Regional Municipality of Waterloo

2022 Plan and Budget Public Input Meeting

* Addendum Agenda

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

6:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held electronically

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

1. Roll Call

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

4. Delegations

   4.1 Judah Oudshoorn, Kitchener, re: Costs of Policing and Impact on Other Budget Lines

   4.2 Kelly Smith, President, FRIENDS of Waterloo Region Museum, re: Budget Funding for Regional Museums and Community Support from the FRIENDS

   4.3 Selam Debs, Waterloo, re: Police Budget

   4.4 Suhanya Ketheeswaran, Cambridge, re: 2022 Plan and Budget

   4.5 Lisa O'Connell, Artistic Director, Pat the Dog, re: Regional Arts Funding

   4.6 Martin Asling, * and Kevin White, Waterloo Region Yes in my Backyard, re: Affordable Housing

   4.7 Sam Nabi, Kitchener, re: Reallocation of Police Budget

Should you require an alternative format, please contact the Regional Clerk at Tel.: 519-575-4400, TTY: 519-575-4605, or regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca
4.8 David Alton, Kitchener, re: Regional Budget

4.9 Sana Farooqui, Kitchener, re: Police Budget

4.10 * Mike Morrice, Kitchener, re: Reallocation of Police Funding to Upstream Social Services: In person delegation cancelled, see Correspondence #6.6

4.11 Peter Benninger, Kitchener, re: 2022 Proposed Budget

4.12 Jennifer Laurie, Kitchener, re: Police Budget

4.13 Nigel Gordijk, New Hamburg, re: the Temporary Housing Camp at Charles St E and Stirling Ave S

4.14 Samantha Estoesta, Kitchener, re: Regional Budget

4.15 Melissa Bowman, Kitchener, re: Regional Budget

4.16 Rebecca Lanteigne, Waterloo, re: the Police Budget and Reallocating Funds

4.17 Melissa Valant, Kitchener, re: the Police Budget and Reallocating Funds

4.18 William Turman, Kitchener, re: Reallocating the Police Budget to Housing Services

4.19 Charlotte Prong, Kitchener, re: Reallocation of the Police Budget

4.20 Judith Koeller, Waterloo, re: the Police Budget

4.21 Teneile Warren, ReallocateWR, re: Reallocation of the Police Budget

4.22 Laura Coakley, Kitchener, re: the Police Budget and Reallocating Funds to Community Services

4.23 Helen Schafer, Kitchener, re: the Increasing Police Budget

4.24 Megan Ruttan, Kitchener, re: Regional Budget Allocation

4.25 Jessica Hutchison, Waterloo, re: Reallocating the police budget

4.26 Justin Buhr, Kitchener, re: Creating a Safer Community for all & Supporting the calls of ReallocateWR

4.27 Greg Thornton, Kitchener, re: WRPS Budget

4.28 Blair Corbett, Kitchener, re: the 2022 Plan and Budget Public Input

4.29 Nina Deeb, Kitchener, re: the Budget
4.30 Daniel Brotherston, Director, WNCC 131, re: Decision to Eliminate Garbage Rebate

4.31 * Sarah Pearson, Kitchener, re: the New Budget for the Airport Expansion and Implications for the Climate Emergency

4.32 * Tom Haapanen, President, WSCC 556 (Arrow Lofts), re: the Multi-residential garbage rebate

4.33 * Henriette Thompson, Coordinating Team, and Ron Hiller, Actions and Policy Advocacy Working Group, Faith Climate Justice - Waterloo Region (FCJWR), re: Encouraging Regional Implementation of Transform WR Climate Plan and 50by30 Goals to Reduce GHC Emissions

4.34 * Aashay Dalvi, Kitchener, re: Reallocating the Police Budget

4.35 * Ruth Cameron, Executive Director, ACCKWA, re: Regional Budget

4.36 * Marina Josic, Kitchener, re: the WRPS Budget Increase

5. Call for Delegations

6. Correspondence

6.1 Denis Longchamps, Executive Director and Chief Curator, Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery, re: Discretionary Grants to Organizations  Page 4

6.2 Hanna Domagala, Senior Project Manager, Pearl Valley Development Corp, re: River Road Extension  Page 6

6.3 Charles Nichols, re: Housing and Homelessness  Page 9

6.4 Graham Baechler, re: Destruction of Homeless Encampment  Page 12

6.5 Cory Albrecht, re: Charles St / Stirling Encampment Removal  Page 14

6.6 * Mike Morrice, Kitchener Centre MP, and Laura Mae Lindo, Kitchener Centre MPP, re: Reallocation of Police Funding to Upstream Social Services  Page 16

6.7 * Rick Chambers, re: GRT Free Rides  Page 19

7. Other Business

8. Adjourn
Dear Chair and Mayors,

Many cultural organizations are concerned about the post-covid recovery. The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery is no exception. However, of the four Key Cultural Institutions in Waterloo Region, we are the only one that is solely (and generously) supported by The City of Waterloo. Yet our services benefit the whole Region and beyond. Importantly, our economic impact is felt all across Waterloo Region.

As an example, we conducted a survey including 741 persons who recently used our services in the Gallery or online. Here are the results and where our visitors came from:

Waterloo: 35%
Kitchener: 29%
Rest of Waterloo Region: 7%
Outside the region: 29%

Many of our visitors from outside the Region were directed to restaurants and other cultural institutions, thereby adding to the value of Gallery visits and referrals for the Region and cities.

Also importantly, the Gallery, in the delivery of our services, reaches out to organizations all across the Region. For example, Sharing Experiences is a program that reaches out to Community organizations offering them a Gallery visit and a free ceramics workshop to allow them to share their experiences within the community through their art and a public exhibition. Among the participating groups welcomed to
the Gallery so far are: Focus for Ethnic Women, Thresholds Homes and Supports, Bridges to Belonging, Alzheimer Society of Waterloo Wellington. All of these organizations have members and clients across the whole Region.

In light of the services we provide and the Regional reach of our programming, the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery would like to see its operational funding from all councils increase to the same level as the other three Key Cultural Institutions. And, while plans are made to meet and realize this budgetary goal, we welcome any discretionary grant possibilities.

With thanks,

Denis

Denis Longchamps, PhD
Executive Director and Chief Curator

The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery

25 Caroline Street North,
Waterloo, ON
N2L 2Y5

Telephone: 519-746-1882 ext.: 231
Ms. Helen Jowett  
Chair, Budget Committee, Region of Waterloo  
Region of Waterloo  
150 Frederick Street  
Kitchener, ON N2G 4J3  

November 23, 2021  

RE: comments to Preliminary 2022-2031 Tax Supported Capital Budget Program regarding River Road Extension  

Dear Mesdames and Messieurs, Members of Council,  

this letter follows my delegation at the first Plan and Budget Public Input Meeting on November 1st, 2021, where I expressed my concerns with the proposal to move funding for the execution of River Road Extension to a later date in the Capital Budget.  

Pearl Valley Development Corp. is the Owner of the largest land parcel to be developed in the Hidden Valley area and fully committed to its stewardship and innovative development. As the Owner of these lands and a party significantly impacted by the extension of River Road, we have been following its planning process for almost 20 years.  

At the end of 2019, during the 2020 budget preparations, a proposal was similarly presented to postpone the execution of River Road Extension. At that time PVDC submitted comments against such a move. During the December 11th Budget Committee meeting Regional Council expressed concern regarding the impacts of such delay and unanimously voted to have it reinstated to previous timeline.  

Construction drawings were ready for Phase 1 in 2019 and section 1 was tendered in 2020 (bridge over Schneider Creek) with plans to tender the remaining sections soon thereafter. This, unfortunately, did not happen either in 2020 or in 2021 for reasons not shared.  

Today, we would like to express our disappointment with the continuing delay. This road’s construction has now been planned for 50 years. It has been described as critical for the improvement of transportation in south Kitchener and emphasized that the road’s execution to full extent will yield positive impacts on the City’s and Region’s transportation network.  

Even though PVDC owned lands are significantly impacted by this road’s location, we have been and continue to be open to cooperation with the Region during its construction. We have been actively planning for development of our lands in the Hidden Valley area based on approved schedules which called for Phase 1 to be completed by now.  

In the Regional Staff presentation posted online for November 24th, 2021 Council Budget Meeting, pages 160-162, a brief summary of the project is given. We have concerns however, with how it is presented. The dates given speak to the proposed changes and the future but do not show its history and multiple delays of previous years. Reasons given for the current postponement are given in this report as follows and raise further questions:
1. Covid-19 supply issues – this is true for all projects and the entire construction industry, not a reason to postpone tender

2. Permit delays relating to Wabanaki – no details given, permits are usually addressed part of design/tender preparation process which has now been going on for a very long time, with 90% design drawings completed in 2019

3. Property acquisition – no details given, important to note that most of the property acquisitions relating to section 2 of Phase 1 are from PVDC and have already been expropriated almost 3 years ago

4. Utility coordination – no details given, this has been an item lobbied by PVDC for a long time, such coordination is typically addressed during design/tender preparation which, again this has been in the works for a number of years

5. Coordination with the City of Kitchener servicing plans – no details given, final route for this project was approved in 2014 via an EA and detailed designed ensued thereafter

We are also concerned with this rescheduling because of how it may delay important ongoing planning initiatives for the area. These actions relate to creating a planning framework for the development of vacant and available land within the built-up area. The potential for creating much needed housing opportunities in an already mixed use urban neighbourhood can utilize existing infrastructure and contribute significantly to achieving intensification and sustainability targets.

Therefore, we ask Council to, once again, direct Staff to reinstate the previous budget timelines for River Road Extension and to have the remaining phases of its construction tendered as soon as possible, starting with the completion of Phase 1. We appreciate your support of this matter that will positively impact thousands of people in the Region of Waterloo.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Hanna Domagala
Senior Project Manager

CC:
1. All Members of Regional Council
Appendix A

River Road Extension current Phasing Plan

Base image from Region of Waterloo bid document C2020-09, phasing details per ROW Staff

1a - under construction
1b and 1c and 2 – proposed to be delayed
Region of Waterloo Council

Some Region councillors know me, or at least my name, as a long serving housing/homelessness advocate. I began my public career in early December 2001, when I was proud to speak at the launch of the first Waterloo Region Community Homelessness Plan, where I was introduced to my then Member of Parliament, Karen Redman. In 2009, I founded Homelessness Awareness Week, an effort I was pleased to lead for ten years. Thus, my interest in the 2021 PIT homelessness count should come as no surprise. I watched the webcast of the Nov 9 Committee of the Whole meeting with keen interest. Yet, as the relevant portion of the agenda proceeded I became continually and significantly underwhelmed.

I expected the staff report to be verbally presented. Without this presentation, viewers, citizens, do not have any context in which to evaluate the input from delegations, or know precisely what councillors agreed to when they accepted the report's recommendations. The actual report is difficult to find online. Had not a colleague from the Social Development Centre emailed to document to me I would not have found it. I tried repeated searches, including some from within the Region's website, but was unable to locate the staff report.

When the delegations spoke, councillors seemed disengaged. Perhaps, this was merely a fluke of timing, as the agenda item fell in between councillors' coffee/washroom break and lunch. Councillors asked very few questions of the delegations. The subsequent discussion among the councillors was short-lived, with most not participating.

This brings me to the actual recommendations accepted. As my colleague Lesley Compton rightly noted, the verbs used in these sentences passive, non-committal, and I will add weak. These recommendations, supposedly action steps, contain precious little actual actions. The
budgetary recommendation reads “Refer ... for consideration.” Consider! Consider it. Think about it. Maybe do it. Maybe don’t. Citizens, including the homeless and unsheltered, expect more. Much more. Do not merely consider increasing these budget increases. Actually increase the budget. Furthermore, these changes should be the bare minimum the Region allocates. Some taxpayers may object to their money being spent in this manner, claiming it is just throwing money down the drain. But, monies spent to house and support the homeless and unsheltered are not expenses. They are investments. Economists have well understood, for decades, that monies invested in housing and supporting the homeless and unsheltered will return benefits well in excess of the initial investment. Thus, every dollar, or million dollars, spent actually saves our society money.

Over the roughly six weeks since the 2021 PIT count, we have experienced the downside of PIT counts. The temporary closure of the House of Friendship’s facilities has significantly changed the landscape, the ecosystem, of homelessness in our region. The Region, area municipalities, support services, and concerned citizens alike must take immediate action to mitigate the impact of this sudden and unexpected gap.

Finally, winter is fast approaching. And sadly we dare not forget COVID-19. Separately, each of these is a life threatening condition. The combination of them only deepens the risk. We must do all we can to keep our vulnerable homeless population, especially the unsheltered, safe and warm. It could save lives. We must not add more names to our homelessness memorial. One death is one too many.

Allow me to close with a poem I wrote many, many years ago. This is the heart’s cry of one formerly unsheltered person. I highly doubt, though, I am the only one with such a cry.

Why

God, why do I cry?

Return to top
Why the years
Of tears and fears?

Why the pain
without the gain?

God why
am I?

Charles Nichols B.Th., B.A.(SDS)
Re: Charles St / Stirling Encampment Removal

Dear Regional Council members,

I am beyond disgusted and ashamed at what took place today, Friday, November 26, 2021. On the coldest day of the Fall 2021 season, the Waterloo Regional Police Service, as per the Region of Waterloo’s request, destroyed an encampment at the corner of Charles Street and Stirling Avenue, along with bulldozing all of the individuals experiencing homelessness’s belongings.

We’re spending 700,000.00 on a BUNKER that is unusable. How many people could we home with that money? We’re losing shelter spots by the minute. The fact that a successful pilot (A Better Tent City) can’t find a permanent home while WRPS has the audacity to ask for a $12.4 million dollar budget increase shows how little the Region cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

These are not the actions of a caring community. No innovative community does this. It makes it so clear why the ReAllocateWR calls to action for the 2022 budget cycle must be enacted. Therefore, in support of ReAllocateWR, I am asking Regional Council to:

- Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community
- Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
- Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model
- Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
- Commit $1 million towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

Please include my letter in both the next Regional Council budget public consultation...
meeting package and in the next Council as a Whole meeting to be included in the official record.

Ashamed community member,
Graham Baechler
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I never, ever want to hear that we’re a barn raising community, a caring community. No caring community does this. No innovative community does this.

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Disgusted and ashamed,

Cory Albrecht
December 7, 2021

To the Regional Chair & Council,

As representatives for Kitchener Centre in the provincial and federal government, we recognize that writing you as part of your budget input process is atypical. In this case though, we both felt compelled to write to share our communities’ concerns, our commitment, and our hope for you in your budget decision making over the coming weeks. We have also chosen to write a letter, in place of presenting at Council, to be sure we don’t take space from other residents looking to have their voices heard, while still publicly and directly sharing our position.

Our concern stems from the fact that we cannot ignore the disproportionate violence toward and/or deaths of Black, Indigenous and racialized people, part of a pattern of police interactions that stretches back years and include our own local neighbours: Abdisalam Omer, Natasha Broomes, and Noah, as well as Andrew Loku, Josephine Pelletier, Abdirahman Abdi, Sammy Yatim, Greg Ritchie, Regis Korchinski-Paquet, Chantel Moore, Andrew Loku, Ejaz Choudry, and far too many others.

It is clear that protecting Black, Indigenous and racialized lives urgently requires an unprecedented and historic shift in the way we view policing and the health and safety of our communities.

We also can’t ignore the 20,000+ Waterloo Region residents that showed up in the riding of Kitchener Centre to the largest BLM solidarity March in Canada in June 2020 to demand that elected officials step up their efforts to address anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism in our community.

Our commitment to you - as the Member of Provincial Parliament and Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre - is that we will be alongside you in championing these joint concerns of our community, with the tools available to each of us as Parliamentarians in both the provincial and federal governments.

In turn, our hope is that you will take this opportunity to consider reallocating any proposed increase in the Waterloo Region Police budget to Black and Indigenous-led community initiatives that address the root causes of crime and create greater equity. That includes investments in affordable and dignified housing, transit, mental health services, addiction treatment, childcare and other services that have been historically underfunded.

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4 https://insidewaterloo.ca/no-mental-health-supports-but-plenty-of-police-funding/
We must recognize that - like many of our institutions - policing in North America has roots in colonialism, and systemic anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism. The over-policing and jailing of Indigenous, Black and racialized people are part of that context. The scope of policing has grown far beyond what police officers are trained and best equipped to do. Black, Indigenous, and racialized people disproportionately experience death, harm, violence, and despair during calls for help, which police currently respond to. So, let’s start funding the services that do surround us with love, care and support.

Most of all, we want you to know you can count on us as allies and champions in the provincial and federal governments as we work together to seek equity for Black, Indigenous and racialized members of our community.

Sincerely,

Laura Mae Lindo, MPP Kitchener Centre
Critic, Anti-Racism
Critic, Colleges and Universities
Chair, Ontario NDP Black Caucus

Mike Morrice
MP for Kitchener Centre
Addendum for Regional Council

We must recognize that those in the formal positions of authority are not those with the most at stake. While other levels of government need to be part of the solution, the Region has an important role to play in ensuring community safety and wellbeing. If we have the political will to seize this moment, and finally address the deep institutional blight that has devastated Black, Indigenous and racialized communities for far too long, we can make our Region a better, safer place for all, now and for generations to come. We are proud of the work being done to demand change - groups like Reallocate WR, Ground Up WR, BLM Solidarity March organizers, and advocates across our riding that demand leading with love. We can and we must do better.

We echo the calls of many community members in making the following recommendations:

- Hold the Waterloo Region Police Services budget at a 0% increase.
- Reallocate the proposed WRPS budget increase ($10-12 million) to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy, and invest in much-needed housing and shelter spaces.
- Facilitate community consultations about alternative approaches to community safety.
- Implement alternative models of community safety, including first responders who are trained to respond to mental health, addiction, homelessness and school discipline calls.
- Invest in Black and Indigenous-led initiatives, including the development of an Indigenous Community Hub (for example, giving serious consideration to the calls to transform Charles Street Terminal into an Indigenous Community Hub).
- Invest heavily in programs and supports that improve quality of life and address the social determinants of health (social and economic factors that influence people's health) and that use an anti-racist, anti-oppression framework.
- Work to end gender-based violence by increasing funding to shelters and services that support survivors of violence and abuse.
- Create an urgently-need strategic plan involving community input to address these calls.
Request:

Free rides for children under 12 years old every day, and free rides for older adults (over 65 years old) during off-peak hours or on certain days of the week.

The Waterloo Region Age Friendly Network wants to encourage ridership on Grand River Transit – restore public confidence in the system, and encourage more residents to use the system.

Environmental reasons to encourage GRT ridership:

- Reduce the number of single occupancy cars.
- Reduce congestion on roads.
- Reduce air pollution.
- Improve the health of the community.
- Encourage and support climate-friendly forms of transportation.
- Create a sustainable and green method of travelling within the community.

Social reasons to encourage GRT ridership:

- For all ages, but especially older adults, reduce social isolation.
- Promote social interactions and reconnections.
- Provide the means for residents, especially older adults, to maintain social and medical connections.
- Help young people learn how to use the transit system and its benefits, e.g., independence.

Why provide free rides for children under 12 years old?

- Create lifelong transit users.
- Help families save money and travel in the Region in an environmentally friendly way.
- Help grow young ridership by learning how the system works.
- Create travel and transit expectations for young riders.
- Children would ride free, but their parents or guardians would pay regular fares.
- 12 of 20 transit systems in southern Ontario already offer free rides for children.
- On Monday, December 6, Guelph introduced free rides for children. Mayor Guthrie said, "Now is the time to actually give some incentives to families, to children, to start to use the public transit system...It introduces it to them now, they get used to it, they become long term users of transit and that helps not only families and maybe the bottom line with costs, [but] it also teaches them how useful the transit system can be and it also talks about climate change mitigation." (https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/guelph-city-council-free-bid-fare-1.6274449)

Why offer free rides for older adults over 65 years old?

- Many older adults are now living longer.
- In the last 10 years of their lives, many can’t or won’t be able to drive: alternatives are needed.
- Access to affordable public transit and knowledge of how to use it are necessary older life skills.
- Public transportation may be one of the more important issues for communities to consider as the baby boomer generation reaches age 65. By 2030, many Regional residents will be 85 or older and no longer able to drive, making the need to improve and expand public transportation that much more pressing.
• Recent research shows that as a society, communities are ill-prepared to provide adequate transit for the growing and increasing population of older adults.

• A McMaster University study in 2020 said that there “is a broad ableist bias in transportation planning across Canada and elsewhere: transportation officials do not plan their services with enough attention to older adults.”

• Free rides once per week or during off-peak hours would enable older adults to learn how to use the system, and fulfill the environmental and social reasons noted above.

How the Waterloo Region Age Friendly Network is helping and is prepared to help encourage ridership:

• **Ride-a-Bus sessions**: 6 in 2019; 4 virtual sessions in 2021; 2 WOW (telephone) sessions; one session on transportation during the *Pathways to Ageing* series in October.

• **Cooperation** with GRT customer service to promote the Ride-a-Bus sessions and provide information on public transit.

• **Collaboration** with seniors programming agencies across the Region.

• **Advocacy**: promote the WHO Age Friendly Community Transportation guidelines with Waterloo Region city and township governments ([https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf](https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf)).

In November, after the presentation to the budget meeting, there was suggestion that staff look into the possibility of **one-day per month free rides** for older adults on a trial basis:

• What were the results of that direction?

• What costs would be involved in offering free rides to children or older adults?

**Conclusion:**

• Encourage ridership by allowing **children under 12 years old** to ride free, even with the condition that they be accompanied by a fare-paying adult.
  
  o Their parents would pay full fare.
  
  o We would be building the ridership of the future.
  
  o We would be creating lifelong transit users.
  
  o We would be promoting climate-friendly transportation.
  
  o We would join 12 other transit authorities in southern Ontario offering free rides for children.

• Encourage ridership by allowing **older adults over 65 years old** to ride free during off-peak hours or one day per week.
  
  o Reduce social isolation.
  
  o Provide opportunities for shopping, medical appointments, and social gatherings.
  
  o Encourage people to leave cars at home, and reduce single occupancy vehicle use.

Thank you, again, for your consideration of these issues.

Rick Chambers, Member, Waterloo Region Age Friendly Network