



**REGION OF WATERLOO**

**CORPORATE RESOURCES**

**Facilities Management and Fleet Services**

**TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**Transit Services (GRT)**

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**TO:** Chair Jim Wideman and Members of the Planning & Works Committee

**DATE:** January 27, 2009 **FILE CODE:** A20-30(A)

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE AND PROJECT UPDATE -  
GRT STRASBURG ROAD FACILITY EXPANSION PROJECT**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

For information only.

**SUMMARY:**

On June 24, 2008, Regional Council approved the engagement of Giffels Associates Limited (a member of the IBI Group of firms), to provide consulting services for the Grand River Transit Strasburg Road Facility Expansion Class Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design (report E-08-058/CR-FM-08-022). Preliminary design work for the project is nearing completion and the project plans are scheduled to be presented for information and input at a Public Information Centre as part of the Environmental Assessment process. The Information Centre will be held on January 28, 2009 between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Zehrs Markets Community Room, adjacent to the GRT Site at the Laurentian Power Centre, 750 Ottawa Street South, Kitchener.

**REPORT:**

Regional Council approved in principal the 2008 Transit Facilities Strategy Update (report E-08--032/CR-FM-08-007 dated May 13, 2008) subject to budget approval as part of the 2009 budget process. This strategy identified an immediate need to expand bus storage and bus maintenance capacity at the GRT Strasburg Road Transit Facility. The strategy recommended expansion of the Strasburg Road facility to its full capacity of 250 buses.

To carry out this expansion, the Region must acquire adjacent lands owned by the City of Kitchener. In 2004 the City and the Region agreed to transfer the adjacent land at fair market value, adjusted for environmental conditions. Negotiations are currently under way to acquire these lands to the north and west of the site from the City of Kitchener. Staff anticipates that the transactions will be completed by the fall of 2009.

A plan for the expansion of the Strasburg Road facility was developed as part of the 2008 Transit Facility Strategy Update. The 2008 plan included the relocation of all maintenance functions to a stand-alone building on the property. The existing maintenance facility would subsequently be reconfigured and expanded for bus storage and administrative functions. The full development of the Strasburg Road facility to a capacity of 250 buses requires the relocation of Chandler Drive to the North of the site. The road relocation work will proceed in parallel with the construction of the new maintenance building.

The Region must complete an Environmental Assessment for transit projects before constructing the planned facility expansion. Any environmental impacts of this planned facility expansion on the study area shown on this map are being assessed in the Environmental Assessment in accordance with the transit project assessment process required by Ontario Regulation 231/08.

The first of two Public Information Centres planned for the Environmental Assessment will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 between 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm to present information on the planned expansion. It will be held at Zehrs Markets, Community Room, Laurentian Power Centre, 750 Ottawa Street South in Kitchener. The second Public Information Centre is expected to be held in March 2009. The copy of the proposed new GRT North Depot, Strasburg Road facility layout that will be displayed at the Public Information Centre is included in Appendix A. The Public Information Centre will be advertised in The Record on two occasions prior to the date. The results of the public consultation related to the proposed facility will be incorporated into the project as appropriate and reported to Council.

The GRT Strasburg Road facility concept will continue to evolve in the design development phase scheduled to begin in spring 2009. This project will be tendered in winter 2009/2010, with construction beginning in spring 2010, following the acquisition of City of Kitchener property, adjacent to the existing site. Building construction is scheduled to be completed in two phases. The proposed new bus maintenance facility is targeted to be complete by fall 2011. Phase 2, the reconfiguration of the existing maintenance facility and administrative areas and expansion of the bus storage is expected to be complete by spring 2013.

#### **CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The construction of the Grand River Transit Strasburg Road Facility Expansion will support Focus Area 5 of the Corporate Strategic Plan: Infrastructure: Provide high quality infrastructure and asset management to meet current needs and future growth.

The project also supports Focus Area 1: Environmental Sustainability: Protect and Enhance the Environment, as the bus maintenance building will be designed and constructed to meet the LEED® Canada Silver standard for environmental conservation and energy efficiency per Regional Council Policy.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The approved 2008 GRT Capital Budget includes \$11,000,000 in 2009 / 2010 to be funded from debentures for this project. A 2009 Long Term Funding Budget Strategy Issue Paper has been submitted for the remaining \$34,000,000 to complete all phases of this work.

Consideration of the Long Term Budget Strategy has been deferred, however, completing the Environmental Assessment and preliminary design does not commit the Region to any expenditure beyond those already approved for 2009. Staff will seek approval before proceeding further with the project.

#### **OTHER DEPARTMENT CONSULTATIONS/CONCURRENCE:**

This project is a joint initiative between Transit Services and Corporate Resources.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Appendix A – Proposed Grand River Transit Strasburg Road Facility Layout

**PREPARED BY:** *Eric Gillespie*, Director, Transit Services  
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**APPROVED BY:** *Thomas Schmidt*, Commissioner of Transportation and Environmental Services  
*Gary Sosnoski*, Commissioner of Corporate Resources

**APPENDIX – A**

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO  
GRAND RIVER TRANSIT

**Proposed Grand River Transit  
Strasburg Road Facility Layout**