Regional Municipality of Waterloo

2022 Plan and Budget Public Input Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 24, 2021
6:30 p.m.

This meeting was held electronically
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario


Members absent: G. Lorentz

Land Acknowledgement

Chair Jowett provided a Land Acknowledgement.

Roll Call

The Regional Clerk conducted the Roll Call.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

None declared.

Delegations

1. Kristen Thompson, Waterloo Region Community Legal Services

K. Thompson appeared in support of reallocating funding for police services to affordable housing initiatives, rent supplement programs, and supports for individuals with mental health disabilities.

2. Martin Asling, Waterloo Region Yes in my Backyard

M. Asling rescheduled his appearance to December 8, 2021

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3. David Trueman, Co-Chair, CycleWR,

D. Trueman provided a presentation on behalf of CycleWR, a copy is attached to the original minutes. He stressed the importance of building a safe connected network of cycling routes to meet the goals of TransformWR. He encouraged the Region to reallocate resources within the transportation budget to focus on improving active transportation.

In response to a question from the Committee, D. Trueman stated that he would like to see a cycling dashboard that would provide information such as what is budgeted versus the actual spending on cycling infrastructure and the number of kilometers of AAA cycling infrastructure that is created per year.

4. Paige Monck-Whipp, Network Catalyst, Wellbeing Waterloo Region, and Jean Becker, Founding Member of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory and Advocacy Circle, Wellbeing Waterloo Region

P. Monck-Whipp and J. Becker provided a presentation; a copy is attached to the original minutes. P. Monck-Whipp provided an overview of the work that is done by Wellbeing Waterloo Region and the funding structure for their work. J. Becker highlighted the work that has been done by the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory and Advocacy Circle noting that it has served an important role to create a space to meet and look at the broad issues affecting the community.

5. Isabella Stefanescu, Director, Wired World Incorporated

I. Stefanescu provided a presentation on the community radio station, CKWR 98.5 FM. A copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes. She highlighted the impact that Covid-19 had on the radio station and stressed that funding organizations like Wired World Incorporated, and the arts, is in line with the Region’s strategic plan.

6. Rachel Jones & Elizabeth Robertson, Waterloo

R. Jones and E. Robertson appeared before the Committee to express their concerns regarding the requested increase to the policing budget. They stressed the importance of funding initiatives that prevent crimes and encouraged the Region to oppose the proposed police budget and allocate the resources to preventative services.

7. Nancy Regehr, Board Chair, Grand Philharmonic Choir

N. Regehr stressed the importance of predictable annual funding from the Region to the Grand Philharmonic Choir. She encouraged the Region to put the Grand Philharmonic Choir in the core cultural institutions funding stream. She highlighted the work that they do for education, training and concert experiences.
In response to a question from the Committee, N. Regehr explained the relationship that exists between the Choir, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and the Centre in the Square.

7. David Taylor, Grand Philharmonic Choir

D. Taylor stressed the value of the performances of the Grand Philharmonic Choir, and their Children and Youth choirs. He noted that if they lose the funding it will not cause them to shut down, but will result in some important services being reduced. He encouraged the Region to provide stable core funding.

Responding to questions, D. Taylor stated that, pre-pandemic the funding from the Region represented approximately 8% of their budget and was not identified for any specific purposes.

8. Sean Simpson, Kitchener

S. Simpson encouraged the Region to reject the staff recommendation to cut funding to the Grand Philharmonic Choir, and to consider it as an institution that is deserving of public funding. He highlighted the benefits that the Grand Philharmonic Choir has had on his life and those of others, and noted that the funding that they receive from the Region is recirculated into the arts community.

9. Dr. Michael Garboll, Waterloo

M. Garboll cancelled his delegation.

10. Stephen Furmaniuk, Kitchener

S. Furmaniuk highlighted issues that he has seen with racism, homelessness, and other issues as a resident of Downtown Kitchener. He encouraged the Region to send the police budget back and to reallocate funding from the police services to other community supports.

11. Gord Nicholls, Kitchener

G. Nicholls provided a presentation recommending that the Region accelerate the conversion to electric buses, preserve existing green spaces, and increase Regional forests. A copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes.

12. Andrew Bennett, Executive Director, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony

A. Bennett provided a presentation on the work that is done by the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony; a copy is attached to the original minutes. He stressed that there are
significant financial challenges to overcome before their earned income is back to pre-pandemic levels and that support from municipalities is crucial for their sustainability.

13. Rachel Behling, Board Member, Grand Philharmonic Choir

R. Behling appeared before the Committee in support of funding for the Grand Philharmonic Choir. She shared her family’s history with the Grand Philharmonic Choir and stressed the importance of music.

14. Victoria Hand, Kitchener

V. Hand appeared before the Committee as a member of the Grand Philharmonic Choir. She stated that being a member of the Choir has given her a community connection and gave her support during the pandemic. She stressed the importance of funding from the Region to the Choir.

15. Ella Latta Suazo, Kitchener

E. Suazo stated that she is a past member of the Grand Philharmonic Choir and highlighted the benefits that it has had on her life.

16. Mark Vuorinen, Artistic Director, Grand Philharmonic Choir

M. Vuorinen stressed the importance of the Grand Philharmonic Choir to the community and provided an overview of the work that they do with the funding from the Region. He asked the Region to vote against the staff recommendation to discontinue funding to the Choir.

17. Brenden Sherratt, Past President, KW Musical Productions

B. Sherratt appeared in support of the staff recommendation for community grants. He provided an overview of the work of KW Musical Productions and explained that they have been able to access funding through the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund for specific projects but that they have not been able to access core funding from the Region. He encouraged the Region to allow staff to develop new guidelines that are transparent and accessible for all arts organizations.

18. Neil Taylor

N. Taylor appeared to provide his support for removing expenditures for the River Road expansion. He encouraged the Region to conduct a new traffic study before expending any further funds for this project, and to create a new line item for natural disaster prevention. A copy of his remarks are attached to the minutes.

19. Michelle Knight

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M. Knight provided an overview of the work that she does as an eviction prevention peer support worker with the Social Development Center Waterloo Region (SDCWR). She encouraged the Region to include an additional full time eviction prevention peer-support position with SDCWR within the staff proposal to increase funding for homelessness prevention, to ensure that low income and underserved residents can keep their homes. A copy of her written remarks is attached to the minutes.

20. Chris Clarke

C. Clarke appeared in support of recreation programs for youth and for the creation of an Indigenous community hub.

Call for Delegations

H. Jowett called for other delegations wishing to address the Committee; no one came forward.

Correspondence

Correspondence from Bob and Donna Bender, Bill Chesney, President, Region of Waterloo Arts Fund, Kevin White, Ben A. Benninger, and Sarah Matthews, Associate Professor, Department of Global Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University was received for information

Adjourn

Moved by S. Foxton

Seconded by K. Kiefer

That the meeting adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Carried

Committee Chair, H. Jowett

Deputy Regional Clerk, T. Brubacher

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2022 Regional Budget

November 2021
CycleWR update

Organization of the Year: CycleWR

virtual folks & spokes

Advocating for better, safer cycling in Waterloo Region
TransformWR

80% reduction by 2050, 50% by 2030

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE #1: BY 2050, MOST TRIPS ARE TAKEN USING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION, WITH THE SUPPORT OF A ROBUST PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM.

Strategy 1.1: Redesign, rebuild, and maintain our transportation system to prioritize active transportation.

Strategy 1.3: Support people to walk, cycle, or roll, and build a culture of active transportation and public transit ridership.

cycleWR Advocating for better, safer cycling in Waterloo Region
What we have been doing to date won’t get us there!

While we are grateful for excellent infrastructure like the Market Trail, Victoria St MUTs, and the Franklin/McQueen Shaver MUTs, the pace of improvement will not get us to 50% reduction in transportation GHGs by 2030.

Cycling infrastructure (and more frequent bus service with BRTs) are the only short-term strategies to get us there. A ton of CO2 saved next year is much more significant than a ton saved in 2030!

Cities like Montreal have proven that short-term investment will lead to modal shift and winter is not the issue some imagine it to be.
60% of Residents Would Like to Cycle More...

...but they don’t feel safe.

Open data was used to visualize AAA facilities throughout Kitchener and Waterloo. This was determined by filtering data for separated cycling facilities that have asphalt/concrete surfaces and are cleared during winter.

*cycleWR*  Advocating for better, safer cycling in Waterloo Region
How to pay for it

- **Don’t** diminish spending on important issues like homelessness, mental health supports, equity, reconciliation, etc.

- **Do** reallocate resources within the Transportation budget.
Our Proposals

1. Shift a substantial portion of the current road budget (capital and operating) to active transportation
2. Double (or more) staff dedicated to active transportation planning by shifting from existing transportation staffing
3. All Ages and Abilities (AAA) infrastructure (painted bike lanes will not suit 60% of the entire population and 90% of the potential cycling population!)
4. Hotfix budget to be able to quickly address key smaller issues
5. Create a cycling dashboard -- transparency on progress
6. Review every project in the current transportation pipeline for relevancy
Hotfix budget  In 2014 AT Master Plan!

- Fix critical (small) gaps -- examples: cross-rides, bicycle signals, key crossing improvements
- Address safety issues
- Give staff the ability to address urgent needs without waiting for large capital approval
- Respond to issues raised by lower-tier municipalities
- Other examples: Why does moving signal on Columbia for Trans Canada Trail take years? Why can’t the crossing on University be fixed after being flagged since 2012?

How many items on the “Fix-It” list of the 2014 Active Transportation Master Plan have been addressed?
Cycling Dashboard *If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it*

A public account of progress (as done in many cities worldwide.)

- **Budget and spend**
  - Every year staff and advocates struggle to identify
  - Project schedules slip
  - Some projects get counted year after year
  - Very little objective data

- **Objective measures of progress**
  - Kms of AAA infrastructure (total and incremental)
  - % of infrastructure comfortable for most
  - Counts of cyclists key locations with historical trend

- Periodic survey of perceptions and attitudes
Why now?

- Climate Emergency declared by the Region in October, 2019
- ClimateActionWR’s report TransformWR approved unanimously by the Council in June 2021
- 95% of Canadian voters voted for climate action in October 2021
- 49% of regional emissions are in transportation sector

Photo credit Ben Nelms
Montreal Re-elects Valérie Plante as Mayor with Plans to Grow Cycling Network

November 8, 2021 - (Montreal, Que.) Incumbent, Valérie Plante, claimed a resounding victory on Nov. 7 for a second term as Mayor of Montreal. Promising to make it a greener city, she plans to pour additional money into public transit, and expand the city’s network of bike lanes.
Advocating for better, safer cycling in Waterloo Region.

cyclewr.ca
hello@cyclewr.ca
twitter.com/cycle_wr
facebook.com/cyclewr
instagram.com/cycle_wr
Wellbeing Waterloo Region

2022 Funding
Why We're Here

Wellbeing Waterloo Region is a collaborative with members working across sectors to improve wellbeing.

WWR’s members come from all parts of Waterloo Region, rural and urban, representing local residents with various lived experiences as well as over 70 organizations.

We are here to work together to improve wellbeing in ways we cannot do alone.
What We Do

Connect and convene
Amplify and align
Respond and act
Educate and enhance knowledge
How We've Been Funded

The following funders have provided the financial and in-kind resources necessary for the operations of Wellbeing Waterloo Region over the years:
The Region of Waterloo

Staffing & Back Office Support

Office Space & Equipment

Resources & Infrastructure
"Reflecting on the powerful unexamined ideas that form our worldview, and the bias they instill, can block or unlock the full potential of our neighbourhoods and community members."

- Kike Ojo-Thompson, "Challenging Systemic Barriers: The Equity Lens"
Sustainability Planning

- Re-invigorating network and 2021-2023 focus
- Funding expertise within WWR network
- WLU MBA Applied Research Course
- Grants & traditional funding
- Alternative funding models
WIRED WORLD INCORPORATED

Founded in 1971

“to advance education and to expand the scope and integrity of information and artistic expression in Waterloo Region.”
CKWR 98.5 FM went on air in 1973

- First community radio station in Canada
- As a broadcaster, deemed an essential service
- 18 hours of programming / day, 7 days /week
- 66 hours of community programming / week
- Community programs in 12 languages
- Signal reaches in all corners of the Region
How does Wired World do it?

- 3 part time positions
- 2 contract positions
- 69 volunteers
- Funded by sales, fundraising, and occasional grants
Impact of COVID-19

- 70% of revenue lost in three days
On the Way to Recovery

- Broadcasting licence renewed for 7 years
- Received Covid-19 emergency assistance
- Sales rebounded
- Volunteers kept volunteering
Region of Waterloo Strategic Plan

1.1 Create a competitive **business-supportive community** to help attract, retain and grow employers, talent and investment in Waterloo Region.

1.3 Support the **arts, culture and heritage** sectors to enrich the lives of residents and attract visitors to Waterloo Region.

   1.3.2 Develop a robust, transparent and equitable grant funding strategy to support the arts and culture sector.

4.3 Promote and **enhance equity** in policies, planning, services and decision making to positively impact community wellbeing.

5.4 Ensure the Region provides **value for money** and long term financial sustainability.
The recent COP26 meeting made it clear that some nations will take action and some will just talk

1. Reduce CO2 emissions
2. Increase tree coverage so nature can do the work of absorbing CO2
3. Improve living environment & health of citizens

For Waterloo Region
Will it be this?
OR will it lead to ACTION such as
Action Point 1 - Reduce gas/diesel traffic

In Waterloo Region
40% of GHG emissions are from Buses, Trucks AND

The Region has 250 buses and many police & service vehicles that emit CO2
It is time for the Region to lead by accelerating the replacement of the 250 buses with ELECTRIC buses

Where could the money come from?
The table below proposes delaying the River Rd King to Manitou extension for 4 years and the LRT work for 2 years & asking for Federal & Provincial grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget item</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>34.5 m</td>
<td>12.4m</td>
<td>7.4m</td>
<td>25.2m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from 07087</td>
<td>1.38m</td>
<td>13m</td>
<td>8m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from 68030</td>
<td></td>
<td>14m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal grant</td>
<td>10m</td>
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<td>20m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prov grant</td>
<td>5m</td>
<td>5m</td>
<td>10m</td>
<td>5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>50.88m</td>
<td>54.4m</td>
<td>45.4m</td>
<td>50.2m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Action Point 2- Preserve green space and plant trees

Does Waterloo Region have enough green space for the current and 40,000 new citizens who will live near the centre core? NO

The COVID crisis has shown cities that green space is essential for both the physical and mental well being of the citizens.

Fortunately there are several sites available. Let us use the park fee from these high rises to establish new large green spaces so necessary for good health that are centrally located.
A good first choice is Hidden Valley- will it be a future oasis or a lost opportunity?

About 100 years ago, Homer Watson convinced several Kitchener businessmen to buy and donate Watson Woods for future generations. It is time to duplicate that green space for the next generation.

A good start is to delay the River Rd extension & the LRT extension. Since both will reduce the Hidden Valley forest, this will give planners more time to figure out how to save this mature forest.
Here are some important numbers:
The current 120 acres of older Hidden Valley forest will absorb
3000 Tonnes of CO2 per year
And emit 1320 Tonnes of Oxygen per year

That works out to reversing the CO2 footprint of 500 Region citizens

Be LEADERS & show our citizens hope by partnering with Kitchener to save this 200 acre property as a major park adjacent to the LRT!
To keep the ratio of green space per 100 citizens another 675 acres is needed. In addition to Hidden Valley are there other green spaces close to both the centre and the Grand River.

Idea 1 is to purchase this flood plain acreage near Freeport Hospital.
Idea 2 is to buy this forest tract near Conestoga
Idea 3 is to buy this mixed forest and field property to the west of Riverbank Drive in Cambridge.

All three suggestions have been picked because they are close to the population, are adjacent to the historic Grand River and will allow trail extensions.
Action Point 3- Improve the health of our citizens

The COVID epidemic & Medical research have shown that urban forests help provide cleaner air & relieve stress by providing walking trails.

Not only did the COVID pandemic cost Canada 29000 lives it also brought severe mental depression to a large number of people.

For Waterloo Region politicians & planners it should raise the question:

Had the 40,000 new residents moved into the high rise buildings along the LRT line, where would they have been able to go for outdoor recreation during the past 16 months?
The Friends of Hidden Valley say –Now is the time for Leadership & ACTION

You might be asking : Where will we get the money?

1. Change budget item #22006 from $0 per year to $5m per year for the 5 years from 2022 to 2026
2. Redirect $2m from budget item 68030 in 2022 and $2.58 m from budget item 07087 in 2023
3. Establish a Environmental Trust to purchase green space lands in the Region that will give citizens who donate a tax receipt

Pay now, Profit later

This would provide a total of $29.6 million over 5 years

Presentation by Gordon Nicholls on behalf of the Friends of Hidden valley
2020/21 Season

• More digital concerts than any other orchestra in Ontario
• Some monetized, some free
• KWS acclaimed internationally for its monetization of digital events
2020/21 Season

• The work was so successful that KWS only lost 90% of its earned income compared to 2018/19. Most performing arts organizations fared even worse!

• Contributed income and multi-level government support maintained
2020/21 Season

Major success with free special Schools digital concerts. *Mad sad glad* addressed students’ emotions during the pandemic.
2020/21 Season

• Continued *Bridge to Music* instrument lessons online for children from economically challenged families.

• New free provision of digital concerts to long-term care facilities, *Connecting Through Music*. 
2020/21 Season

• Andrei Feher’s Music Director contract extended to 2025/26
• Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts donated to City of Kitchener
2021/22 Season

• September to December digital work continues
• January to May in person concerts at Centre In The Square, plus Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph
• Youth Orchestra recommences
2021/22 Season

- Huge financial challenges with curtailment of CEWS before earned income back to former levels. Contingency plans prepared.
Thank you!

• KWS’s work during the pandemic has proven the Symphony’s key role in the community, maintaining artists’ employment and providing a focus for joy and solace.

• Municipalities’ ongoing support is crucial to sustainability.

I am present to represent the interest of Nature and, in particular, the natural bioversity that exists in Hidden Valley.

I am no stranger to the Region with respect to Hidden Valley. I appeared before Council and wrote numerous letters to staff and Council for over 2 decades. This resulted in the Region undertaking 2 years of additional environmental studies. I continue to appreciate that decision. As a result, significant changes were made to the South Kitchener Transportation Corridor.

I have never been convinced that the River Rd./Bleams Rd. link would solve traffic congestion given that #8 used to become a parking lot for hours each day before Covid 19.

Traffic conditions like many things have drastically changed since the onset of the pandemic. Experts state that living conditions will never return as they were. So many now work from home. Shopping patterns have changed traffic patterns.

Accordingly, a new traffic study is merited to determine the real needs in the South Kitchener area and should be done before any more money is spent and wasted on this project.

I support staff and others in removing all line items pertaining to expenditures on the River Rd. Extension in this current budget.

On a different topic, I urge the Region to develop a new line of expenditure that could be considered Natural Disaster Contingency Fund. Given the natural disasters that have occurred world-wide and in particular in B.C., and as I speak in the Maritimes, this concept has significant merit. Hurricane Hazel was considered a once in 100-year event. 100-year events are now recalibrated to less than 20 years. Hurricanes have become stronger and unpredictable. Downtown Waterloo is on a flood plain. Municipalities in B.C are at wits end to come up with the money that is needed now. I commend this to your urgent attention and implementation.

It is shameful that I can find no line item that speaks to the acquisition of lands that would become Green Space. Hidden Valley and other lands should be acquired immediately in cooperation with lower levels of government.

I support the proposals of Gord Nichols and adopt them as my own.

Thank you.
2022 Partnership Proposal
in follow up to the delegation on November 24th, 2021

2021 was another year of challenges and trials for the whole community. All three cities have shown leadership and courage while coming out of the pandemic with more intentional support for citizens experiencing poverty, eviction, homelessness, marginalization, and racism.

The year has been busy for the Social Development Centre as well across the region:
  ● serving as a charitable partner for A Better Tent City community,
  ● responding to the unmet needs due to the impact of the pandemic with basic necessities through Unsheltered Campaign initiative and COVID Safe Gathering Spaces
  ● continuing for the third year in the research and mobilization projects focused on lived experiences of gentrification, displacement and evictions (2019 Life Stories of Displacement, 2020 Mapping of Displacement in the Urban Core in KW, 2021 Displacement out of Core in Kitchener)
  ● ongoing mobilization and advocacy for affordable housing, collaboration with Community Development Committee, participating in the Weber 22 North Ontario Land Tribunal process and initiating the work on the Lived Expertise Working Group to support the implementation of Kitchener’s Housing Strategy in 2022-2023.
  ● Core work of SDC in long term engagement of lived expertise and equity seeking groups under the umbrella of the Civic Hub Program to be active participants in projects at the municipal level (ABTC, Land Back KW, Black Lives Matter, East African Coalition, Disabilities and Human Rights, Awareness of Low Income Voices, RENT, etc.) see more at https://civichubwr.org/partners/
  ● Another full year of the free tax clinics and financial assistance program serving all three cities and ensuring that low income households have their notices of assessment ready to access subsidized housing and financial benefits to sustain themselves (700 individuals served with over $2.5 million accessed in benefits and financial supports).

Last but not least, we started the Eviction Prevention peer-based support program to ensure that the most disenfranchised residents in the three cities can access services, Landlord and Tenant Board hearings, housing supports and have a friendly person to assist through complex and inaccessible systems and processes. May to October we served 60 households, over 130 residents.
SDC has over fifty years of experience working at the grassroots level, focused on a unique model where the leadership is shifted to people with lived experience as the true experts on the solutions and as invested contributors to the hands-on work to reach those solutions. The Eviction Prevention program has been shaped through this approach, with two peer-workers who identify with Black, Indigenous and LGBTQ+ populations, attuned to assist them through an anti-oppression and holistic trauma-informed lens.

Numbers for May-Oct 2021 for the Eviction Prevention Cambridge/K/W:

Total of 60 households supported since May 2021:
Of those households over 30 of them were families with children
Total of 133 individuals living in those households

Our support includes BIPOC and LGBTQ communities and many people fall into multiple underserved demographics: 44 households are experiencing poverty, 20 out of the 60 households are people of colour, newcomers 7 households and 3 households were LGBTQ+.

In a number of cases Eviction Prevention Cambridge is working jointly with Eviction Prevention Kitchener/Waterloo to support neighbourhoods that are facing the issues of unsafe and unsanitary living conditions, landlords not completing or ignoring requests for repairs, expecting that the tenants will leave and rent will increase. Most of the tenants are facing multiple issues besides threat of eviction, including not speaking the language or understanding the systems.

In August, a tenant was given an eviction notice from the LTB and was dealing with many challenges and barriers; these included mental health issues, anxiety, needing supportive housing, living on a fixed income, all of which contributed to their not being able to fully participate in the whole of the proceedings independently which in turn led to their eviction.

With the evictions prevented through mediation with landlords, support at LTB hearings, and collaboration with property standards and community legal services, we prevent more people becoming homeless and at the same time prevent further loss of affordable homes in the region.

**Housing crisis, homelessness and the ongoing loss of affordable units in Kitchener.**

Social Development Centre Waterloo Region, in partnership with the School of Planning at University of Waterloo professor and Canada Research Chair in Urban Planning and Inclusion, Brian Doucet produced data and maps illustrating displacement and evictions, the loss of affordable units in the last five years due to developments and renovations both in the urban core and outside of the urban core. The mapping of life stories and locations is a living project and we currently have over 170 locations identified in Kitchener and Waterloo alone. The work in Cambridge is being anticipated in 2022. We are working against a vicious circle when we try to build more affordable housing and keep losing it across communities at the same time. This project touches on many important aspects of our joint work in the future.
The **Eviction Prevention Program** currently employs two part-time peer workers (25 hours per week) for the three cities thanks to the United Way Funding.

Our ask comes to you after our conversations with the cities of Cambridge and Kitchener, as suggested that the eviction prevention work can best be supported in partnership and through the funding from the Region of Waterloo. We ask you to include an additional full time eviction prevention peer-support position with SDCWR within the staff proposal to increase funding for prevention of homelessness, to ensure that low income and underserved residents can keep their homes. Our current funding supports only two part-time peer-workers in the three cities and the need far outstrips our capacity. The request is for $57,000.

**Funding Considerations 2022 - $57 000.00**

$49,500 for a 35-hour week, 12 months, $25 hourly rate including MERC.

$ 1,500 for travel costs

$ 3,000 for interpretation services

$ 3,000 for program and office supplies/administration

Expected outcomes of the program across the three cities: ensuring resources and advocacy to citizens as they struggle to access Housing Stability services, Property Standards and other enforcement services, LTB, Human Rights Tribunal, Justice of Peace, and other support processes to prevent homelessness and further loss of affordable units.

For more information about the referral and collaborations established, please see the report *May-November 2021 submitted to United Way* who has funded the project so far and will likely continue in 2022.

At this critical juncture, with rising inflation, long waiting lists for community housing, lack of truly affordable private rental housing, loss of and lack of creation of new affordable units, the Eviction Prevention program is overwhelmed with demand. This program is in line with the strategic actions of the Region of Waterloo on preserving number, quality and affordability of housing for the most underserved residents.

Thank-you for considering this request and the follow up conversations about a future partnership.

Sincerely,

Aleksandra Petrovic Graonic,
Executive Director
Social Development Centre Waterloo Region