



Memorandum

Infrastructure Services

Prepared for: Council-in-Committee

Meeting Date: Monday, April 13, 2026

Title: Niagara Transit Update

Purpose

This memo provides Council with an update from Niagara Transit (NT) on the implementation of the new community bus route in Fort Erie, including routing decisions, infrastructure requirements, communications planning, service levels, and upcoming public engagement.

Background

NT has finalized plans to introduce a fixed-route community bus service within the urban area of Fort Erie. The route will begin service on Monday, April 27, 2026, and will operate Monday - Saturday from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

The formal process to implement this new service was initiated through Board Report [NTC-C 20-2024](#) and [Motion 16.1 Regular Council Meeting August 26, 2024](#) and put into the NT 2026 budget process. During this time, the Niagara Transit Commission Board of Directors considered requests from Town Council (2024 and 2025) to introduce a local conventional bus route to address gaps in service delivery through the microtransit model. These considerations were reflected in the Niagara Transit budget submission, which was approved by Regional Council.

Key Updates

Route Finalization

Design of the Fort Erie bus route was informed by historical ridership patterns, data from the current microtransit service, a review of the former Town-operated "East/Green" route, and feedback from Town staff.

On-Demand Transit

NT advises that the new community bus route is anticipated to eventually reduce demand for the microtransit service within the urban area, as most riders will be within walking distance of a bus stop. Riders that are not in walking distance to a bus stop will continue to have access to microtransit and will be able to connect to the community bus route at hubs located at the Fort Erie Leisureplex, Smart Centre, and Gilmore Rd./Central Ave.

Communications and Public Outreach

NT's Communications team will lead all public-facing communications, including route maps, stop locations and schedules, pass sales, and any changes to microtransit services. The Town will support these efforts by sharing and amplifying NT's messaging through local communication channels. Public open houses will also be scheduled, with all Fort Erie Councillors invited via the Clerk's Office.

Information for residents will be shared at the following locations.

<https://www.forterie.ca/living-in-fort-erie/transit-in-fort-erie/>

<https://nrtransit.ca/routes/regional-routes/>

Next Steps

NT has requested priority winter maintenance along the designated bus route to support safe transit operations.

Town staff have been asked to identify and report any remaining legacy bus stop signs so NT can remove them.

Additional updates will be provided to Council as received from NT.

Appendix 1: NT - Fort Erie Route Map (Route 751)

Appendix 2: Route 751 Timetable

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