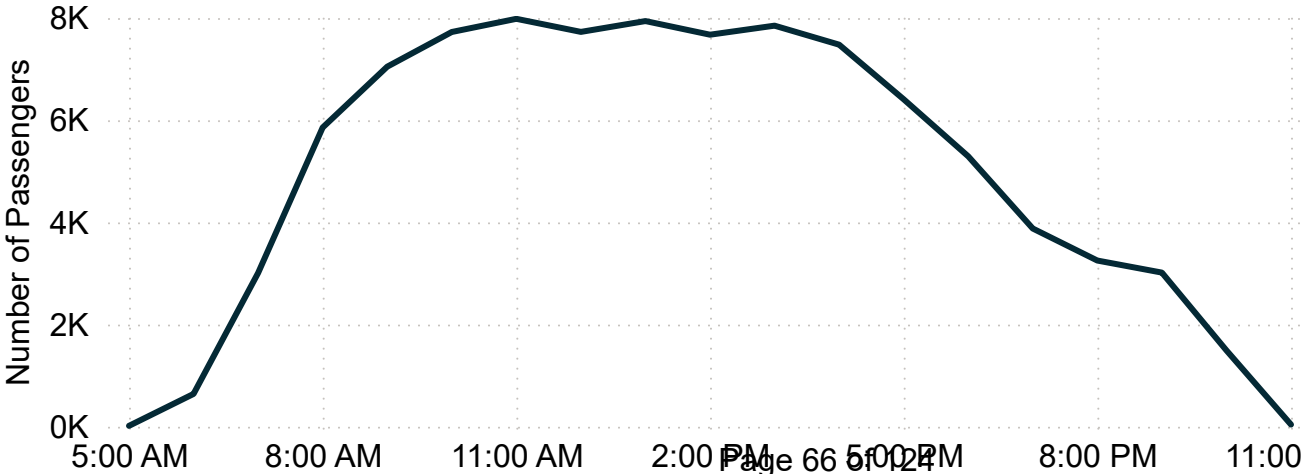
Average Direct Distance (km)
8.78

Average Time On-Board (min)
17.27

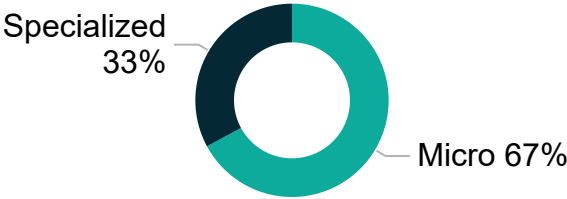
Daily Ridership



Peak Hours



Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	2934	10826	13760
App	34580	31190	65770
Subscription	1	4097	4098
Total	37515	46113	83628

Overall NT+ In-House Service Metrics - 2025 (Q1)

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers
23,474

Number of Trips
20,175

Number of Accessible Trips
8,284

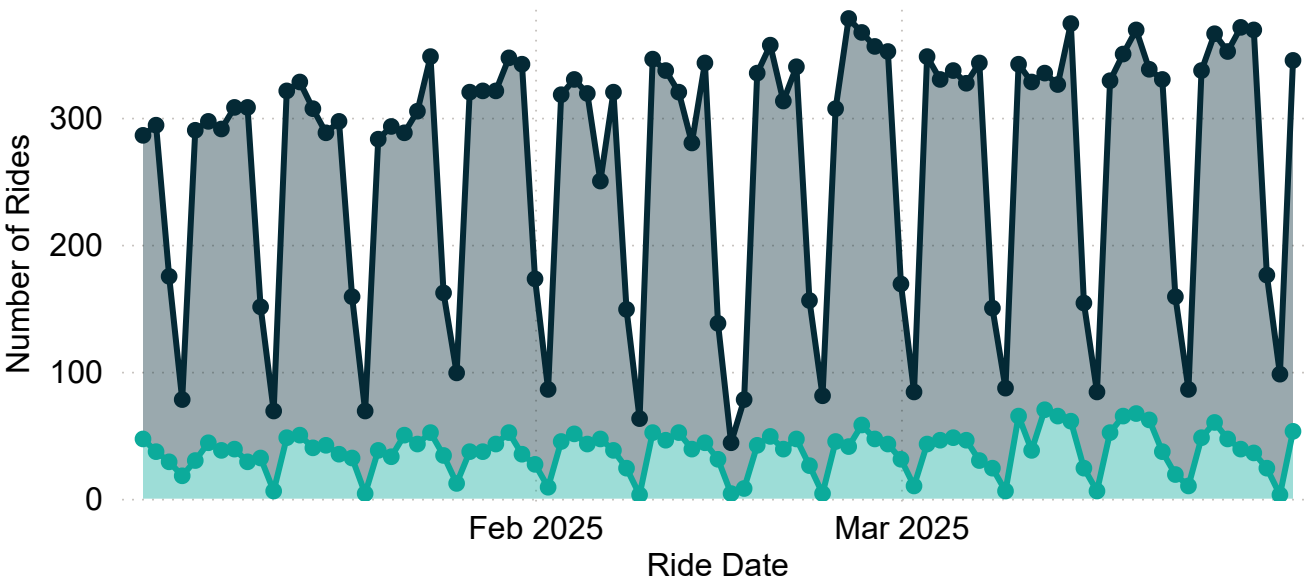
Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device
109

Average Direct Distance (km)
4.66

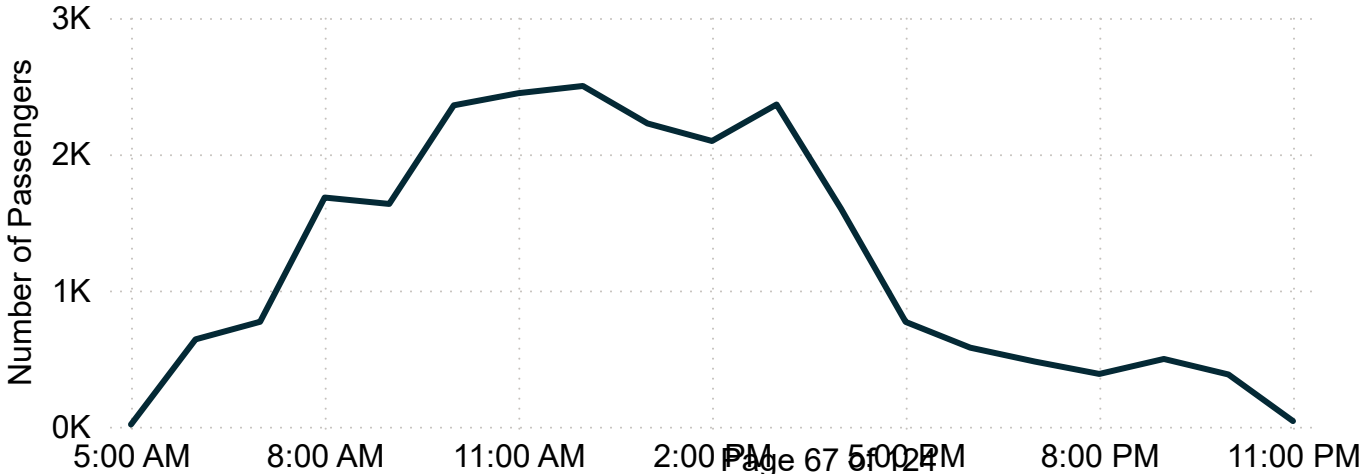
Average Time On-Board (min)
16.79

Daily Ridership

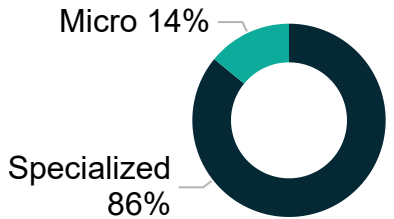
● Micro ● Specialized



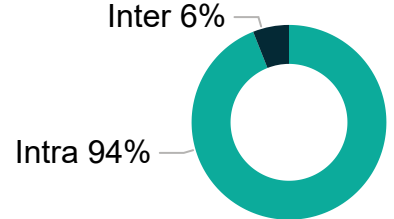
Peak Hours



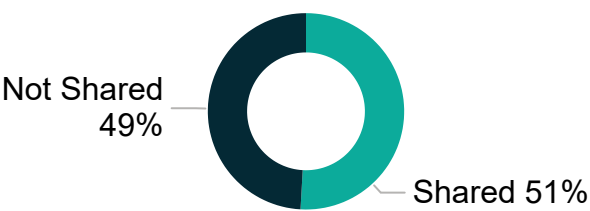
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	1164	6983	8147
App	3148	7752	10900
Subscription		1128	1128
Total	4312	15863	20175

Overall NT+ In-House 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Niagara Falls

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers
6,406

Number of Trips
5,602

Number of Accessible Trips
1,981

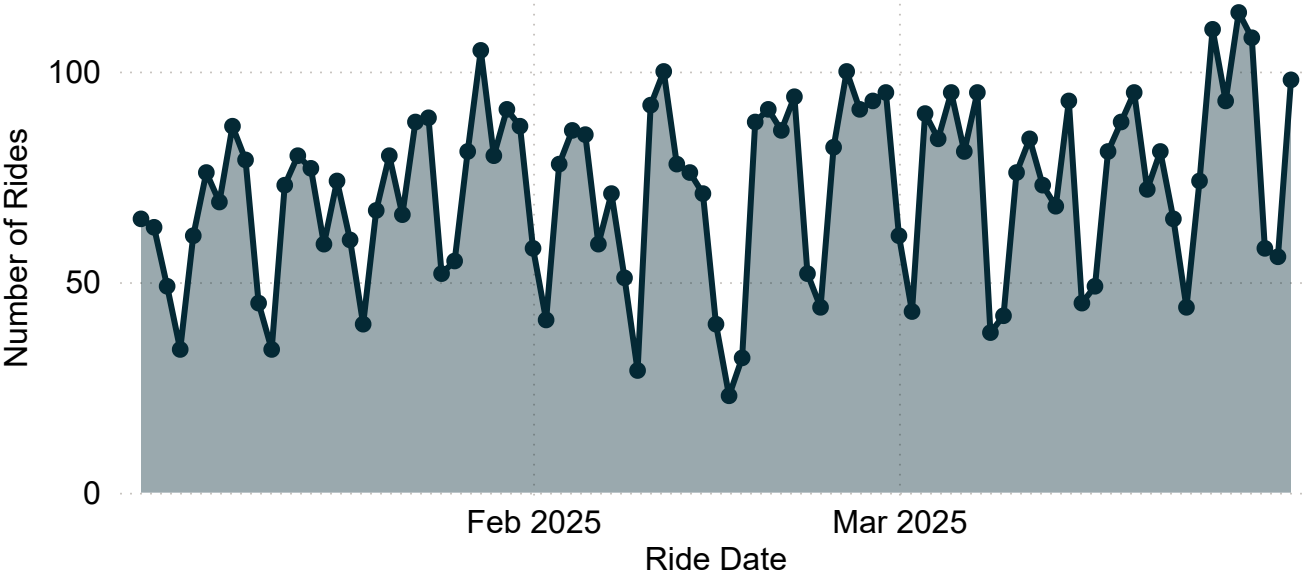
Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device
(Blank)

Average Direct Distance (km)
4.55

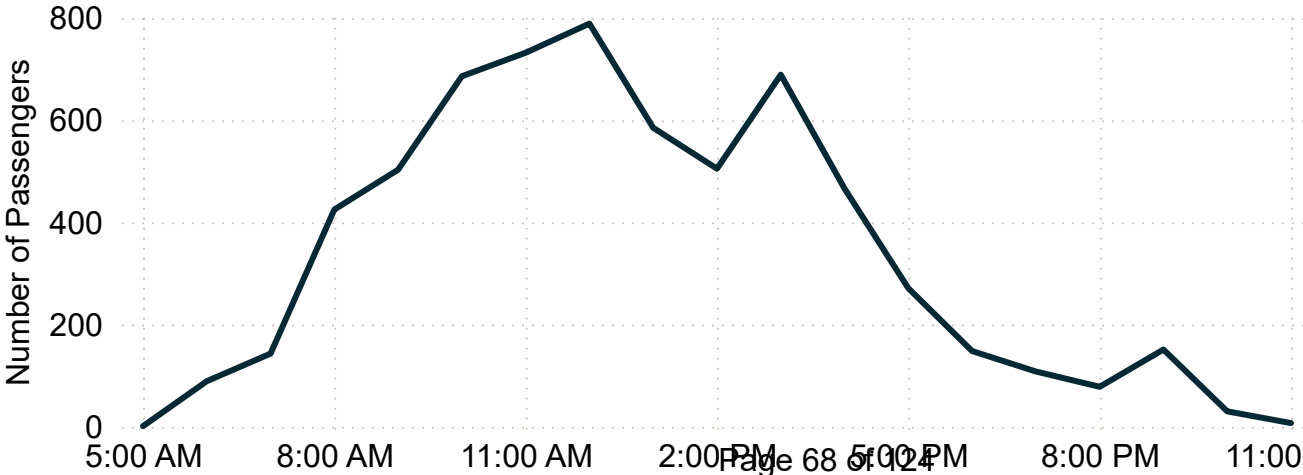
Average Time On-Board (min)
16.91

Daily Ridership

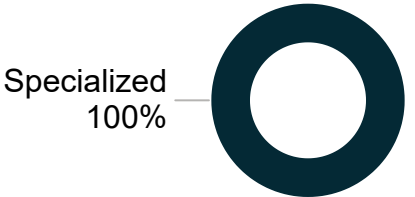
● Specialized



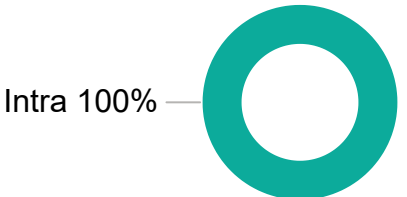
Peak Hours



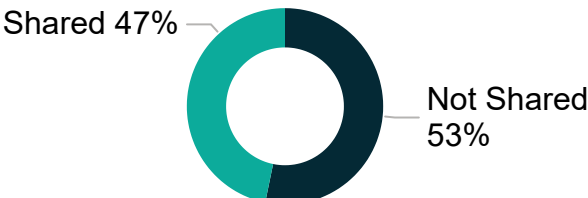
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	514	2119	2633
App	442	1400	1842
Subscription		1127	1127
Total	956	4646	5602

Overall NT+ In-House 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - St. Catharines

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

9,402

Number of Trips

7,702

Number of Accessible Trips

3,733

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

(Blank)

Average Direct Distance (km)

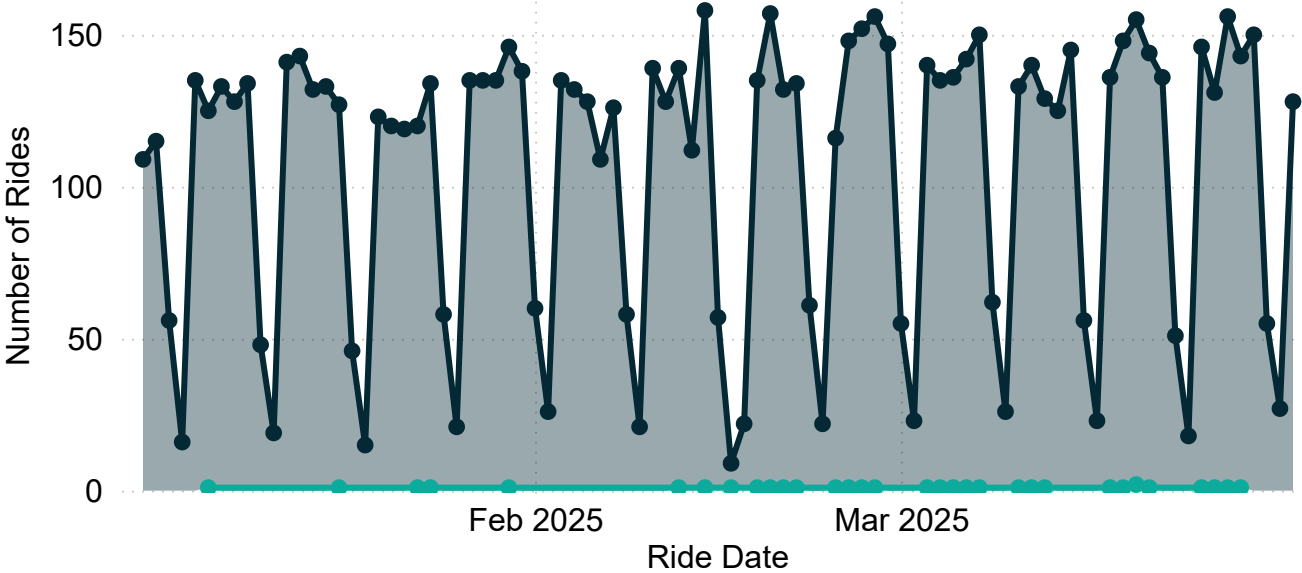
4.63

Average Time On-Board (min)

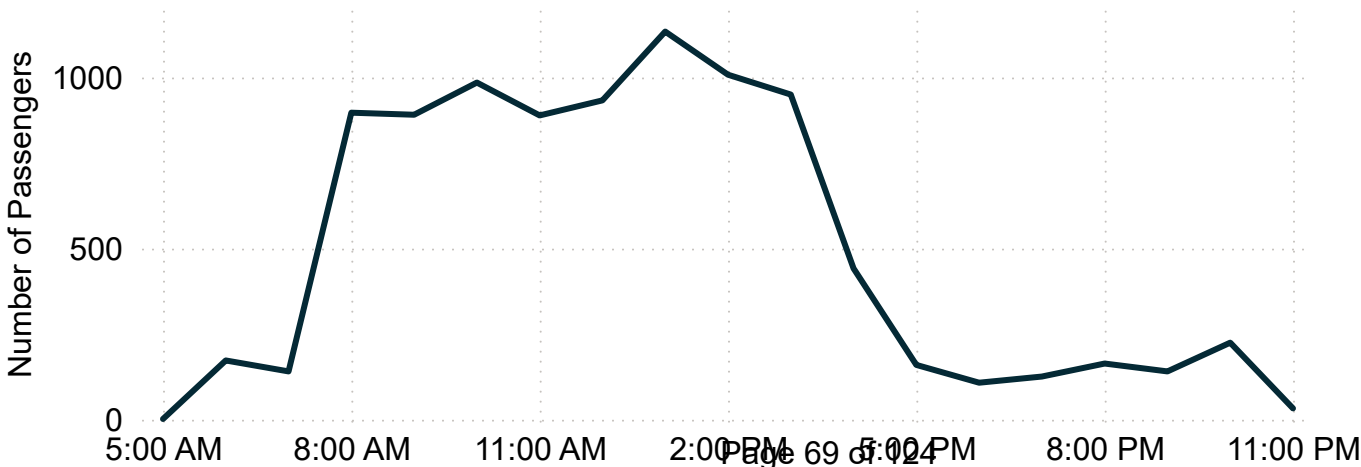
17.30

Daily Ridership

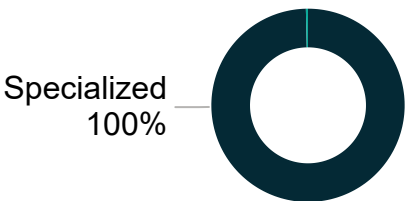
● Micro ● Specialized



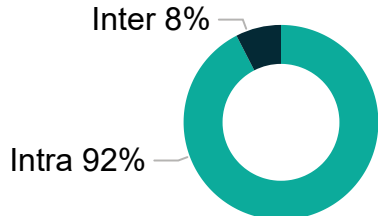
Peak Hours



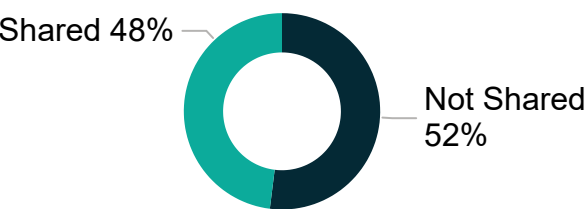
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	378	2815	3193
App	713	3795	4508
Subscription		1	1
Total	1091	6611	7702

Overall NT+ In-House 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Thorold

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

700

Number of Trips

624

Number of Accessible Trips

445

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

(Blank)

Average Direct Distance (km)

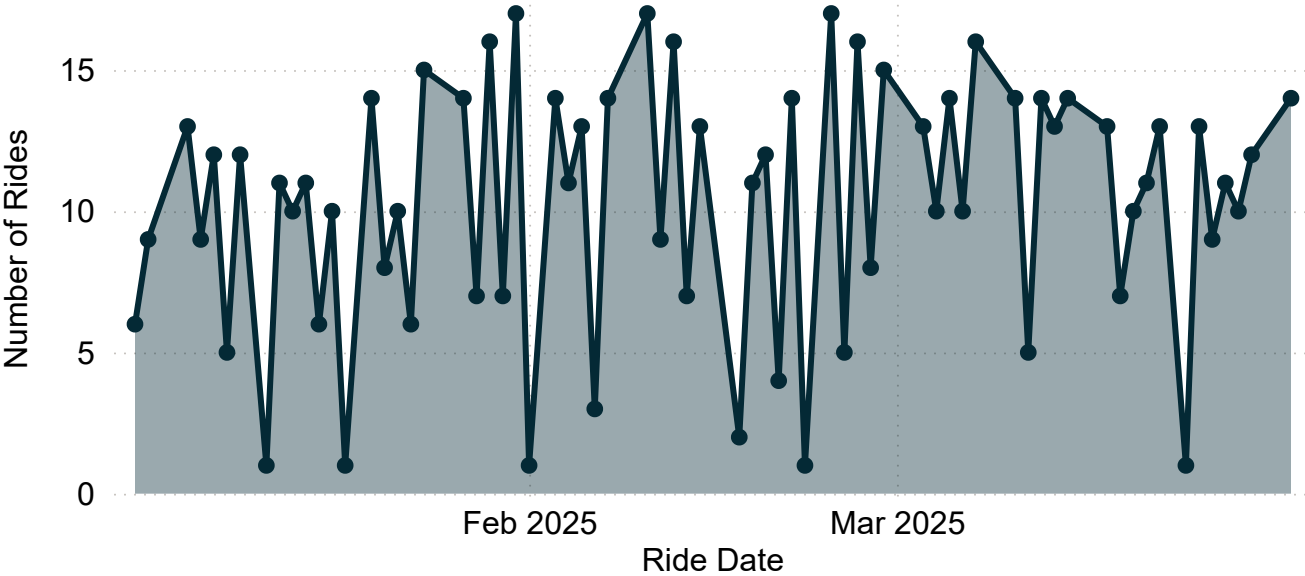
7.73

Average Time On-Board (min)

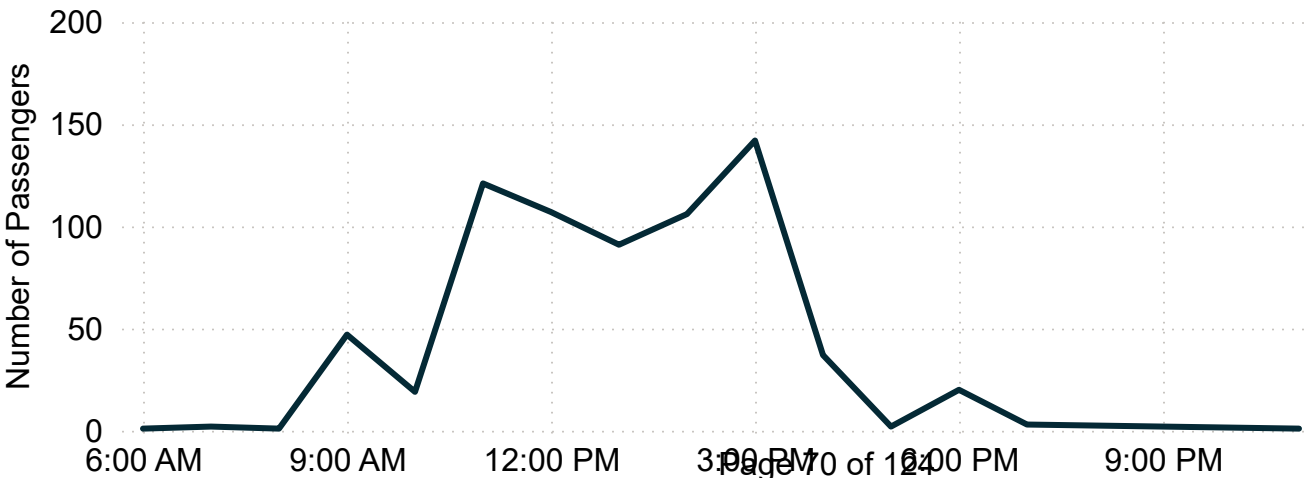
22.15

Daily Ridership

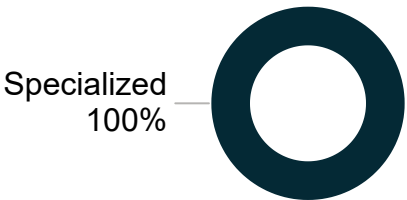
● Specialized



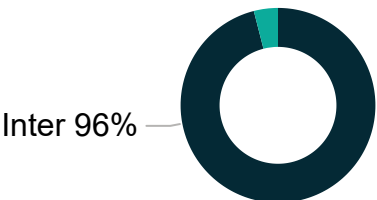
Peak Hours



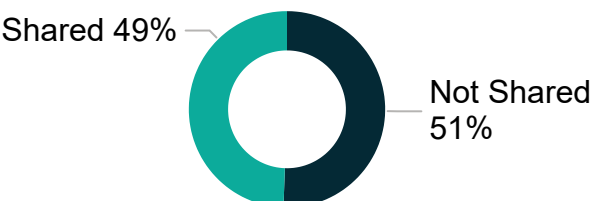
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	29	152	181
App	33	410	443
Total	62	562	624

Overall NT+ In-House 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Welland

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

6,954

Number of Trips

6,236

Number of Accessible
Trips

2,125

Number of Micro Trips with
an Accessibility Device

109

Average Direct Distance
(km)

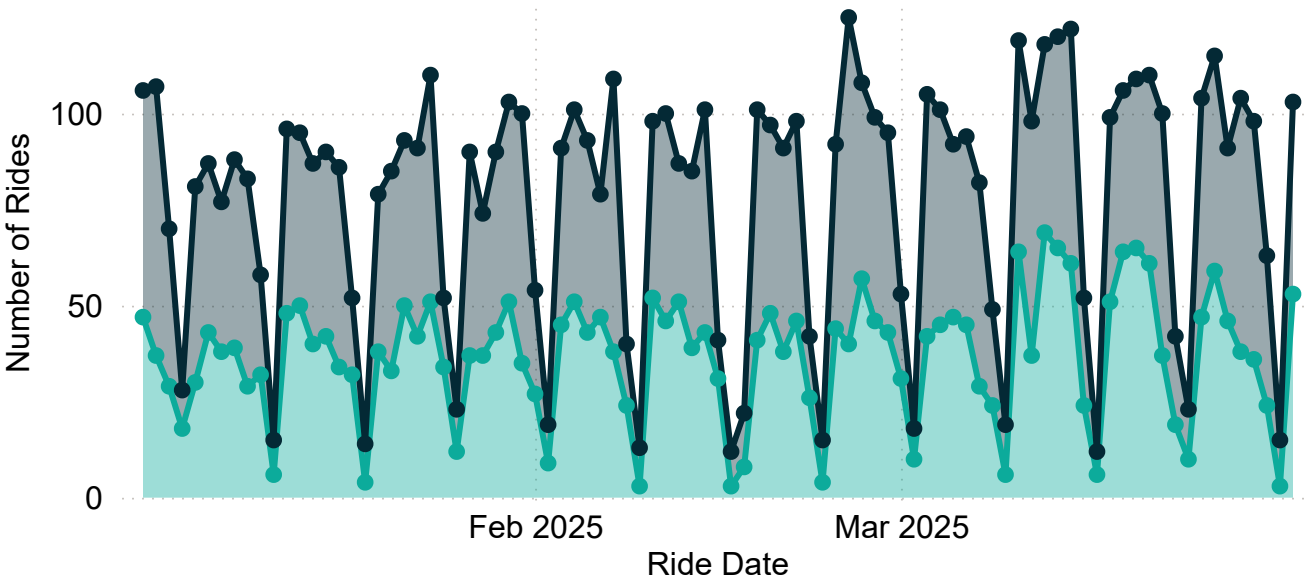
4.49

Average Time On-Board
(min)

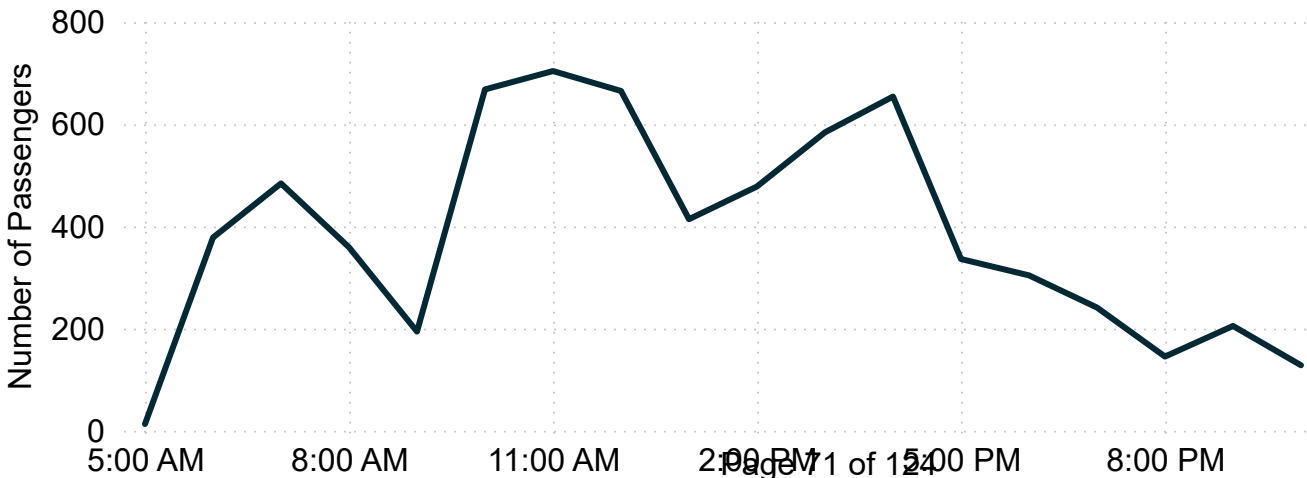
15.51

Daily Ridership

● Micro ● Specialized



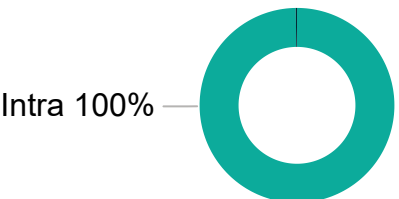
Peak Hours



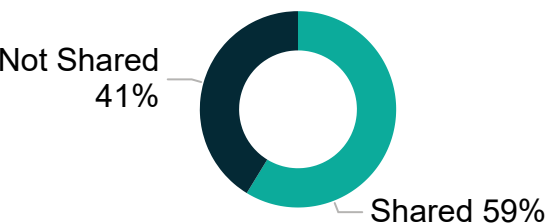
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	243	1891	2134
App	1959	2143	4102
Total	2202	4034	6236

Overall NT+ (Contract) Voyago Service Metrics - 2025 (Q1)

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

70,856

Number of Trips

63,453

Number of Accessible Trips

4,705

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

1,130

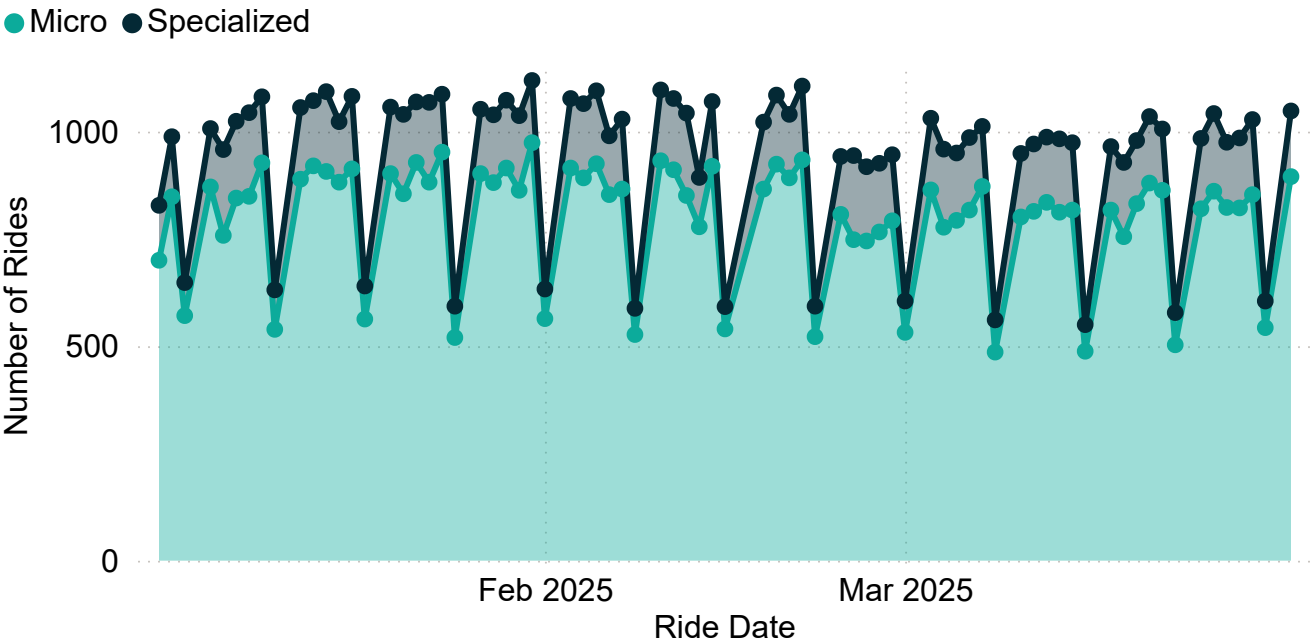
Average Direct Distance (km)

10.10

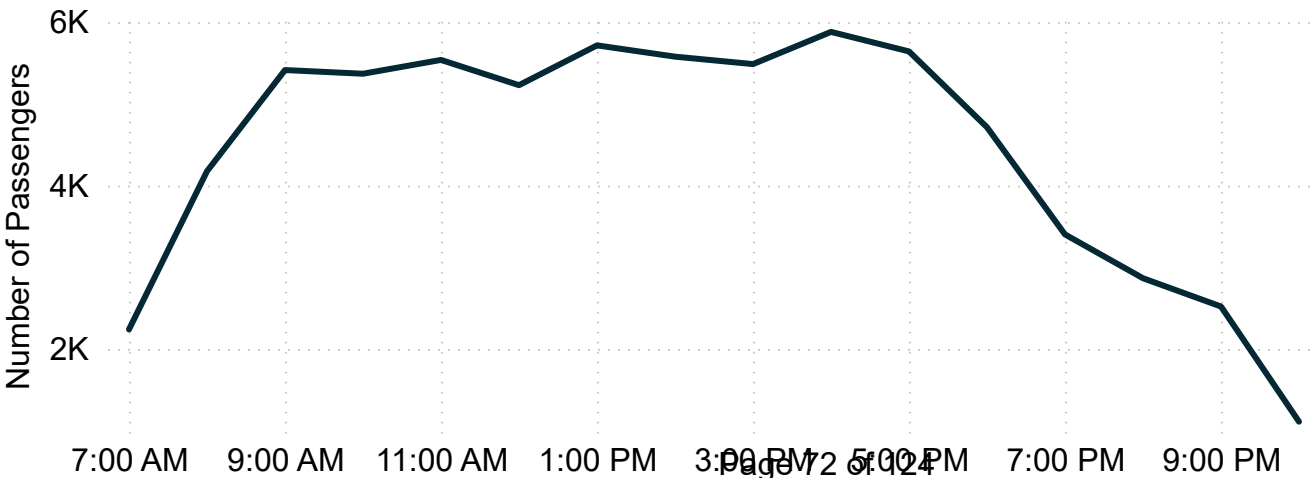
Average Time On-Board (min)

17.42

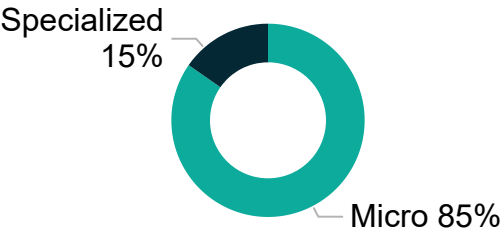
Daily Ridership



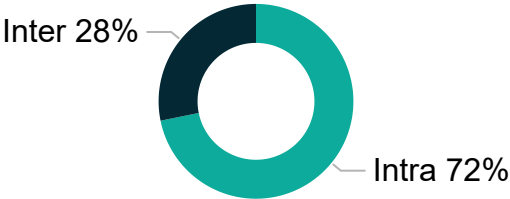
Peak Hours



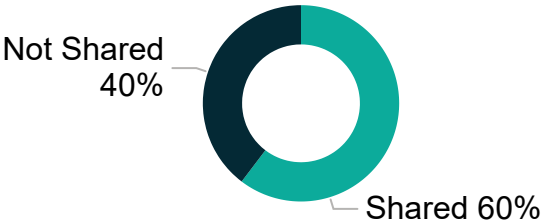
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	1770	3843	5613
App	31432	23438	54870
Subscription	1	2969	2970
Total	33203	30250	63453

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Fort Erie

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

25,389

Number of Trips

21,732

Number of Accessible
Trips

930

Number of Micro Trips with
an Accessibility Device

491

Average Direct Distance
(km)

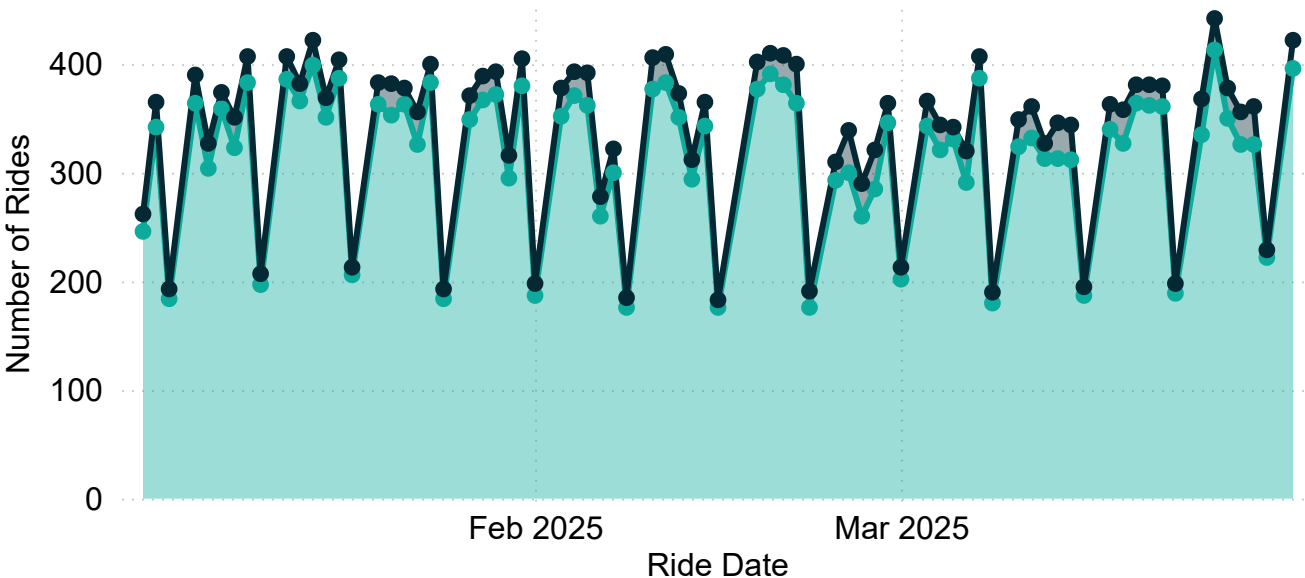
7.06

Average Time On-Board
(min)

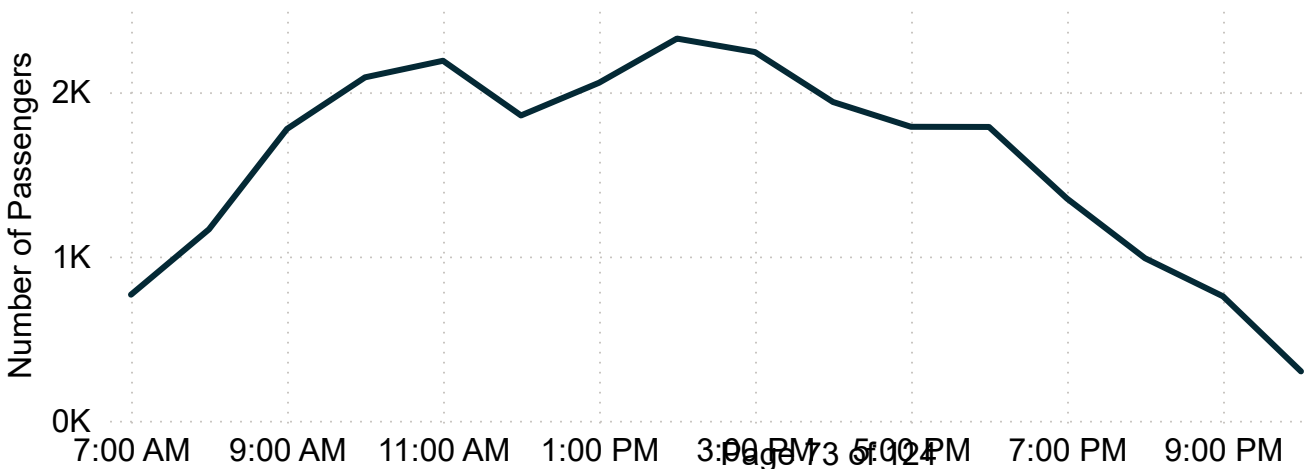
13.98

Daily Ridership

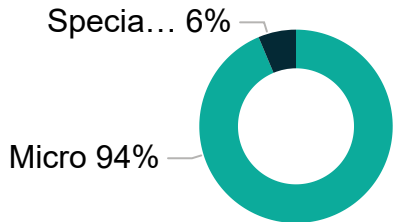
● Micro ● Specialized



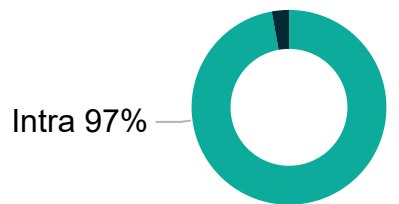
Peak Hours



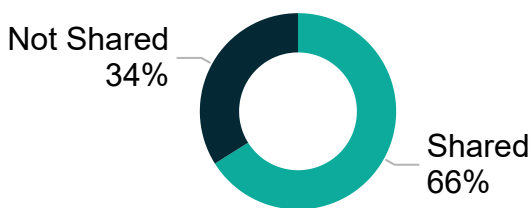
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	963	960	1923
App	13525	5775	19300
Subscription		509	509
Total	14488	7244	21732

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Grimsby

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers
6,266

Number of Trips
5,910

Number of Accessible Trips
184

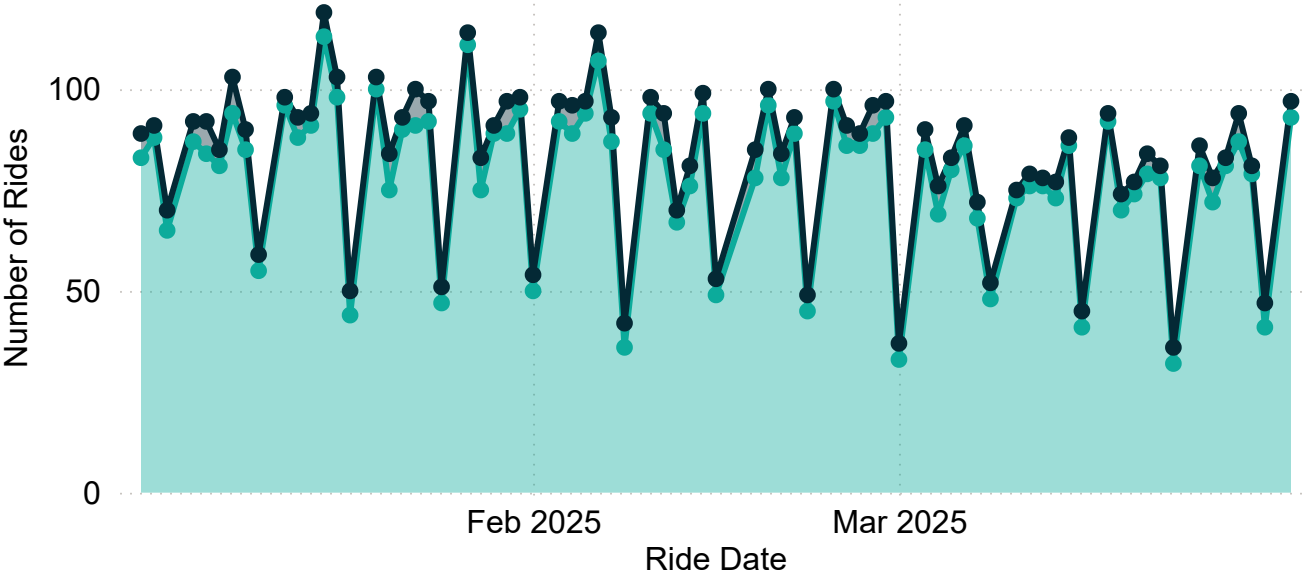
Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device
95

Average Direct Distance (km)
10.29

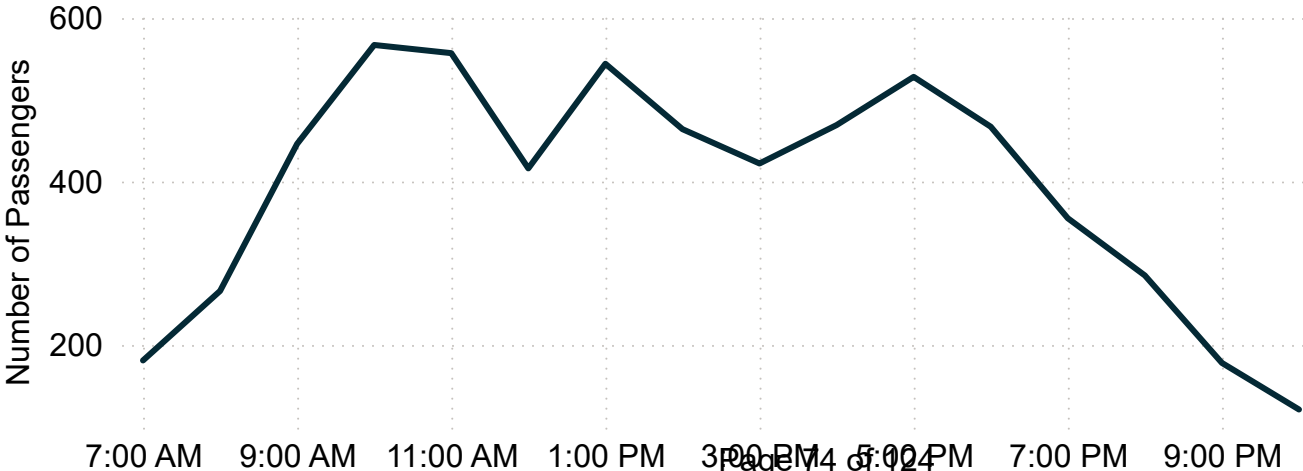
Average Time On-Board (min)
16.26

Daily Ridership

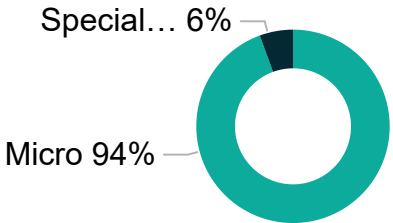
● Micro ● Specialized



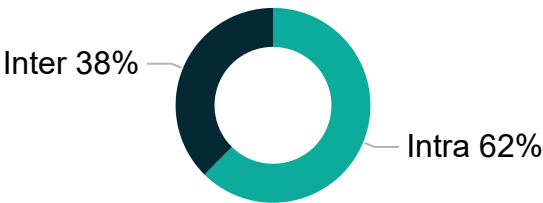
Peak Hours



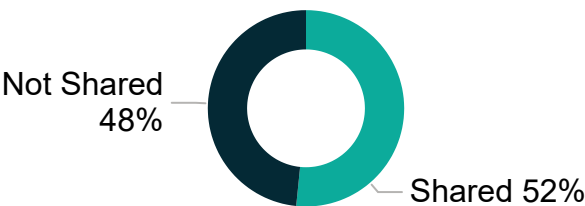
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	177	186	363
App	2743	2630	5373
Subscription		174	174
Total	2920	2990	5910

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Lincoln

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

6,914

Number of Trips

6,474

Number of Accessible Trips

266

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

171

Average Direct Distance (km)

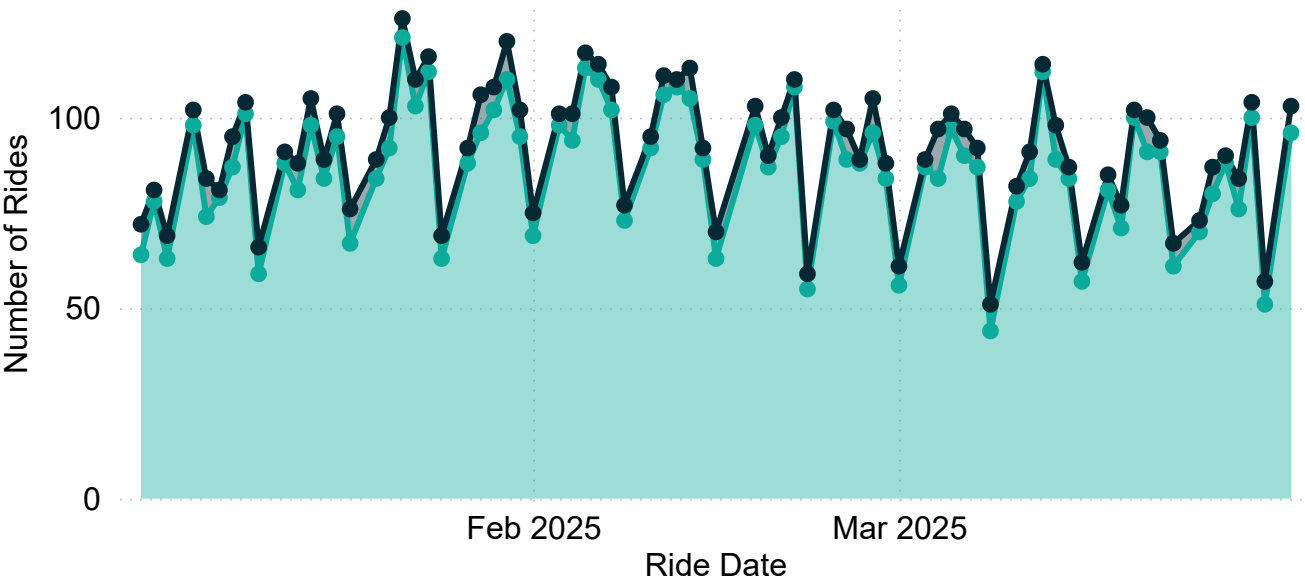
11.96

Average Time On-Board (min)

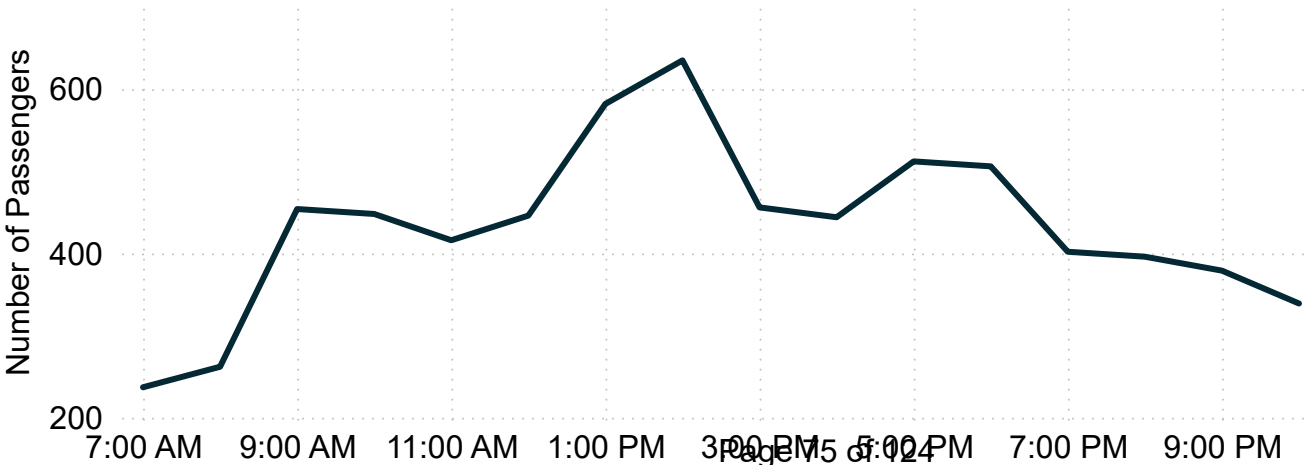
18.27

Daily Ridership

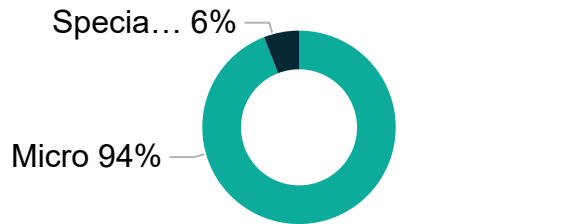
Micro Specialized



Peak Hours



Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	116	150	266
App	2979	3095	6074
Subscription		134	134
Total	3095	3379	6474

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Niagara Falls

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

2,179

Number of Trips

1,925

Number of Accessible Trips

680

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

2

Average Direct Distance (km)

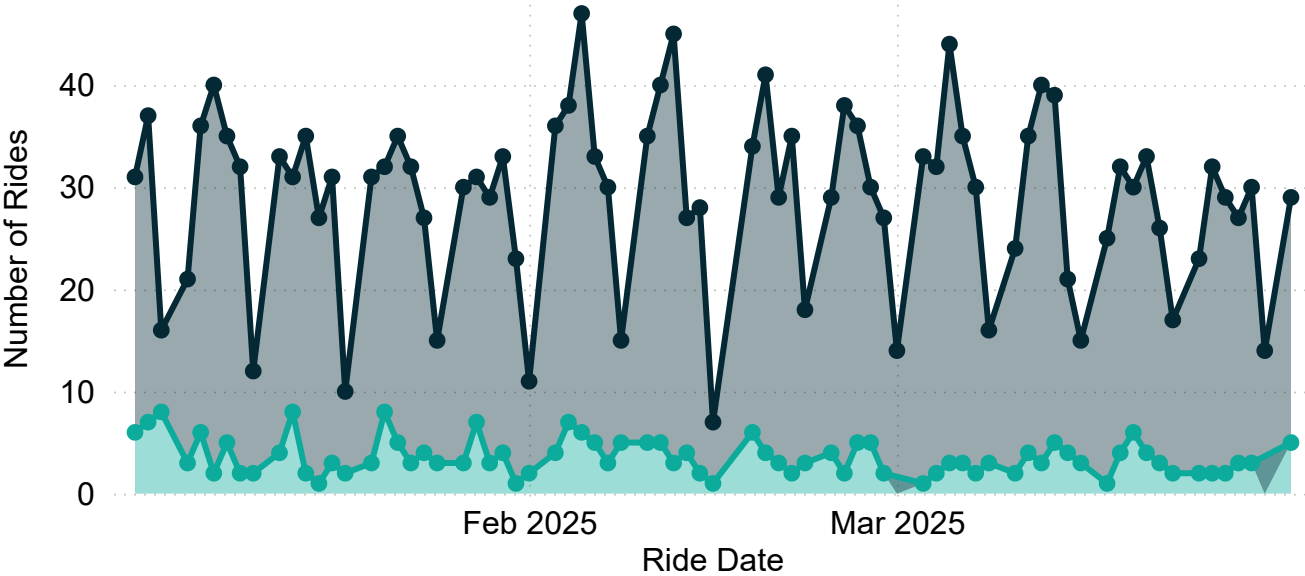
20.30

Average Time On-Board (min)

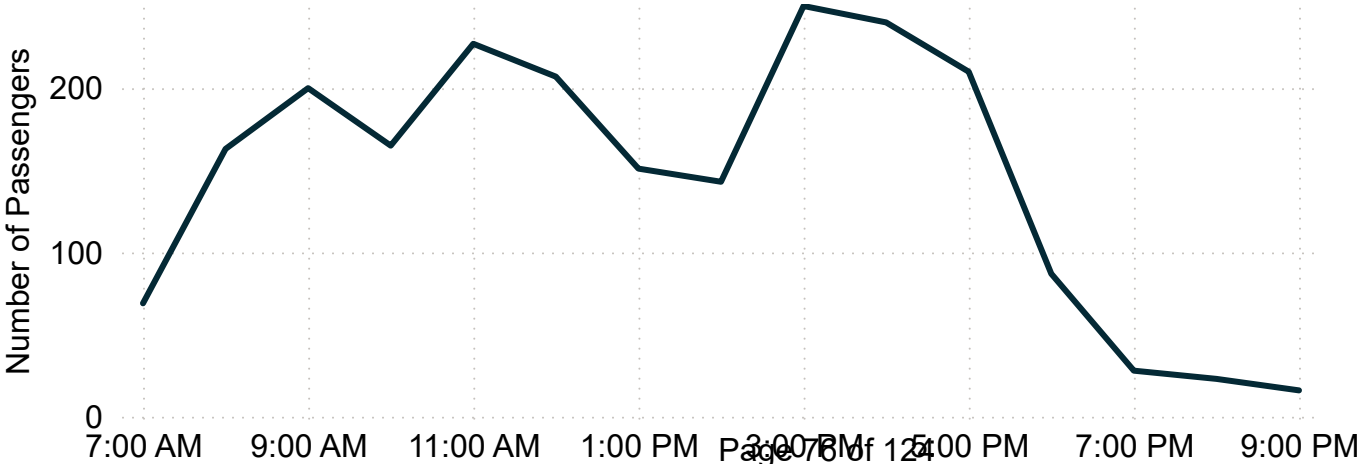
33.30

Daily Ridership

● Micro ● Specialized



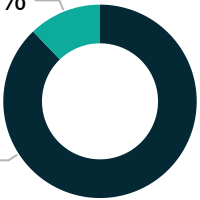
Peak Hours



Service Type

Micro 12%

Specialized 88%



Trip Type

Inter 100%



Trip Utilization

Not Shared 47%

Shared 53%



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	62	596	658
App	123	642	765
Subscription		502	502
Total	185	1740	1925

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Niagara-on-the-Lake

Power BI Desktop

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix C

Number of Passengers

15,736

Number of Trips

14,549

Number of Accessible Trips

332

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

214

Average Direct Distance (km)

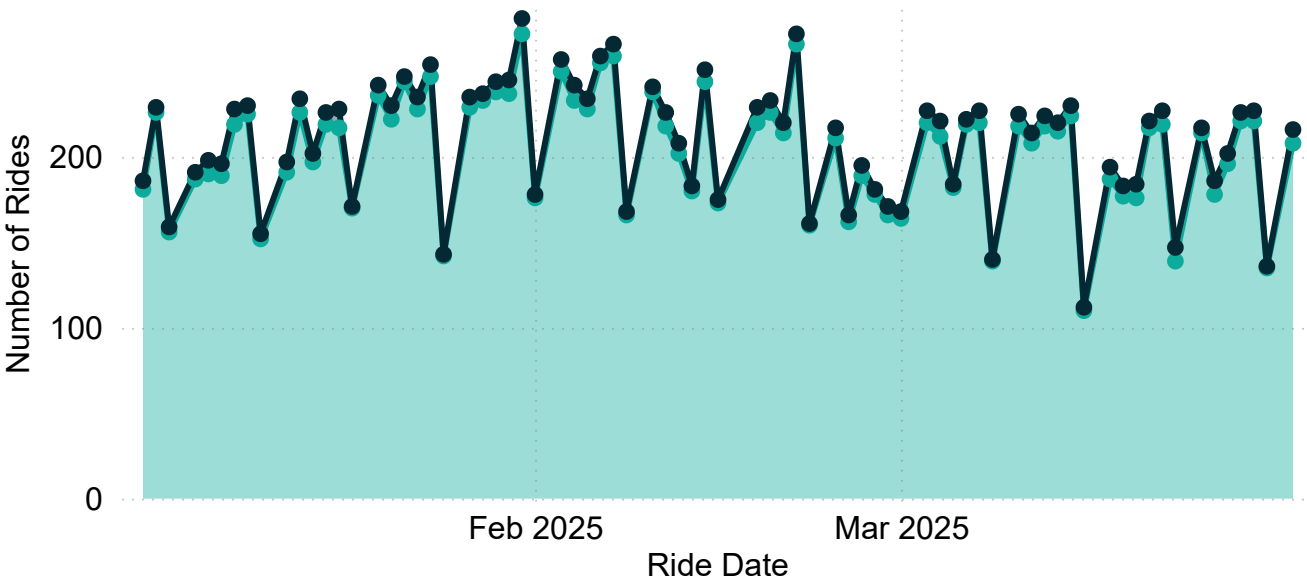
7.42

Average Time On-Board (min)

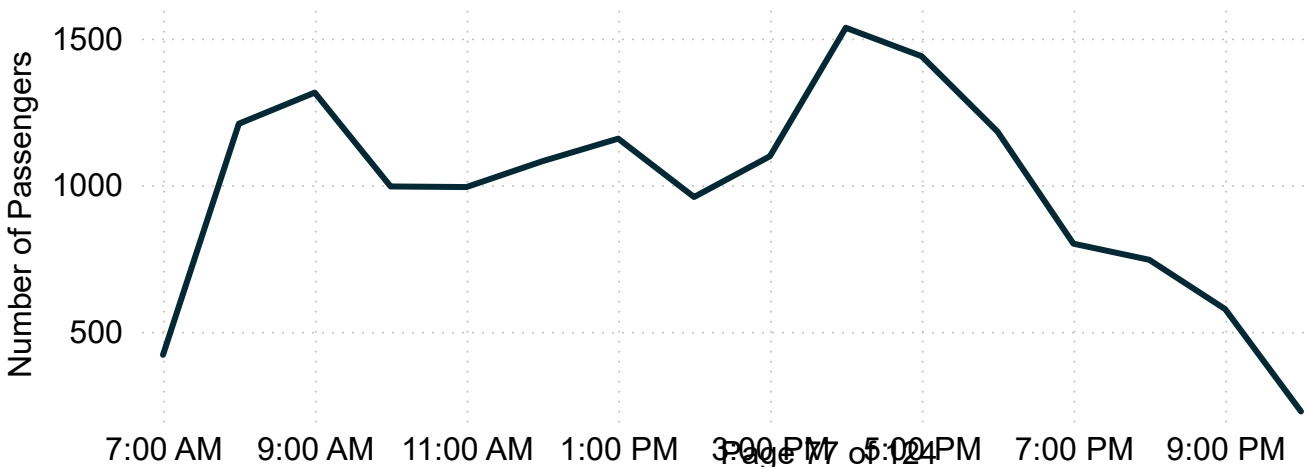
14.69

Daily Ridership

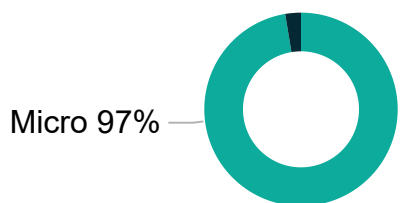
Micro Specialized



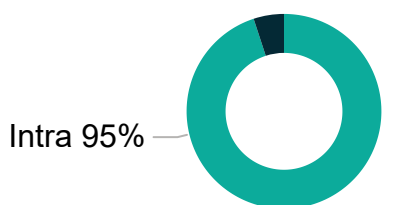
Peak Hours



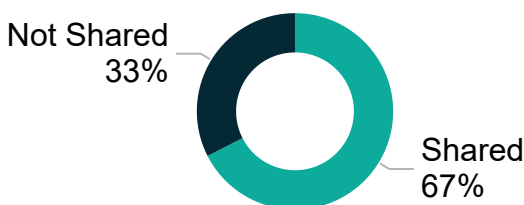
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	118	112	230
App	8910	5300	14210
Subscription		109	109
Total	9028	5521	14549

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Pelham

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers
1,520

Number of Trips
1,458

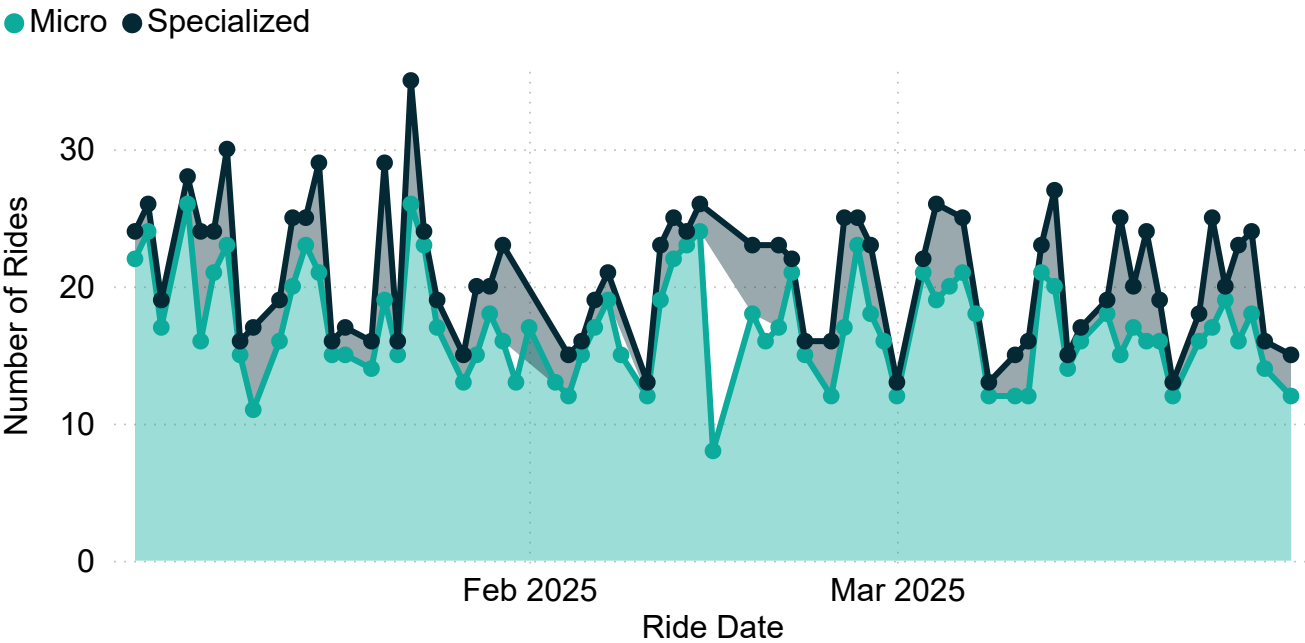
Number of Accessible Trips
210

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device
79

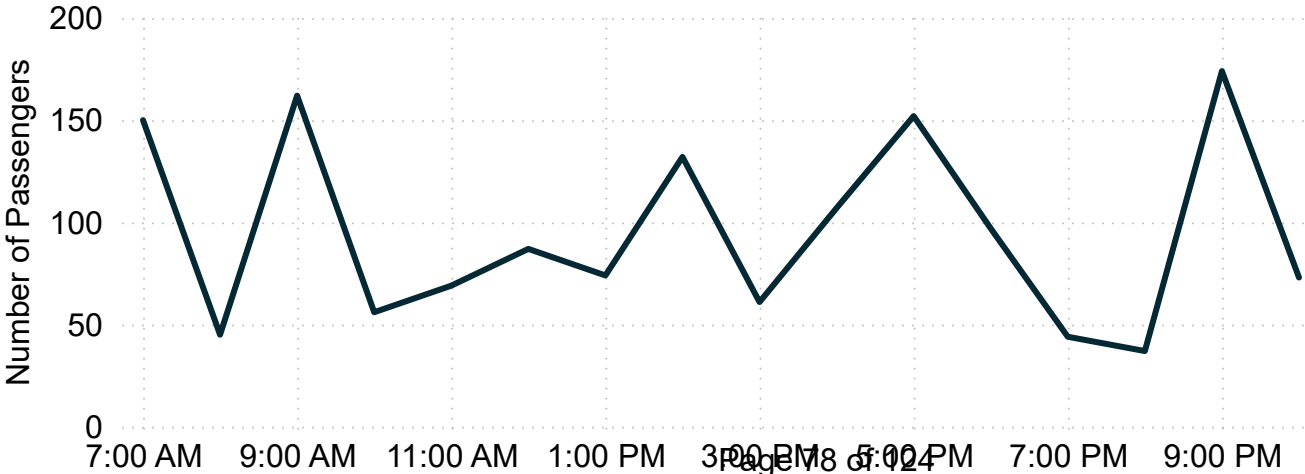
Average Direct Distance (km)
11.03

Average Time On-Board (min)
18.14

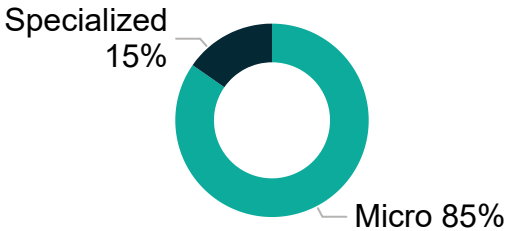
Daily Ridership



Peak Hours



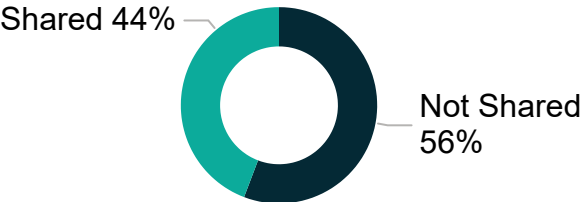
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Subscription		97	97
App	506	666	1172
Agent	45	144	189
Total	551	907	1458

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Port Colborne

Number of Passengers

3,750

Number of Trips

3,157

Number of Accessible Trips

205

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

38

Average Direct Distance (km)

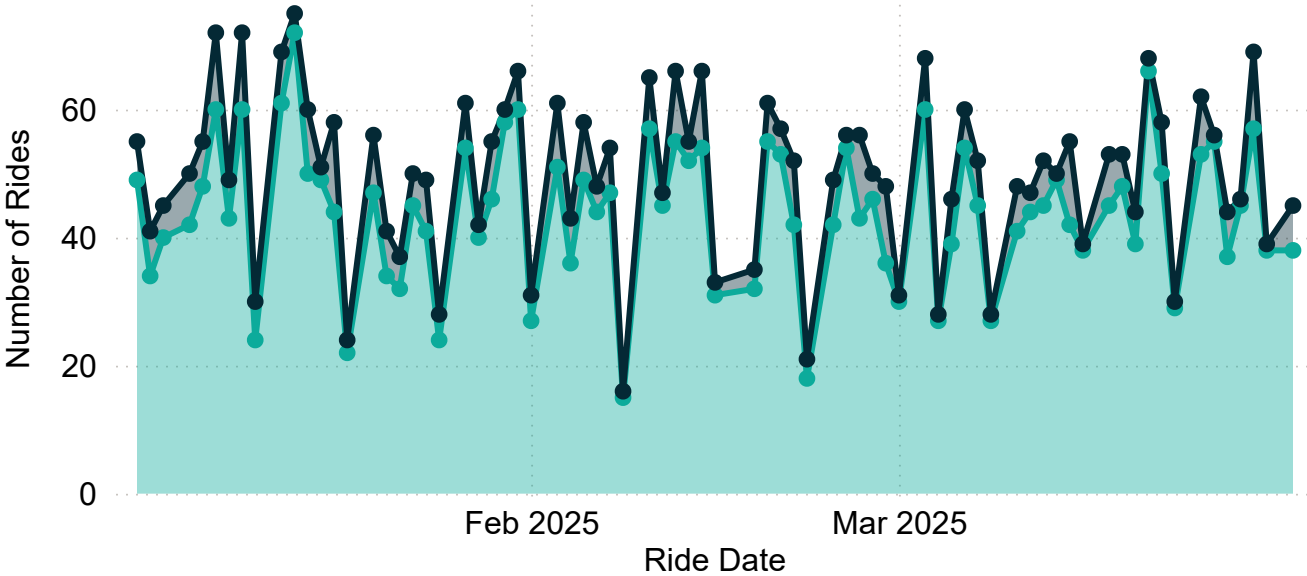
6.62

Average Time On-Board (min)

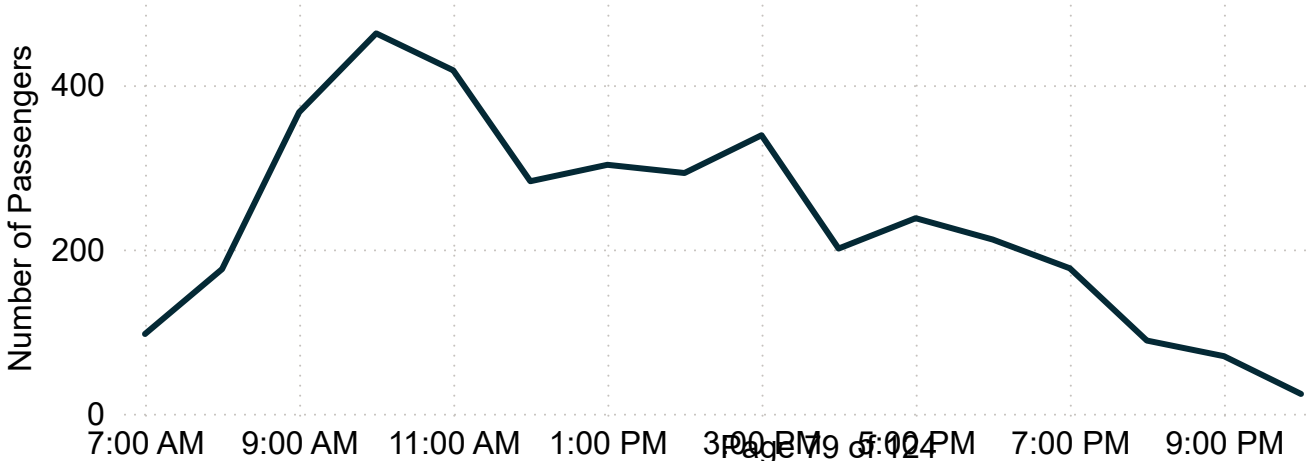
13.19

Daily Ridership

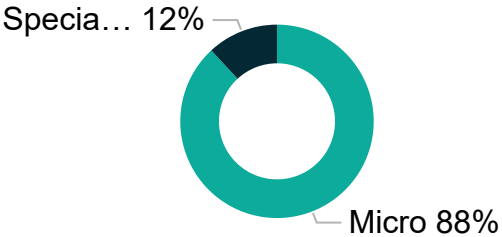
Micro Specialized



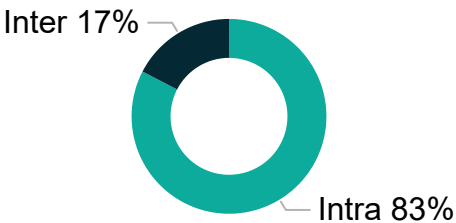
Peak Hours



Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	106	247	353
App	1609	982	2591
Subscription		213	213
Total	1715	1442	3157

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - St. Catharines

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers
4,509

Number of Trips
4,112

Number of Accessible Trips
813

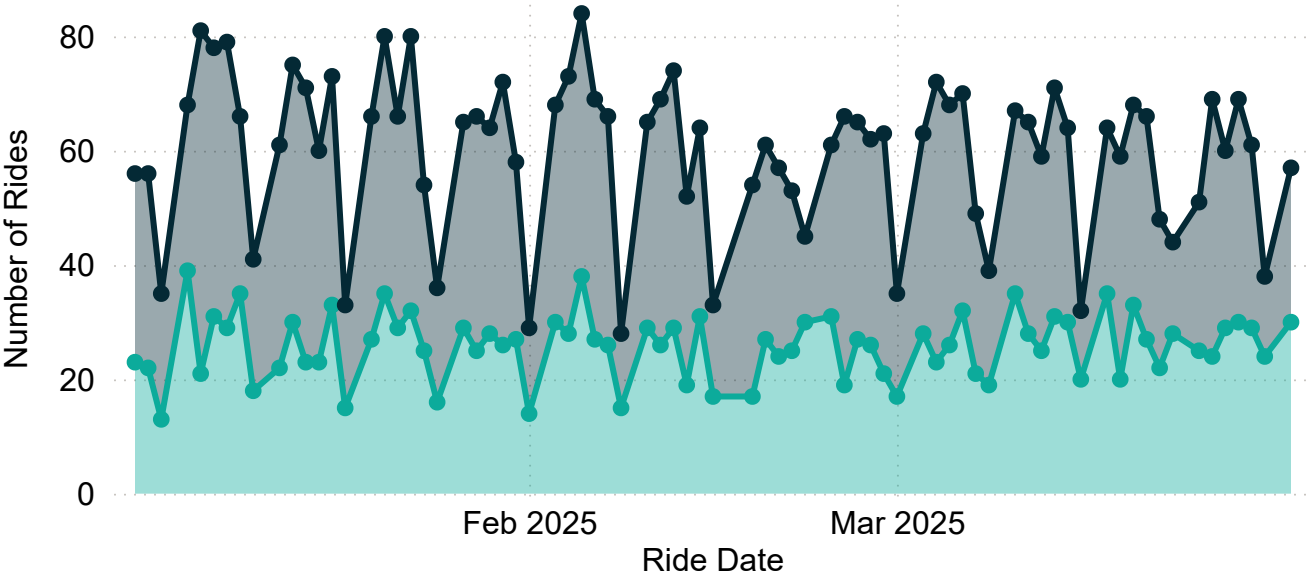
Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device
14

Average Direct Distance (km)
21.32

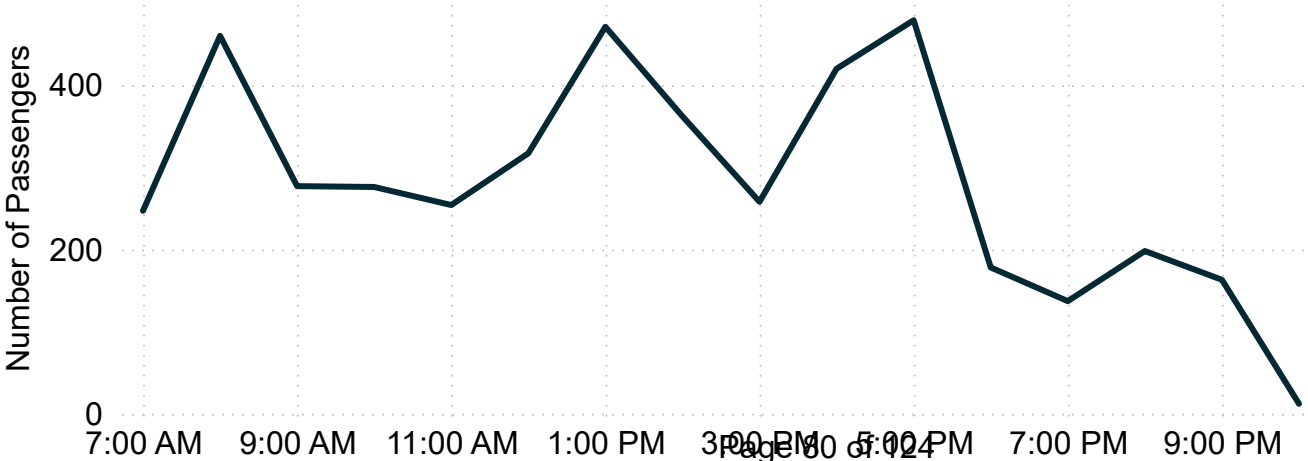
Average Time On-Board (min)
29.74

Daily Ridership

● Micro ● Specialized



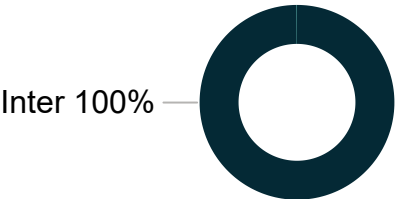
Peak Hours



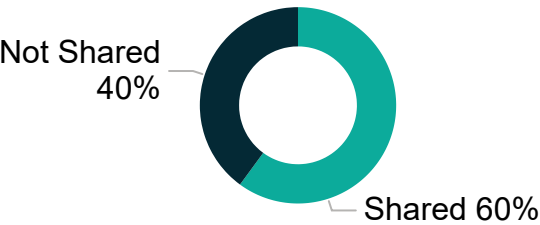
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	98	710	808
App	525	2295	2820
Subscription		484	484
Total	623	3489	4112

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Thorold

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

1,101

Number of Trips

907

Number of Accessible
Trips

379

Number of Micro Trips with
an Accessibility Device

(Blank)

Average Direct Distance
(km)

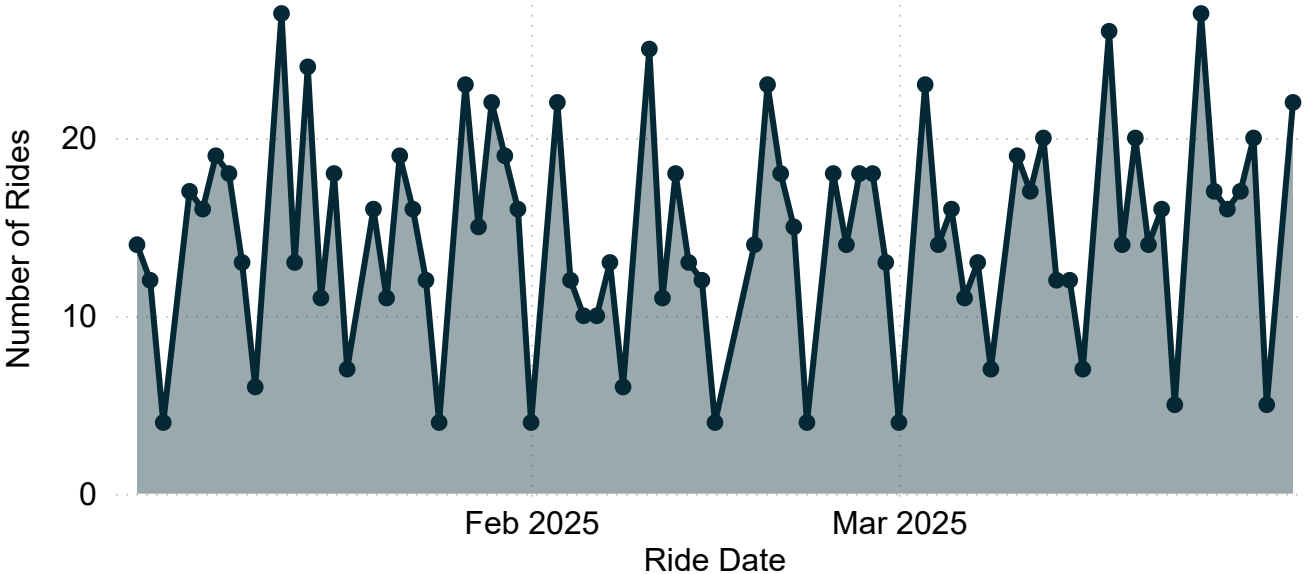
10.77

Average Time On-Board
(min)

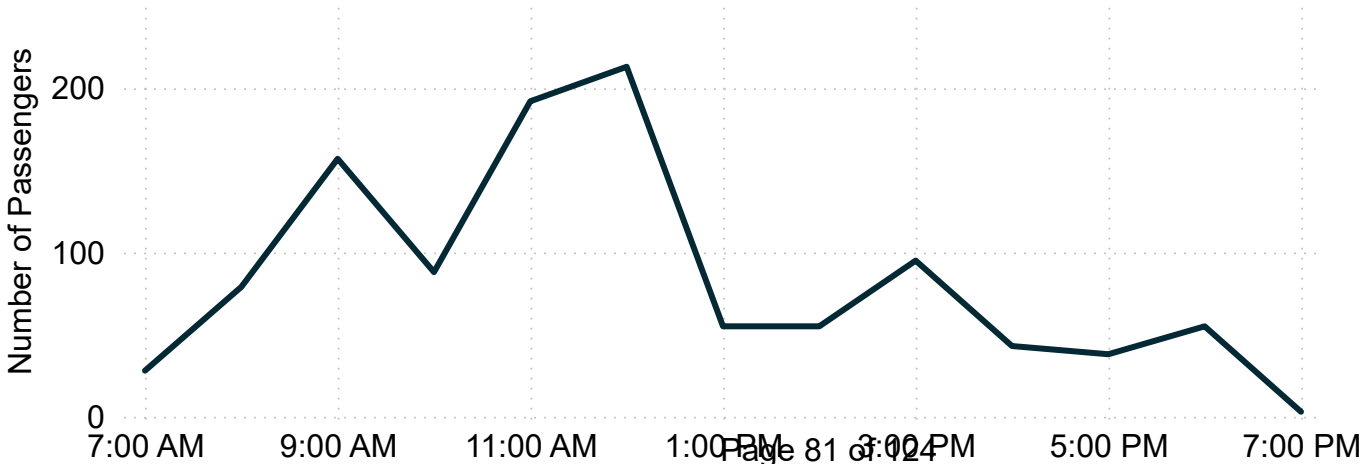
21.70

Daily Ridership

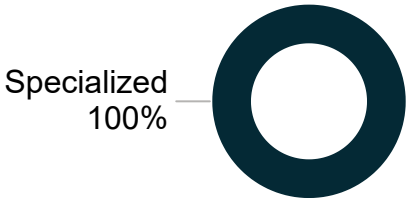
● Specialized



Peak Hours



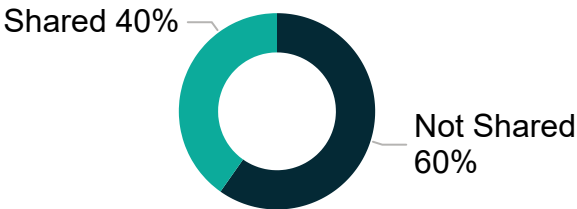
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	22	299	321
App	29	431	460
Subscription		126	126
Total	51	856	907

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Wainfleet

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

225

Number of Trips

219

Number of Accessible Trips

17

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

2

Average Direct Distance (km)

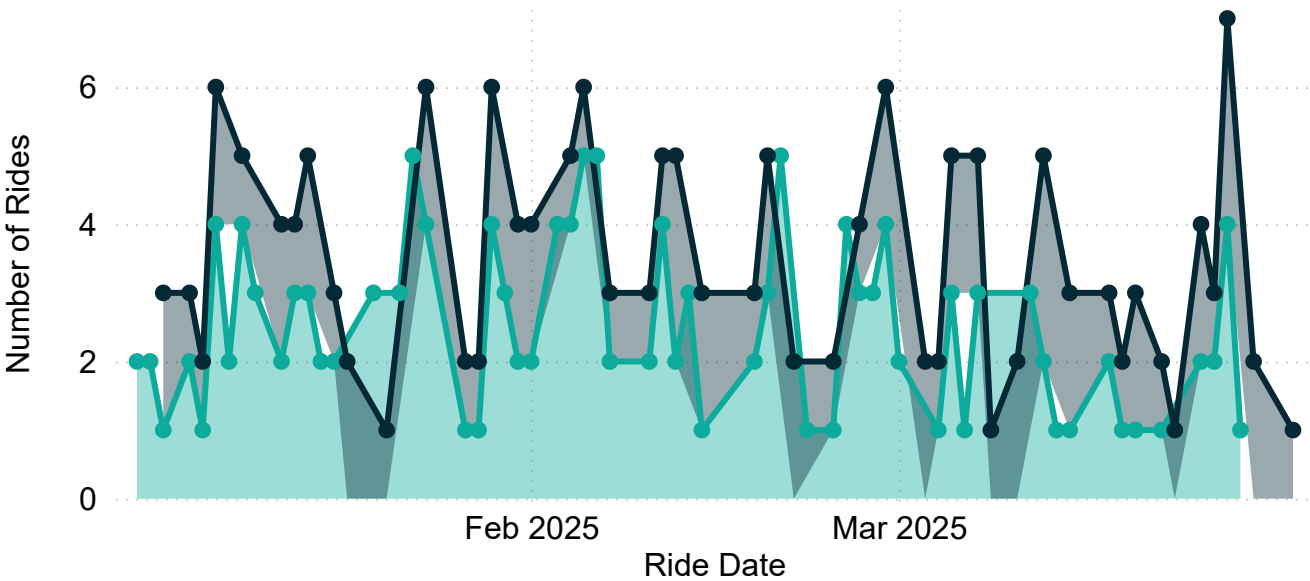
20.72

Average Time On-Board (min)

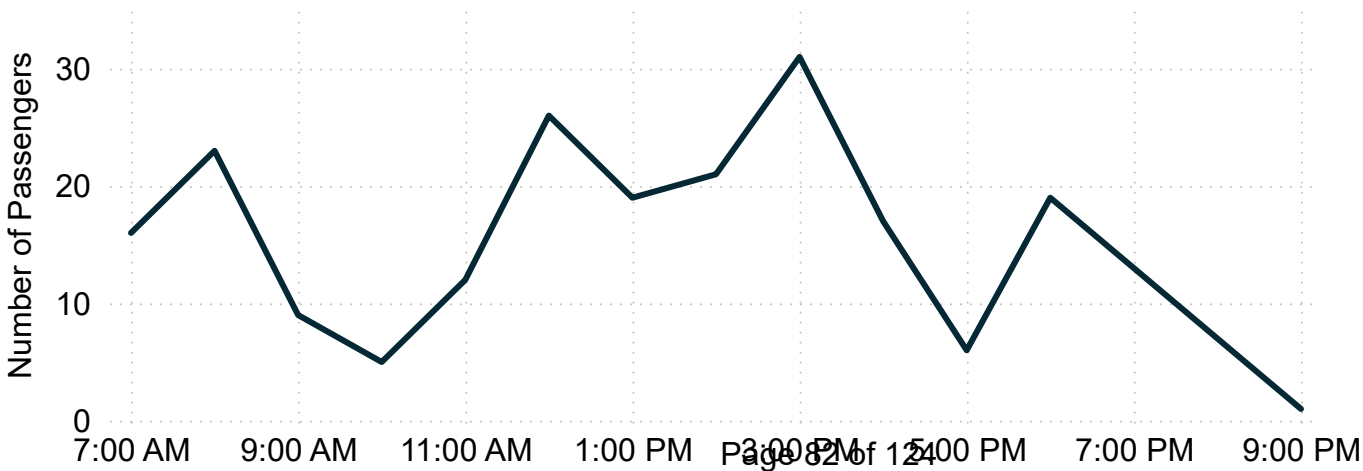
25.99

Daily Ridership

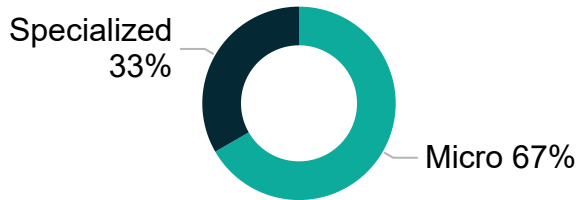
● Micro ● Specialized



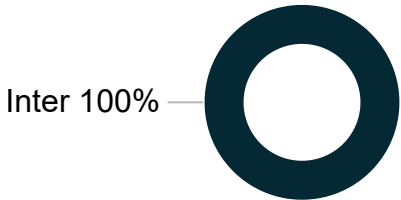
Peak Hours



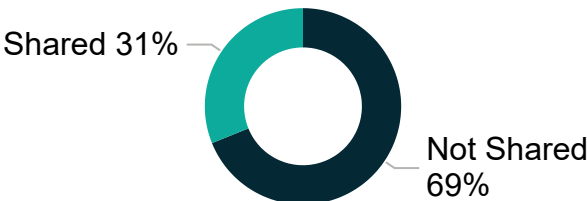
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	4	36	
App	39	138	177
Subscription		2	2
Total	43	176	219

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - Welland

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

2,407

Number of Trips

2,204

Number of Accessible Trips

651

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

4

Average Direct Distance (km)

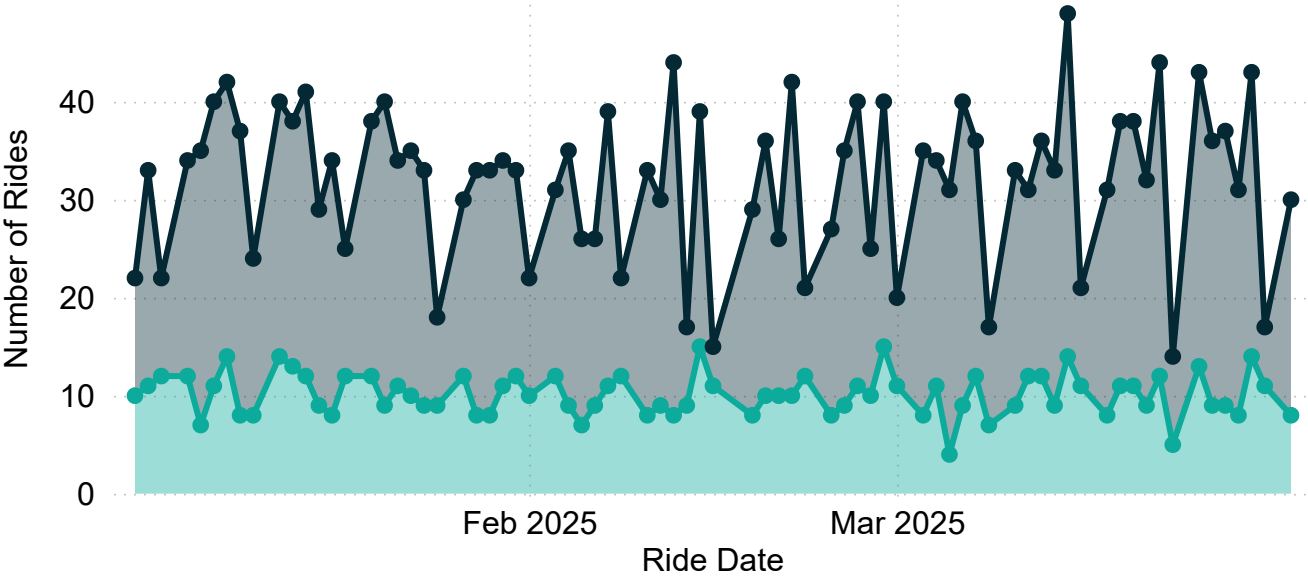
20.32

Average Time On-Board (min)

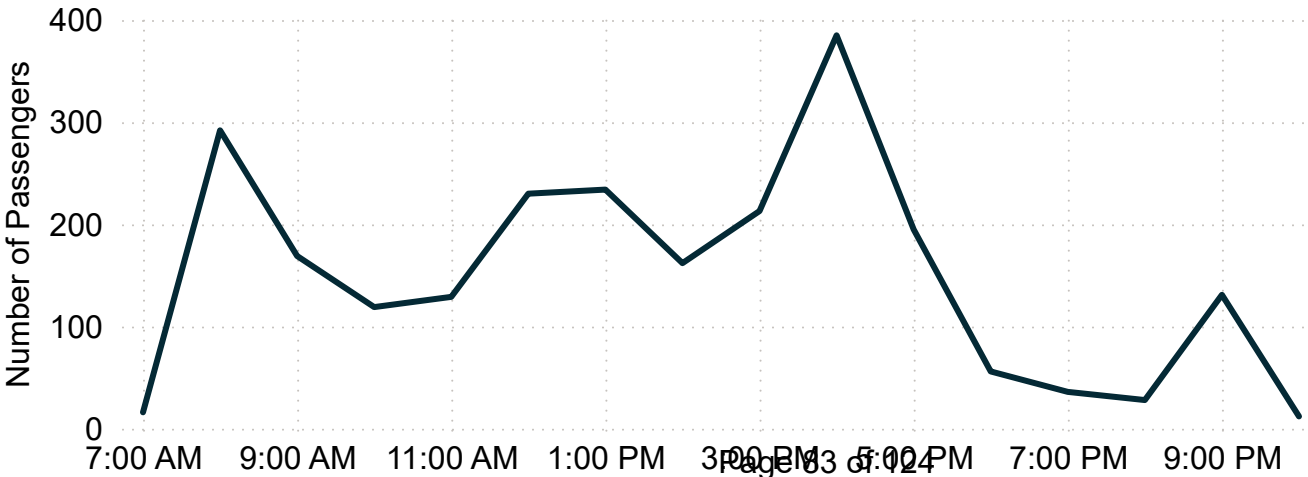
31.66

Daily Ridership

● Micro ● Specialized



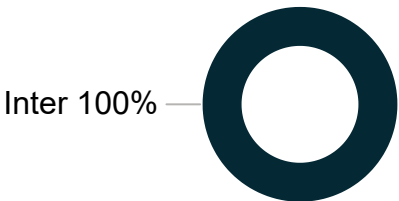
Peak Hours



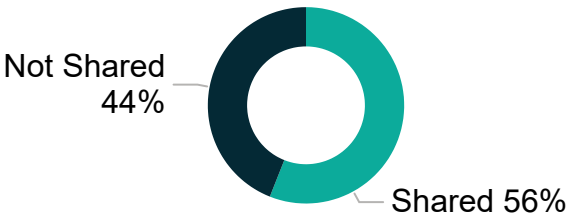
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization



Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	45	370	415
App	217	965	1182
Subscription	1	606	607
Total	263	1941	2204

NT+ (Contract) Voyago 2025 (Q1) Service Metrics - West Lincoln

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Number of Passengers

819

Number of Trips

773

Number of Accessible Trips

29

Number of Micro Trips with an Accessibility Device

20

Average Direct Distance (km)

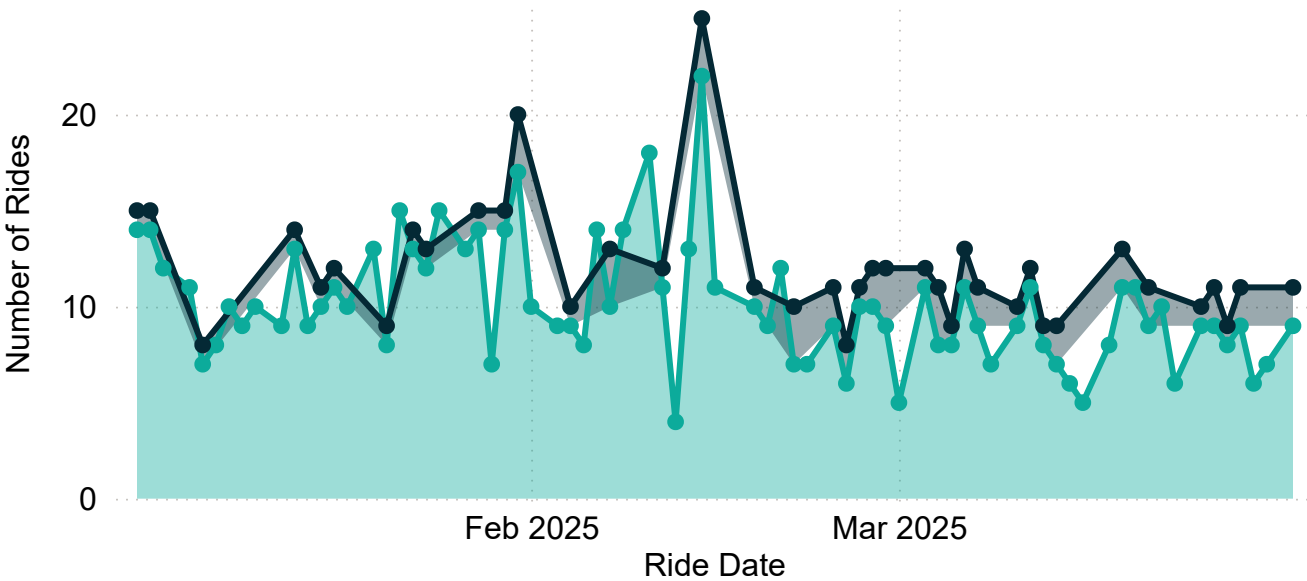
21.31

Average Time On-Board (min)

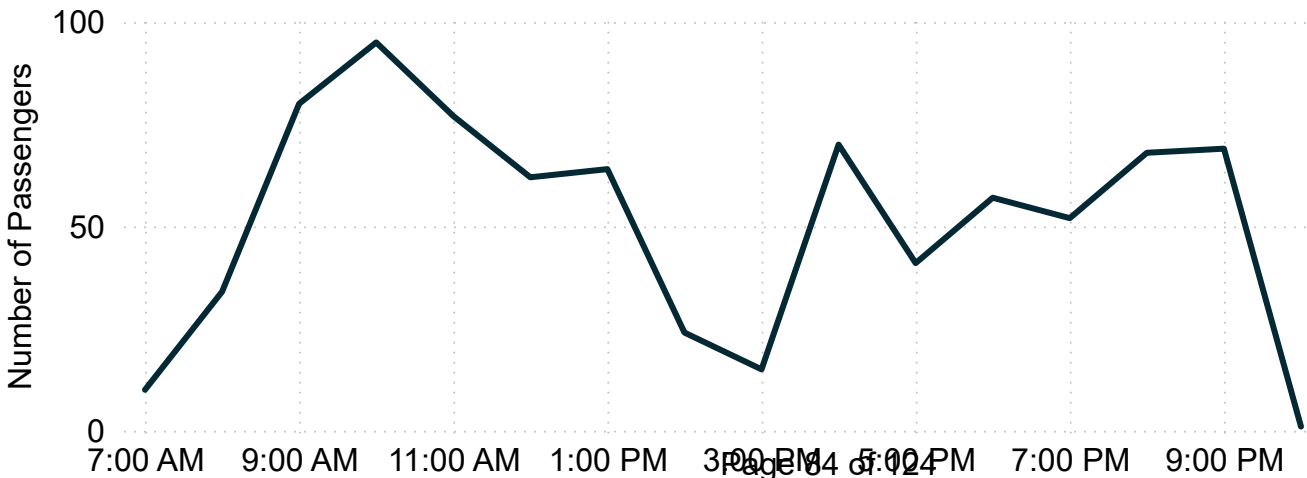
28.33

Daily Ridership

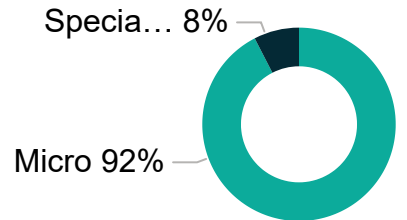
● Micro ● Specialized



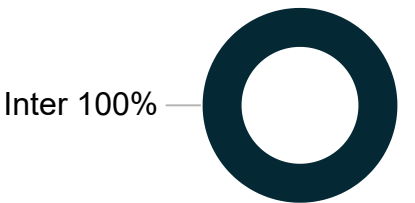
Peak Hours



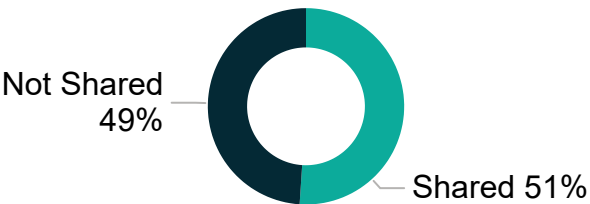
Service Type



Trip Type



Trip Utilization

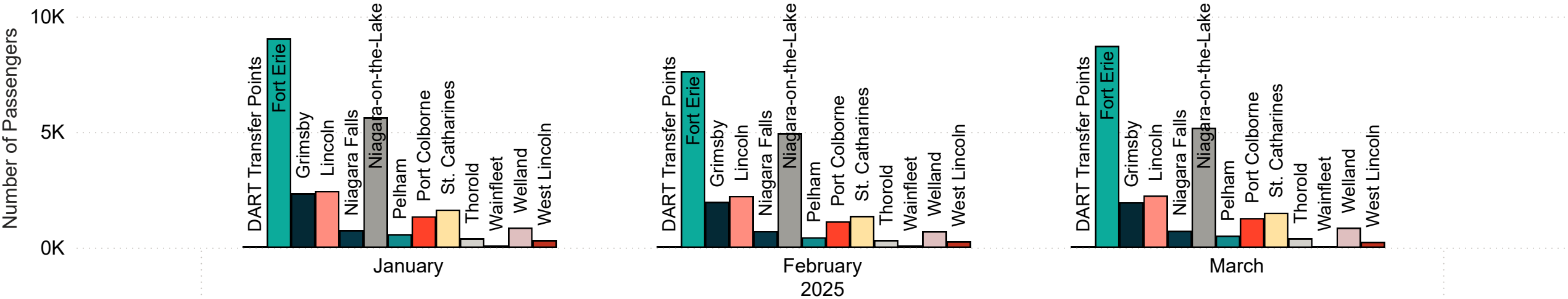


Booking Method	Day Of	Pre-Booked	Total
Agent	10	12	22
App	226	512	738
Subscription		13	13
Total	236	537	773

Overall NT+ (Contract) Voyago Trip Origin Metrics - 2025 (Q1)

NTC-C 14-2025
April 15, 2025
Appendix 1

Ridership By Trip Origin



Origin Municipality	DART Transfer Points	Fort Erie	Grimsby	Lincoln	Niagara Falls	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Pelham	Port Colborne	St. Catharines	Thorold	Wainfleet	Welland	West Lincoln	Total
DART Transfer Points		5	1		8	1			18	1		7		41
Fort Erie	5	24670			200	3		125	133	33		220		25389
Grimsby	1		3910	1070	13	1	29	33	871	9	4	46	279	6266
Lincoln			1147	3362	17	36	32	31	1768	25	5	249	242	6914
Niagara Falls	9	152	12	23		351	1	20	912	137	13	549		2179
Niagara-on-the-Lake	1	2	1	40	457	14942	20		221	43		9		15736
Pelham			39	27	7	20	498	30	282	19	14	576	8	1520
Port Colborne		100	22	5	25		28	3098	24	5	78	342	23	3750
St. Catharines	19	116	829	1378	880	268	227	28	2	283	15	326	138	4509
Thorold	1	32	16	25	141	65	18	5	323	402		65	8	1101
Wainfleet				4	13		21	53	15	1		108	10	225
Welland	8	234	10	277	507	8	514	331	340	62	68		48	2407
West Lincoln			270	279	1		17	4	141	31	18	58		819
Total	44	25311	6257	6490	2269	15695	1405	3758	5050	1051	215	2555	756	70856

- **Agent Booking Method** - Rides that are booked by phoning in and speaking with a customer service representative
- **App Booking Method** - Rides that are booked by using the Niagara Transit Plus application on a mobile device
- **Average Direct Distance** - The average distance in kilometres it would take to drive directly from origin to destination without any stops
- **Average Time On-Board** - The average time a passenger is spending on-board the vehicle
- **Day of Booking Type** - Rides that are booked on the same day of use
- **Inter Trip Type** - Rides that travel from one municipality to another, crossing municipal boundaries
- **Intra Trip Type** - Rides that stay within the municipal boundary in which the trip originated
- **Micro Daily Ridership** - Number of passengers taking micro transit trips per day
- **Micro Service Type** - Number of trips that are using the micro transit service
- **Number of Accessible** - Number of trips that are using either the micro or specialized transit service that are accessible, where the passenger is using a mobility device
- **Number of Micro Trips with Accessible Device** - Number of trips using the micro transit service that are accessible, where the passenger is using a mobility device
- **Number of Passengers** - Total number of passengers that have completed trips
- **Number of Trips** - Total number of trips being completed
- **Peak Hours** - Hours of the day that have the highest demand for ridership
- **Pre-Book Booking Type** - Rides that are booked in advance of the requested trip day
- **Specialized Daily Ridership** - Number of passengers taking specialized transit trips per day
- **Specialized Service Type** - Number of trips that are using the specialized transit service
- **Subscription Booking Method** - Trips that are booked once and happen on a recurring schedule ie. trips to dialysis



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

April 25, 2025

By Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford

By Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

**Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing**

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

The Council of the Town of Tecumseh, at its regular meeting held Tuesday, April 22, 2025, passed the following resolution regarding its April 15, 2025 Letter sent to Ontario's Regulatory Registry on the proposed May 1, 2025, expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, a copy of which is enclosed.

At their meeting, Tecumseh Council passed the following resolution:

Motion: RCM - 114/25

Moved by Councillor Alicia Higgison
Seconded by Councillor Tania Jobin

"That the agenda Communication item regarding the Town of Tecumseh and its opposition to the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers **be circulated** to the Premier of Ontario, the local MPPs, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, and all municipalities".

Carried

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of Tecumseh's action on the matter.

Yours very truly,

Robert Auger, LLB
Director Legislative Services & Clerk

RA/ja
Attachment

1. Town of Tecumseh Resolution- Strong Mayor Powers dated April 15, 2025
- cc.
- County of Essex
 - Town of Amherstburg
 - Municipality of Lakeshore
 - Municipality of Leamington
 - Town of LaSalle
 - Town of Essex



April 15, 2025

Ministry to Municipal Affairs and Housing

Via Email to the Ontario's Regulatory Registry

Re: Letter of Resolution – Proposed May 1, 2025, expansion of Strong Mayor Powers to the Town of Tecumseh

At its April 15, 2025, Special Council meeting called in response to the April 9, 2025, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing news release on the proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to 169 additional municipalities, the Council of the Town of Tecumseh provided the following comments with the unanimous passage of the following resolution:

“Motion: SCM – 19/25

Moved by Deputy Mayor Bachetti

Seconded by Councilor Jobin

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, through O. Reg. 530/22 under the Municipal Act, 2001, has designated the Town of Tecumseh as a “Strong Mayor” municipality, granting the enhanced powers of Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act to its Head of Council effective May 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing news release announcing the proposal to expand Strong Mayor powers to 169 additional municipalities on April 9, 2025, indicated a one-week consultation deadline for municipal comments on the proposal to be submitted to Ontario's Regulatory Registry by April 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS without the benefit of a more thorough consultation process and suitable period of time for feedback on the proposed expansion of Strong Mayor powers, the proposal is a disservice to the very communities they impact; and

WHEREAS Strong Mayor Powers alter the balance of governance at the local level, undermining the role of our duly elected members of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principles of majority vote and majority rule; and

WHEREAS the Town of Tecumseh has had a long and successful history of local governance based on collaborative and effective leadership built upon a foundation of Council debate and reaching consensus on decisions for its community; and

WHEREAS the Town of Tecumseh being a smaller community, has thrived with these collaborative, transparent, and accountable processes without the need for an expansion of

Strong Mayor Powers in order to serve Provincial Priorities and act in the best interests of its residents; and

WHEREAS given the long history of the Town of Tecumseh as a collaborative Council, the extension of Strong Mayor powers to the Town of Tecumseh may serve to instead counteract the stated purposes of the Strong Mayor Power legislation by disrupting what have been successful democratic processes and by undermining the important role that each Council member provides for its citizens.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Tecumseh Town Council formally opposes the proposed expansion of Strong Mayor Powers as announced on April 9, 2025 and further requests that the proposed amendments to O. Reg 530/22 to expand Strong Mayor Powers to Additional Municipalities NOT include the Town of Tecumseh and respectfully requests that the Town of Tecumseh be removed from the list of municipalities so designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon circulation that the Clerk be authorized to send and upload a copy of this resolution together with a letter of resolution to Ontario's Regulatory Registry by the April 16, 2025, deadline for comments on the proposal.

"Carried."

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Auger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Auger, LL.B.
Director Legislative Services & Clerk



GEORGINA

Legislative Services Department/Clerk's Division

April 7, 2025

Via email; premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
TORONTO, Ontario M7A 1A1

The Honourable Premier Ford:

Re: Resolution regarding Salt Management

Please be advised that Town Council adopted the following motion concerning Salt Management;

RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0077

Moved By Councillor Neeson

Seconded By Regional Councillor Davison

WHEREAS road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious and irreversible environmental and public health concerns associated with road salt; and

WHEREAS salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS Lake Simcoe is our closest freshwater lake and is the 4th largest inland lake within Ontario, host to a number of functions including a biodiverse habitat for over 56 species of fish, the source water for municipal drinking water for hundreds of thousands of residents within the watershed, including 41,000 here in the Town of Georgina, and the many other recreational and commercial functions it serves; and

WHEREAS Lake Simcoe's salinity concentrations have increased over 500% since monitoring began over the past 50 years, with the primary contributor being runoff from the use of salt for winter maintenance; and

WHEREAS the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet still the salt problem continues to grow; and

WHEREAS numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans; and

WHEREAS increased numbers of slip and fall claims, and other injury/collision claims related to snow and ice, are resulting in salt applicators overusing salt beyond levels considered best practices; and

WHEREAS unlimited contractor liability is making it difficult or expensive for snow and ice management contractors to obtain insurance coverage, resulting in contractors leaving the business, thereby making it difficult for municipalities and private owners to find contractors; and

WHEREAS the Snow and Ice Management Sector (SMS) of Landscape Ontario is working with the Ontario government to institute a limited liability regime for snow and ice management, including enforceable contractor training/certification and government-approved BMPs for salt application; and

WHEREAS many Ontario municipalities have Salt Management Plans, but these often require updating in light of improved science and better salt management practices now available; and

WHEREAS The Town of Georgina shares fifty-two (52) kilometers of beautiful Lake Simcoe shoreline and all 288 square kilometers of the Town of Georgina are encompassed by sub-watersheds that drain into Lake Simcoe; and

WHEREAS road authorities that use salt, such as the Town of Georgina, must abide by, and benefit from, established provincial regulations around snow clearing and maintenance, whereas private contractors only have voluntary programs for salt use for private and commercial property management; and

WHEREAS the Town of Georgina has demonstrated great initiative in salt mitigation efforts including committing to the use of rock salt alternatives, installation of electronic spreader controllers on all material spreading units, reduced application rates when appropriate, use of pre-wet and brine when appropriate, and an updated salt management plan that outlines salt best management practices specific to the Corporation of the Town of Georgina's winter maintenance operations

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the Town of Georgina urges the Province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially endorsed standard Best Management Practices for snow and ice management; and

2. That the Town of Georgina urges the Province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and

3. That the Town of Georgina continues to commit to the reduction of the use of road salt as much as possible while meeting local service levels and maintaining safety on roads and sidewalks; and

4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to all municipalities in York Region, all Lake Simcoe Watershed municipalities; all municipalities in Ontario; The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requesting their endorsement; The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); all Lake Simcoe Watershed MPPs; Conservation Ontario; The Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition; The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition; Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP); Attorney General Doug Downey, and The Honourable Premier Doug Ford.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your consideration of this resolution.

Sincerely,
FOR THE TOWN OF GEORGINA,



Carolyn Lance
Council Services Coordinator

cc: Minister Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks; todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney-General; doug.downey@pc.ola.org
York Region municipalities
Ontario municipalities
Lake Simcoe Watershed municipalities
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority; r.baldwin@LSRCA.on.ca
The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation; sylvia.mccue@georginaisland.com
Association of Municipalities of Ontario; resolutions@amo.on.ca
Lake Simcoe Watershed MPP's
Conservation Ontario; info@conservationontario.ca
Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition; dani@waterwatchers.ca
The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition; rescuelakesimcoecoalition@gmail.com

Township of Champlain

Resolution
Regular Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 11.1.
Resolution Number 2025-120
Title: Councillor Gerry Miner - Surveillance and Monitoring of Heavy Vehicles in Ontario
Date: April 24, 2025

Moved By: Gérard Miner
Seconded By: Paul Burroughs

Whereas the Council of the Township of Champlain is of the opinion that additional surveillance and monitoring of heavy vehicles in Ontario is required to ensure the safety of other motorists, property owners, and pedestrians.

Be it resolved that the Township of Champlain calls upon the Government of Ontario to: increase surveillance and spot checks of all heavy vehicles travelling on Ontario roads; as well as monitoring the testing standards maintained by privately-owned heavy licensing facilities.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the MPP Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, the Ontario Provincial Police, AMO and all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried

Certified True Copy of Resolution

Alison Collard, Clerk Date:

Canton de Champlain
Résolution
Réunion régulière du Conseil

No. du point à l'ordre du jour: 11.1.
No. du point 2025-120
Titre: Conseiller Gerry Miner - Surveillance et contrôle des véhicules lourds en Ontario
Date: le 24 avril 2025

Proposée par: Gérard Miner
Appuyée par: Paul Burroughs

Attendu que le Conseil du Canton de Champlain est de l'avis qu'une surveillance et un contrôle accrus des véhicules lourds en Ontario sont nécessaires pour assurer la sécurité des autres automobilistes, des propriétaires fonciers et des piétons.

Qu'il soit résolu que le Canton de Champlain demande au gouvernement de l'Ontario d'accroître la surveillance et les vérifications de tous les véhicules lourds circulant sur les routes de l'Ontario, et de contrôler les normes de vérification maintenues par les installations privées d'immatriculation des véhicules lourds; et

De plus, qu'il soit résolu que cette résolution soit transmise au ministre des Transports de l'Ontario, au ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement, au député provincial de Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, à la Police provinciale de l'Ontario, à l'AMO et à toutes les municipalités de l'Ontario.

Adoptée

Copie certifiée conforme

Alison Collard, greffière Date :

15. Committee and Staff Reports

15.1 Minutes - Committee of the Whole Meeting CW#06-25 held April 16, 2025

15.1.13 Member Motion - Councillor Cilevitz - Provincial regulations needed to restrict keeping of non-native ("exotic") wild animals - (CW Item 12.1)

Moved by: Councillor Thompson

Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

Whereas Ontario has more private non-native ("exotic") wild animal keepers, roadside zoos, mobile zoos, wildlife exhibits and other captive wildlife operations than any other province; and,

Whereas the Province of Ontario has of yet not developed regulations to prohibit or restrict animal possession, breeding, or use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals in captivity; and,

Whereas non-native ("exotic") wild animals can pose very serious human health and safety risks, and attacks causing human injury and death have occurred in the province; and,

Whereas the keeping of non-native ("exotic") wild animals can cause poor animal welfare and suffering, and poses risks to local environments and wildlife; and,

Whereas owners of non-native ("exotic") wild animals can move from one community to another even after their operations have been shut down due to animal welfare or public health and safety concerns; and,

Whereas municipalities have struggled, often for months or years, to deal with non- native ("exotic") wild animal issues and have experienced substantive regulatory, administrative, enforcement and financial challenges; and,

(continued)



Extracts from Council Meeting
C#10-25 held April 23, 2025
Confirmatory By-law 60-25

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and the Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association (MLEOA) have indicated their support for World Animal Protection's campaign for provincial regulations of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and roadside zoos in letters to the Ontario Solicitor General and Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. That the City of Richmond Hill hereby petitions the provincial government to implement provincial regulations to restrict the possession, breeding, and use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and license zoos in order to guarantee the fair and consistent application of policy throughout Ontario for the safety of Ontario's citizens and the non-native ("exotic") wild animal population;
2. That this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Solicitor General, Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry, and Richmond Hill MPP's, AMO, AMCTO, and MLEOA.

Carried

For Your Information and Any Action Deemed Necessary



BY EMAIL

April 28, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers: Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22

At its Regular Council Meeting held on April 22, 2025, Council discussed their opposition to the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025. Council of the Town of Essex requests that the proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to expand Strong Mayor Powers and duties to additional municipalities not include the Town of Essex.

Council accordingly passed the following resolution:

R25-04-187

Moved By Mayor Bondy
Seconded By Councillor Hammond

Whereas on April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "**Province**"), led by Premier Doug Ford, announced a proposal to expand "Strong Mayor Powers" as provided for by Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001, to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities including the Town of Essex, effective May 1, 2025;

And whereas Strong Mayor Powers erode democratic process and have fundamentally altered the historic model of local governance which has existed for almost two centuries, by:

- Providing the head of council with the authority to give direction and make certain decisions without the usual consensus from a majority of the members of council; and,
- Creating a power imbalance by providing the head of council with special powers that other members do not generally have.



And whereas the Province is undermining the local governance model and municipal independence by attempting to advance its priorities through municipalities, and downloading its responsibilities to the same.

Now there be it resolved that:

- The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Essex ("**Council**") formally **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;
- Council requests that the proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities not include the Town of Essex; and
- Council **directs** the Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex, Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West, Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh, Trevor Jone, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington, AMCTO, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

We trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Malandrucolo".

Joseph Malandrucolo
Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
jmalandrucolo@essex.ca

cc: Anthony Leardi, MPP, Essex
Lisa Gretzky, MPP Windsor West
Andrew Dowie, MPP Windsor-Tecumseh
Trevor Jones, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington
Association of Municipal Managers Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON P0K 1L0

PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311

LARDERLAKE.CA

Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

April 25th, 2025

To whom it May Concern:

Please be advised that at the Township of Larder Lake Regular Council Meeting held Tuesday, April 8th, 2025, the following resolution of support was adopted:

Resolution: 5

Moved by: Councillor Armstrong

Seconded by: Councillor Hull

That Council supports item 6.3.1 of letters and communications from the Town of Fort Frances regarding the Sovereignty of Canada

Carried

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crystal Labbe", is written over a horizontal line.

Crystal Labbe
CAO/ Clerk Treasurer

Enc. Fort Frances Resolution of Council
Resolution of support Township of Larder Lake



FORTFRANCES

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

Monday, February 10, 2025

Oral Motion

“THAT Council supports the Town of Halton Hills Resolution No. 2025-0010 regarding the Sovereignty of Canada.”

Moved by Wendy Brunetta, Seconded by Steven Maki, Motion Carried by Council.

WHEREAS President Trump has suggested that with the use of “economic force” such as tariffs, Canada should become the 51st state of the United States, and further he suggests that many Canadians would agree;

AND WHEREAS Canada is a sovereign nation with a peaceful history of self-governance dating to its Confederation in 1867;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian identity is marked by a deep-rooted pride in its heritage and culture founded by French and British settlement, enriched by Indigenous culture and traditions, and by more than a century and a half of multicultural immigration;

AND WHEREAS Canada has significant global standing, consistently supporting its allies, including the United States, in global conflicts such as two world wars, and wars in Korea and Afghanistan; and in international coalitions and in being consistently recognized as among the top countries in the world for quality of life;

AND WHEREAS the shared history of the United States and Canada has been one of friendship, respect, and neighbourly relations;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Fort Frances categorically rejects any efforts by incoming President Trump or any others to undermine the sovereignty of Canada. We stand united with our Ontario Premier Doug Fort and our Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for a Canada that remains strong, free, independent, and characterized by peace, order, and good government.

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor prepare correspondence containing this resolution for circulation to the office of the American president through our Canadian diplomatic channels with copies to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, MP Michael Chong, Premier Doug Ford, The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade of Ontario, MPP Ted Arnott, Leaders of the Opposition Parties, AMO, FCM, and all municipalities in Ontario.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

☒ Thomas Armstrong
☐ Patricia Hull
☐ Paul Kelly
☐ Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

☐ Thomas Armstrong
☒ Patricia Hull
☐ Paul Kelly
☐ Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 5

Resolution #: 5

Date: April 8, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the township of Larder Lake supports the resolution from the Town of Fort Frances regarding the Sovereignty of Canada

Recorded vote requested: ☐

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong	✓	
Patricia Hull	✓	
Paul Kelly	✓	
Lynne Paquette	✓	
Patty Quinn	✓	

I declare this motion

☒ Carried
☐ Lost / Defeated
☐ Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
☐ Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair: 

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.



TOWN OF PETAWAWA

1111 Victoria Street, Petawawa, Ontario K8H 2E6

(613) 687-5536

gserviss@petawawa.ca

petawawa.ca

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Honorable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

April 29, 2025

RE: Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities

Dear Minister Flack,

Thank you for your letter dated April 9, 2025, regarding the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to the Town of Petawawa. Our Council discussed this issue in an open forum at our council meeting on April 23rd and are firmly of the belief that this effort undermines the value of collaboration between the Mayor, Councillors, and Staff. Increasing the powers of the Mayor to push forward Provincial Priorities would eliminate shared decision making, create divisiveness at the council table, and blur the lines between administrative and political roles. Our council believes that this would result in an erosion of the democratic process at the Municipal level, especially in a small city like Petawawa.

Although we don't always agree unanimously on all matters, our council works as a cohesive unit, firmly focused on the goals of advancing and encouraging growth and making our community a wonderful place in which to live and invest. Each of member of council brings their own set of skills, knowledge, values and perspectives to achieve these goals, and has worked extremely well together.

Since it was sworn in, our Council has been collectively focused on advancing provincial priorities by delivering much needed housing, building infrastructure that supports community growth and the construction of new homes, including housing-enabling infrastructure such as water and wastewater. The largest community in Renfrew County, Petawawa has grown significantly over the last decade (roughly 25%) and added a large amount of new housing to meet market demands. In 2024, Petawawa increased the size of its planning department to

reduce permit processing times, 120 new dwellings (Single Family Detached/Row Housing/Multi-family) were constructed, and there are many more dwellings underway:

Structure type	In Pre-Consultation or going through Planning Approvals	Planning Approvals Complete (under construction)
Single Family Detached	533	61
Row Housing	24	96
Apartment	348	60
Additional Residential Unit	0	44
Total Units	905	261

Further to this, Garrison Petawawa and Canadian Nuclear laboratories are reporting that they will need to house 1100 individuals and their families as they expand operations. Based on this need and other factors, our municipality is working with private sector and nonprofit developers to meet the demand for both market and affordable housing. To be forthright, where the municipality needs help the most to support housing development and foster densification is access to additional funding to extend utilities, such as water and wastewater services, to developable lands to meet future growth needs. Petawawa has faced a significant reduction in Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) over the past two fiscal years (\$2.3 million over 2024 and 2025) due to the Business Education Tax discount as well as an annual reduction in Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding over the past decade which has hampered our ability to extend necessary water and wastewater infrastructure vital to delivering new homes. The community's Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding was reduced in 2025 as well.

In closing, our Council requests that the Ontario Government excludes the Town of Petawawa from its proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities, and work with the municipality to identify funding to support expansion of its storm, water and wastewater treatment systems to support future residential and commercial growth. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me through our offices if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Gary Serviss
Mayor of Petawawa

Copied: Doug Ford, Premier
Billy Denault, MPP, Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke

Enc. Resolution – Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Petawawa



TOWN OF PETAWAWA

1111 Victoria Street, Petawawa, Ontario K8H 2E6

☎ (613) 687-5536

✉ gserviss@petawawa.ca

🌐 petawawa.ca

April 28, 2025

Delivered Electronically

Attn: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Re: Resolution - Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Petawawa

At its Council-In-Committee meeting on **April 28, 2025**, Petawawa Town Council passed a **Resolution** in response to the Province's recent proposal to designate Petawawa as a "**Strong Mayor**" municipality, effective May 1, 2025.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Town of Petawawa as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Petawawa has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Petawawa did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Petawawa Town Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Petawawa from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial

Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Serviss', with a small 'ss' written below the main signature.

Gary Serviss
Mayor, Town of Petawawa
(613) 687-5536
gserviss@petawawa.ca
petawawa.ca

CC:
The Honourable Rob Flack (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Regional Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



The Corporation of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

April 29, 2025

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Proposal to End Daylight Savings Time in Ontario

Please be advised that the Council of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan at its meeting on April 28th, 2025 passed the following resolution:

R107-2025

Moved by Councillor Terry Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Mark Allen

Whereas Ontario already has the legislative framework to end the antiquated practice of Daylight Saving Time (DST), as per the Time Amendment Act of 2020: But New York has delayed us for over 4 long years.

And Whereas the Case for Ending DST immediately pertains to clear and present Health and Public Safety concerns: Clock shifts spike heart attacks, accidents, and stress, per the Canadian Society for Chronobiology. Kids lose focus, domestic violence rises, and vulnerable folks—mentally ill, homeless, addicts—face unnecessary strain and relapse risks. Indigenous health gaps deepen as DST clashes with traditions. Standard Time aligns with nature, easing healthcare burdens and healthcare costs.

And Whereas ending DST is a clear and permanent assertion of the economic independence of Ontario: Our new, post tariff economic reality exposes the reliance on New York for our internal policy as outdated. Ontario should look out for Ontarians, and

our sovereignty must be asserted. Quebec already considers the change; so 15 million Ontarians should not continue to wait on NY. Businesses will adapt; citizens will gain stability. Over 100,000 petition voices and 70% of Ontarians agree. Ontario must take the lead, and hopefully NY can eventually follow our lead for the good of their own people.

Therefore be it resolved that we request staff to distribute this communication to all the Municipalities, Chiefs & Councils of Ontario in addition to the Premier of the Govt. of Ontario and urge the Premier to:

1. Amend the Time Amendment Act 2020 to drop New York's contingency, effective immediately.
2. Set permanent Standard Time (EST) from November 2, 2025.

CARRIED.

Yours truly,
Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan



Liz Ross
Deputy Clerk

Sent via Email:
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, premier@ontario.ca
Municipalities of Ontario



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

April 30, 2025

Via email: rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Hon. Rob Flack,

Re: Proposed Amendments to O.Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their April 22, 2025 Regular Council Meeting:

176-2025

Moved By: Jim Dietrich

Seconded by: Wendy McLeod-Haggitt

That South Huron Council supports the April 14, 2025 correspondence of Town of Saugeen Shores regarding opposition to Proposed Amendments to O.Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers; and

That this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Rob Flack, Lisa Thompson, MPP, Minister of Rural Affairs, AMO, Town of Saugeen Shores, and all municipalities in Ontario.

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator
Municipality of South Huron
kwebster@southhuron.ca
519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of Rural Affairs, MPP Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org;
AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca ; Town of Saugeen Shores,
clerk@saugeenshores.ca; and all municipalities in Ontario.



Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

April 14, 2025

Honourable Rob Flack
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister,

RE: Opposition to Proposed Amendments to O.Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers

I am writing to express my opposition to the government's proposed expansion of Strong Mayor powers to include the Town of Saugeen Shores. As the Mayor of Saugeen Shores, I am concerned about the implications of this policy change on our local governance. Please consider this letter as the Town of Saugeen Shores submission on O.Reg. 530/22 which is available for comment until April 16th.

In my experience, the 'Council Manager' system of governance has always served our municipality well. Specifically, when it comes to advancing our shared priority of building more housing to serve our residents, Saugeen Shores Council has demonstrated flexible and determined leadership. Our Council has enabled housing by reducing red tape resulting in the construction of more than 600 multi-family residential units in the last two years alone. Given the strong and sustained commitment of our Council to these efforts, I do not see how the introduction of Strong Mayor powers will accelerate the construction of housing (or the pursuit of other priority areas) in any way. On the contrary, vesting these new powers in the Mayor threatens to disrupt long-established and effective processes, sidelining elected members of Council with effects that may be contrary to the interests of our residents.

Saugeen Shores has thrived for decades on the principle of shared leadership. We have an effective team of elected representatives working in partnership with a professional staff to achieve goals that are transparently set out in our Strategic Plan and annual Business Plans. This approach to governance is foundational to building trust between the municipality and the residents that it serves. I fear that the unilateral decision-making enabled by Strong Mayor powers would erode this trust and disrupt the collaborative environment that has long been at the heart of the democratic tradition of our Council and community.

I urge you to reconsider the expansion of Strong Mayor powers. If the government has a strong desire to advance these major changes to the governance of our municipality, I

request that you engage in a thorough consultation process with our Council and the residents of our community before moving forward. It is crucial that any changes to local governance structures be made in close partnership with the communities they impact.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope that we can work together in the interest of ensuring strong local governance in Saugeen Shores.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Charbonneau', written in a cursive style.

Luke Charbonneau, Mayor
Town of Saugeen Shores

cc. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Lisa Thompson, MPP, Minister of Rural Affairs
Council, Town of Saugeen Shores
All Ontario Municipalities

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 7.2.
Resolution Number 2025-104
Title: Resolution Stemming from March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting - Item 8.1 - Correspondence #19
Date: April 16, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Pothier
Seconded by: Councillor Loftus

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution 15 passed on March 3, 2025 by the Corporation of the City of Sarnia, regarding the Carbon Tax;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney; his Cabinet, Leaders of Opposition; our local Member of Parliament (MP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

March 6, 2025

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Re: Carbon Tax

Dear Prime Minister,

At the meeting of Sarnia City Council held on March 3, 2025, the following resolution was adopted:

That given the advent of the US tariffs and the economic impact on Canadians it is even more critical at this time to petition our own Federal liberal government to put a stop the 20 percent increase to the carbon tax scheduled to be implemented April 1, 2025. The vast majority of Canadians do not support the carbon tax, and the timing could not be worse for the impact to our citizens; and

That the resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, his Cabinet, Leaders of Opposition, our MP, and All Ontario Municipalities.

Your consideration of this matter is respectfully requested.

Yours sincerely,



Amy Burkhart
City Clerk

Cc: Cabinet Ministers
The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, M.P.
The Honourable Marilyn Gladu, M.P.
All Ontario Municipalities

Municipality of *Bluewater*

April 28, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queens Park
TORONTO ON M7A 1A4
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

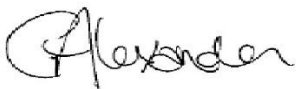
At the Municipality of Bluewater's regular Council meeting held on April 22, 2025, Council passed the following resolution:

MOVED: Councillor Whetstone **SECONDED:** Councillor Hessel
WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to expand Strong Mayor Powers to an additional 169 municipalities across Ontario, including the Municipality of Bluewater, effective May 1, 2025;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Municipality of Bluewater is in opposition to the addition of Strong Mayor Powers in the Municipality of Bluewater, and across the Province;

AND FURTHER that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Ontario Municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support. **CARRIED**

Sincerely,



Chandra Alexander
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER

P.O. BOX 400 • 100 DEEP RIVER ROAD • DEEP RIVER, ONTARIO K0J 1P0
Tel: (613) 584-2000 • www.deepriver.ca • Fax: (613) 584-3237



BY EMAIL

April 30, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Town of Deep River in Response to the Province's Recent Proposal to Designate Deep River as a "Strong Mayor" Municipality, Effective May 1, 2025.

At a Special Meeting of Council held on April 29, 2025, Council of the Town of Deep River passed the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2025 128

MOVED BY: Councillor Fitton
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Town of Deep River as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Deep River has a long history of collaborative, accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Deep River did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Deep River Town Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Deep River from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mellon', written in a cursive style.

Jackie Mellon
Clerk
Town of Deep River
jmellon@deepriver.ca

cc: Regional Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



Phone: 613-584-2000
Fax: 613-584-3237
Email: townmail@deepriver.ca
deepriver.ca | [f](#) [@](#)

April 30, 2025

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Honorable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Re: Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities

Dear Minister Flack,

Thank you for your letter dated April 9, 2025, regarding your intention to expand strong mayor powers to the Town of Deep River.

I am writing as requested by Council, to emphasize that the most significant barrier to support the provincial priorities which *"include supporting the construction of new homes, economic development and building infrastructure that supports community growth, including housing-enabling infrastructure like water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as roads, highways, transit and more"* is a lack of financial resources for infrastructure projects.

Over the past several years the Town of Deep River has been investing in infrastructure projects at a rate that is not sustainable to create capacity for new residential development which is currently in the planning stages. During this same period, we have requested grant funding from the Province of Ontario through infrastructure grant applications and delegations to ministers at both AMO and ROMA to support our growth initiatives but have been unsuccessful to date.

Our primary barrier to growth in the Town of Deep River is a lack of financial support for infrastructure projects to generate capacity. This in my opinion would have a much higher impact on new housing growth than strong mayor powers will for the Town of Deep River.



I would be more than happy to answer any questions or discuss how Deep River can help to promote and achieve Ontario's housing targets.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Patterson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sean Patterson
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Deep River
613-584-2000 ext., 108
spatterson@deepriver.ca





THE CORPORATION OF THE **TOWN OF COBALT**

May 1, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt

At its Regular Council Meeting held on April 29, 2025, Council discussed their opposition to the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025. Council of the Town of Cobalt requests that the proposed amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to expand Strong Mayor Powers and duties to additional municipalities not include the Town of Cobalt.

Council accordingly passed the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 2025-057

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

CARRIED

We trust you will find this satisfactory if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned.

Kind Regards,



Steven Dalley
Town Manager, Clerk/Treasurer
Tel: (705) 679-8877
Email: sdalley@cobalt.ca

cc:

John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane
All Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

Clerk's Office

City Hall, P. O. Box 818, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W1

Tel: 519-271-0250, extension 5237

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

Website: www.stratford.ca

May 1, 2025

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford,

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building

Queens Park

Toronto, ON, M7A 1A4

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Resolution R2025-174 - Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the City of Stratford

At the April 28, 2025, Regular meeting, Stratford City Council adopted the following resolution in response to the Province's proposal to designate Stratford as a "Strong Mayor" municipality, effective May 1, 2025.

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the City of Stratford as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the City of Stratford has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the City of Stratford did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Stratford City Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the City of Stratford from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Member of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk
City of Stratford

Cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Matthew Rae, Member of Provincial Parliament, Perth - Wellington
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario