



# BURLINGTON TRANSIT STRATEGIC PLAN (2026-2030)

Public Information Centres

October 2025



ACCESS.

# AGENDA

- **Project Overview & Timeline**
- **Burlington Transit 101**
- **Identified Issues and Opportunities**
- **Draft Goals of the Transit Strategic Plan**
- **Next Steps**

# Project Overview

## Transit Strategic Plan Purpose:

Deliver a clear, compelling and implementable road map for transit improvements and sustain further modernization over the next five years (2026-2030).

## Transit Strategic Plan Objectives:

-  Make transit more efficient and a viable mode of transportation
-  Increase **and** maintain ridership
-  Ensure financial sustainability
-  Prepare for growth around the Major Transit Station Areas (MTSA)
-  Develop a framework for a transit-oriented City
-  Increase modal split

# Why Transit?

## Benefits of Transit Service:



### Economic

- Job creation through transit operations and construction
- Connects residents to employment opportunities



### Transportation User

- Saves money on vehicle costs, alleviates traffic congestion by moving more people & reduces collision rates



### Environmental

- Helps protect the environment by cutting pollution and saving space



### Social & Community

- Helps people stay healthy and feel more connected to others

# Project Timeline

May – August

September – December

January – March

February – April



# BURLINGTON TRANSIT 101

# Burlington Transit 101



## Transit Five-Year Business Plan (2020-2024):

What we planned to improve:

Improvement	Progress
Using a grid to plan our routes	✓
Increase the frequency of our buses	✓
Increase the number of buses to support service growth	✓
Investigate sustainable fleet options	✓
Introduce fare strategies	✓
Launch transit signal priority measures	🔍
Pilot launch of On-Demand Transit	✗

# Burlington Transit 101

## System Summary:

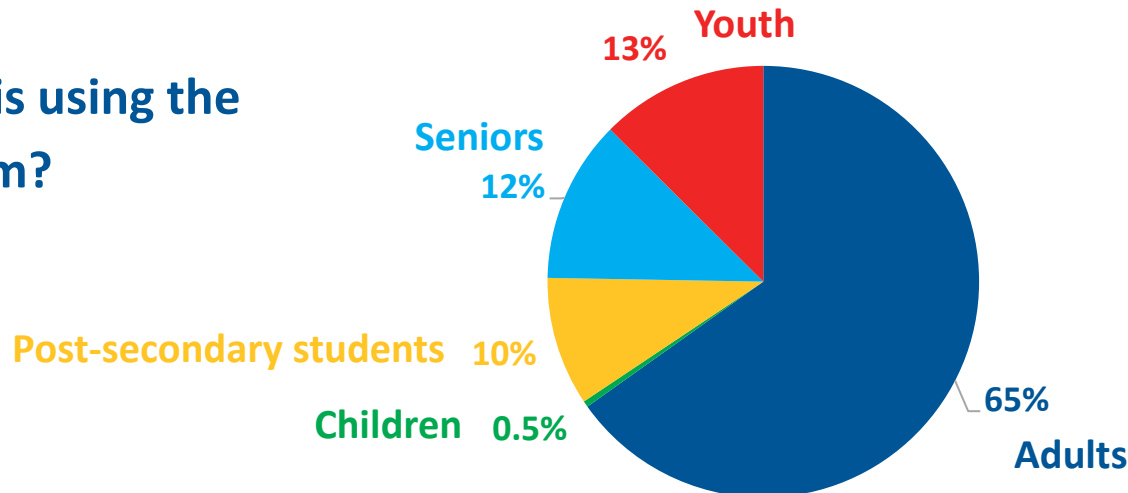
**Overall Service Span:** 4:45 AM – 1:30 AM

- Daytime Network: 4:45 AM – 11:00 PM
- Nighttime Network: 11:00 PM – 1:30 AM
- Monday – Sunday (with reduced service on weekends)

## Regional Connections:

- City Bus – Hamilton, Oakville
- GO Bus – 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 40, 41, 47
- GO Train – Lakeshore West
- VIA Rail

## Who is using the system?



In 2024, Burlington Transit had over **4.3 million** boardings and **3.6 million** completed trips!

## TOP RIDERSHIP ROUTES



**Weekday peak:**  
**6** routes have 15-min or better service

**Weekday off-peak:**  
**4** routes have 15-min or better service

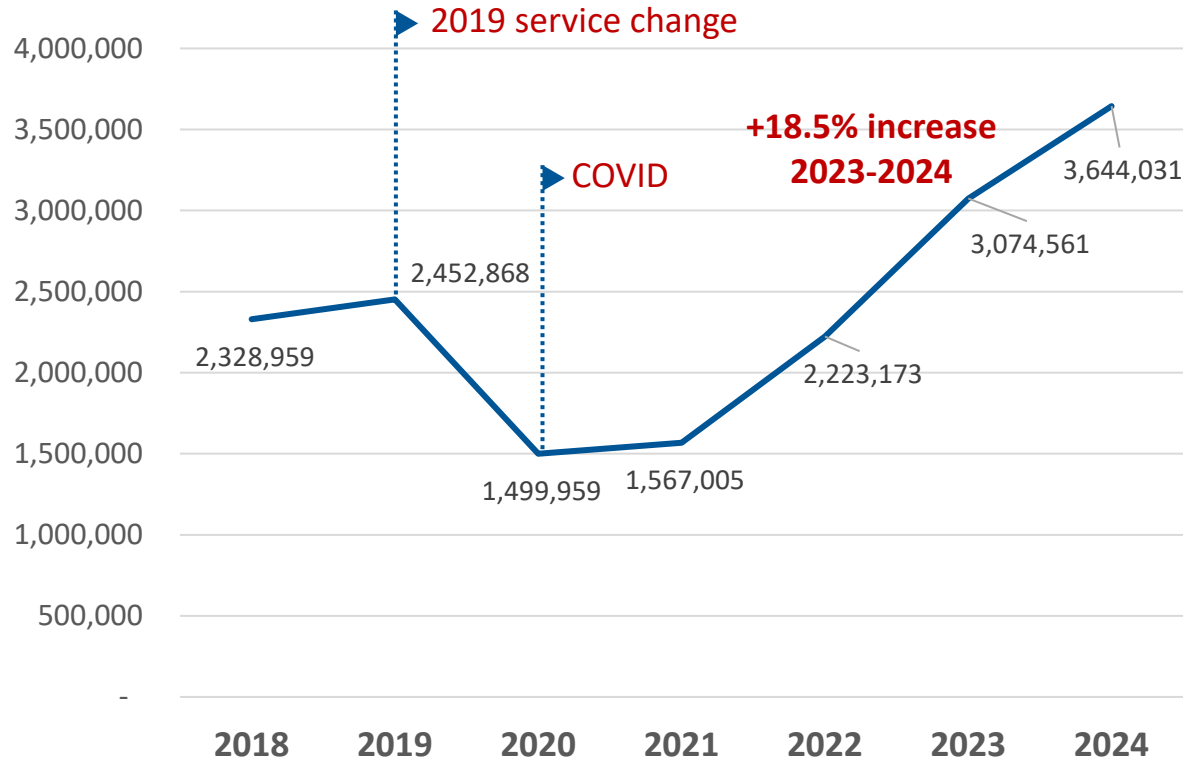
**Weekends:**  
**2** routes have 15-min or better service

**4** Exchanges that connect regionally to the GO Bus, GO Train, VIA Rail, Hamilton Street Railway and Oakville Transit

 **780+** bus stops

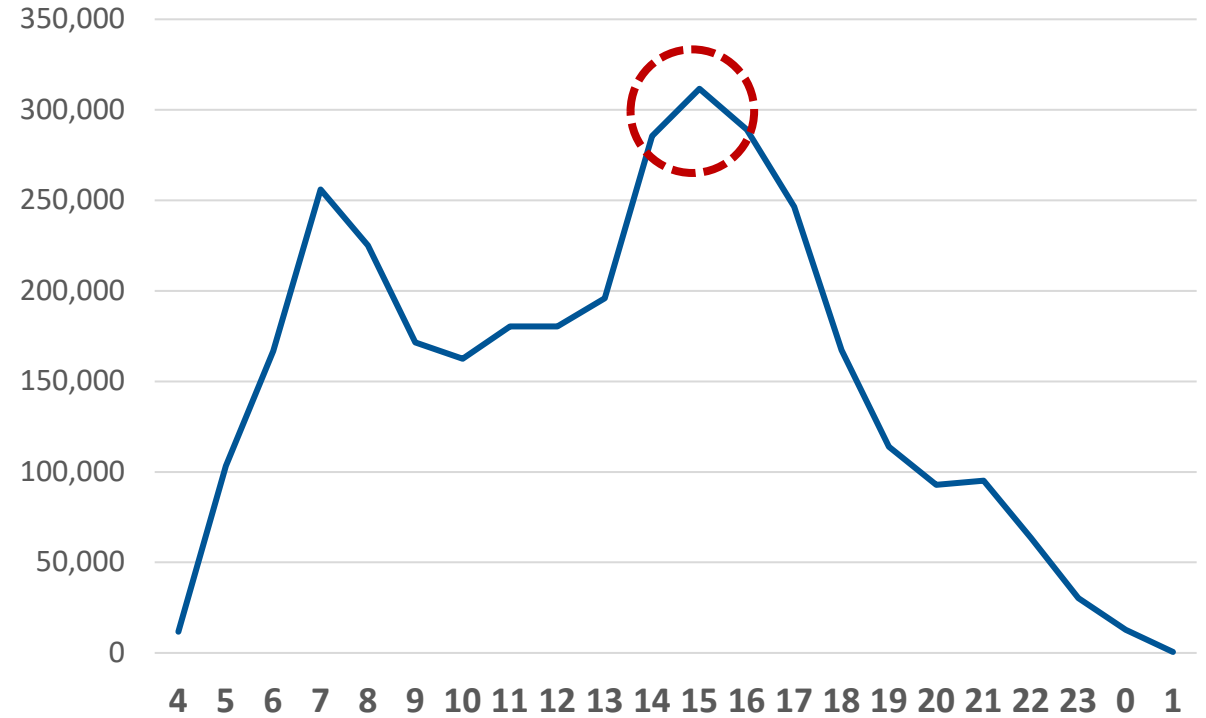
# Burlington Transit 101

## Ridership by Year (2018-2025)



**48% increase between 2019 (pre-COVID + network change) & 2024**

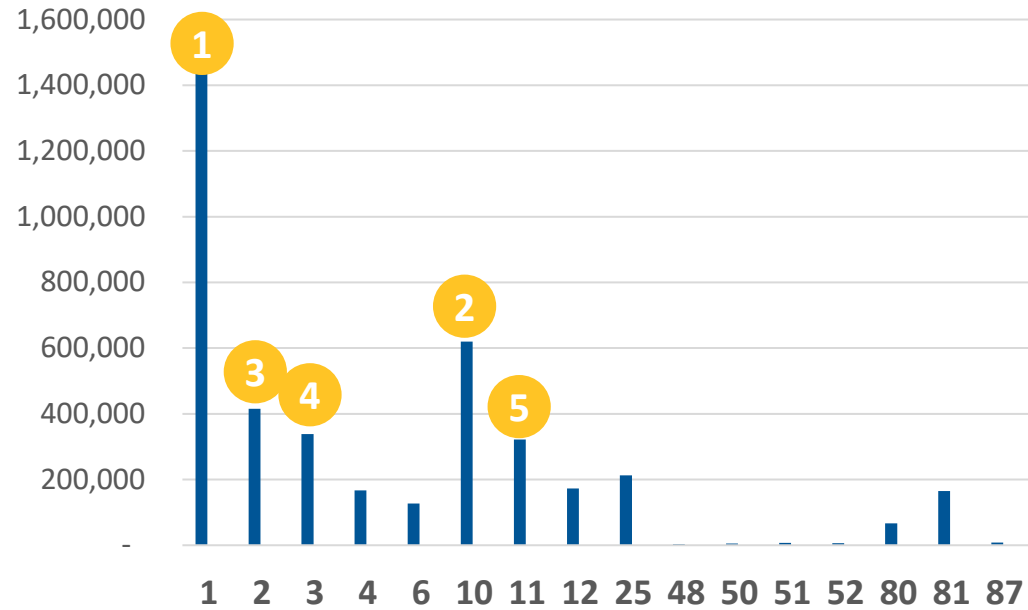
## Boardings by Time of Day (2024)



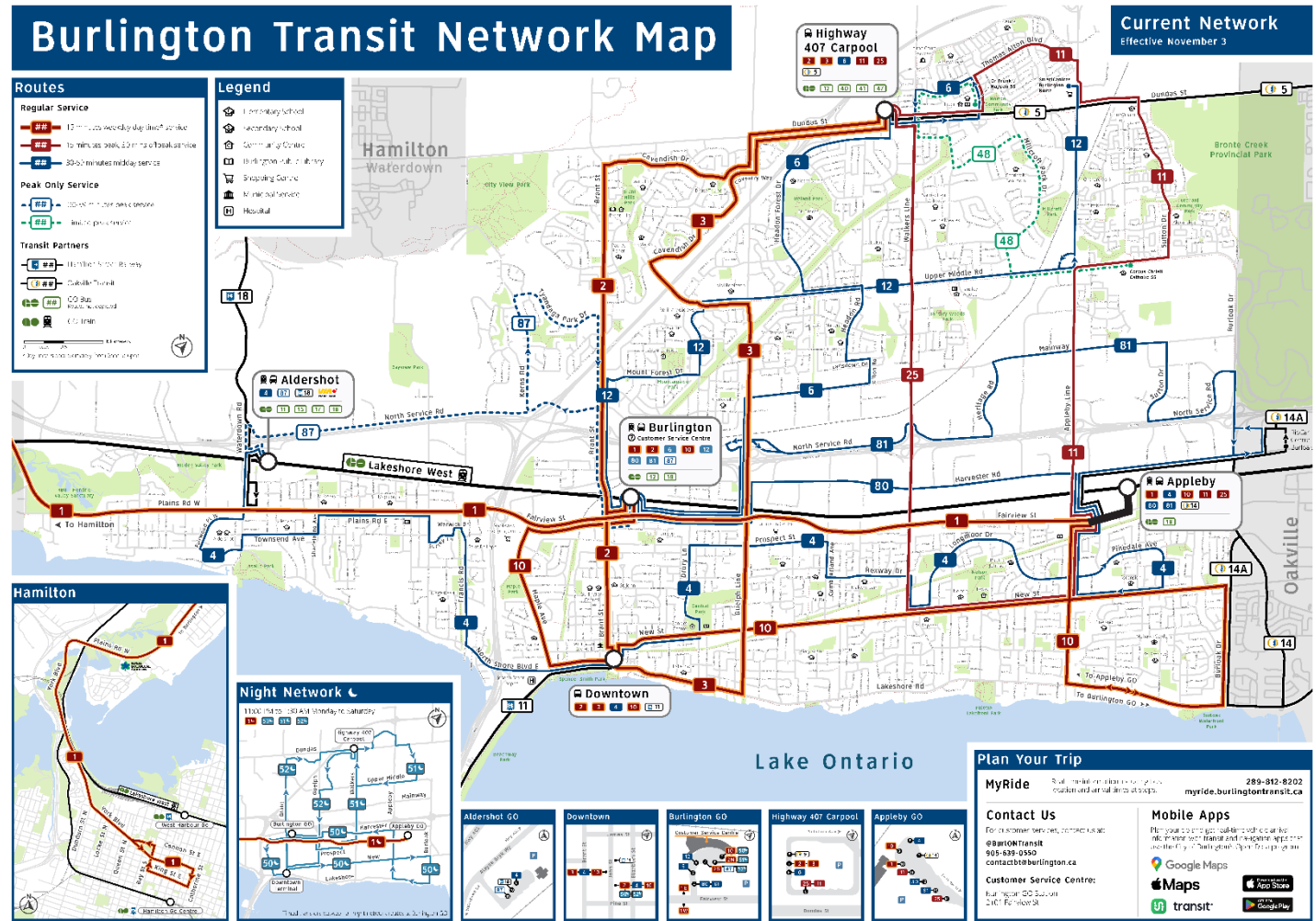
**Most people get on the bus between 3:00 and 5:00 in the afternoon (afternoon peak)**

# Burlington Transit 101

## Total Boardings by Route (2024)



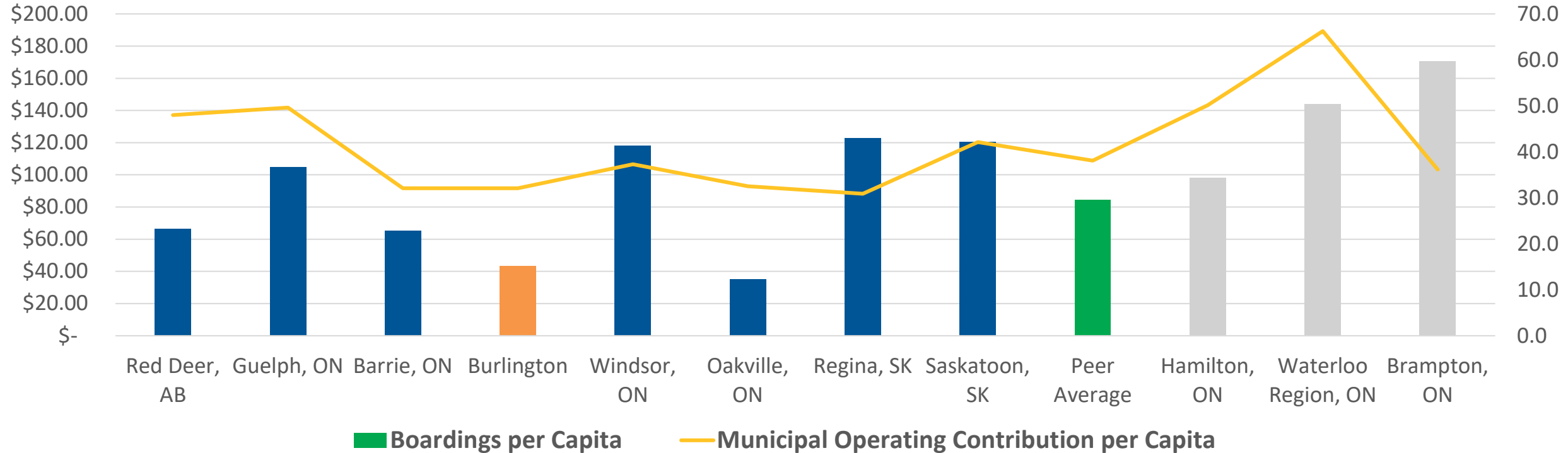
Ridership patterns align with service levels: highest ridership routes are the most frequent and have the most service, lowest ridership routes have fewer service hours



# Burlington Transit 101

## Peer Comparison

### Boardings per Capita by Municipal Operating Contribution per Capita



	Burlington
	Other Communities
	Peer Average
	Reference

**Data suggests that increased investment in transit in Burlington will result in better usage of the system**

# ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

# Identified Issues & Opportunities

## Issues



### Traffic Congestion

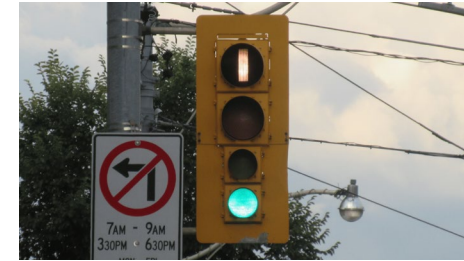
- Highway traffic spillover
- Construction delays



## Opportunities

### Transit Priority Infrastructure

- Ways to help move buses through traffic, like transit signal priority and dedicated bus lanes



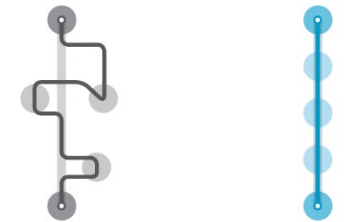
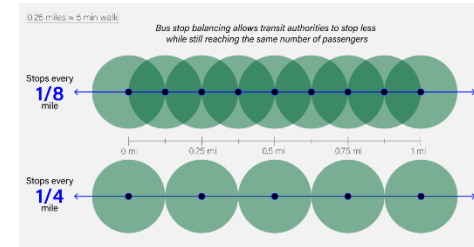
### Indirect local routes

- Inconvenient connections and travel times



### Streamline service

- Fewer stops along frequent routes
- Explore opportunities for more direct connections



### Financial concerns

- How can we fund service growth?



### Financial sustainability

- Explore sustainable funding models



# Identified Issues & Opportunities

## Issues



### Service gaps and expansion needs

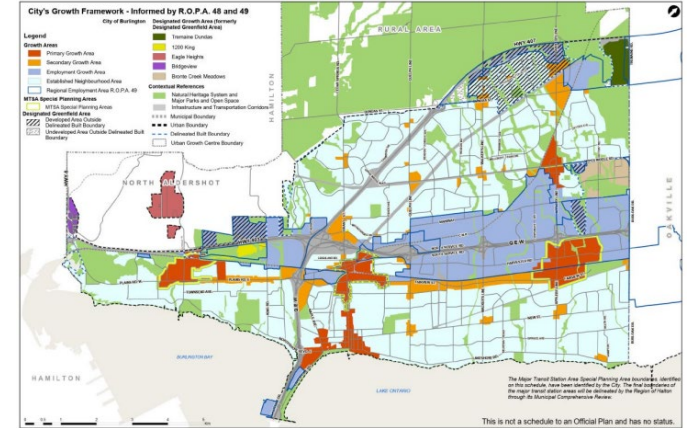
- Underserved areas
- Regional connections
- Extended schedules on weekends and holidays



## Opportunities

### Service expansion

- Add more service to growth and development areas
- Options to get people to and from the frequent transit network easily
- Align daytime and nighttime networks
- Extend overall service span



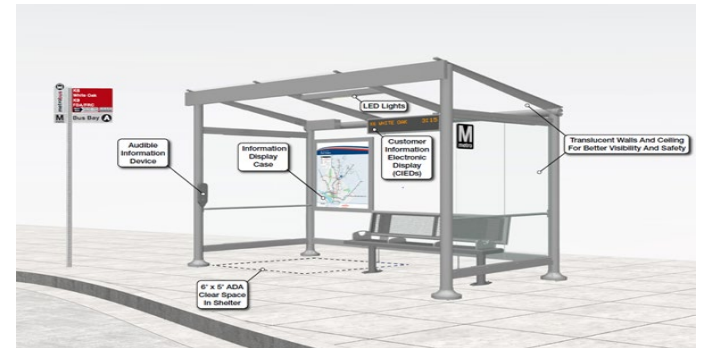
### Safety & accessibility concerns

- Bus stop improvements



### Bus stop improvements

- Additional shelters at high ridership bus stops and other necessary upgrades





**Which opportunities do you think should be prioritized? Choose up to 3.**

# Let us know what you think!

## Which opportunities do you think should be prioritized? Choose up to 3.

- Transit priority infrastructure**, such as transit signal priority and dedicated bus lanes, to address traffic congestion
- Streamlining service**, to allow for more direct routes and connections
- Service expansion**, to add more service to underserved and growing areas and extend schedules earlier/later
- Bus stop improvements**, to ensure safety and accessibility
- Financial sustainability**, to explore funding model options that could allow the City to continue to meet service demands into the future

# DRAFT GOALS FOR THE TRANSIT STRATEGIC PLAN

# Draft Goals for the Transit Strategic Plan

## Key Questions:

*How can transit be more competitive with the car?*



**Make Transit Faster and More Efficient**

*How to optimize transit to meet the needs of a growing city and its neighbouring communities?*



**Connect Transit to Growing and Developing Areas**

*How can transit attract, retain and increase customers and staff?*



**Make Transit Safer and More Comfortable for Riders and Staff**

*How can transit have reliable funding for the future?*



**Build a Strong and Integrated Foundation for Transit Growth**



**Do these goals capture your  
priorities for Burlington Transit for  
the next 5 years?**

# Let us know what you think!

Do you think these goals capture your priorities for Burlington Transit for the next 5 years?



**Make Transit Faster and More Efficient**

Yes

No

Somewhat



**Connect Transit to Growing and Developing Areas**



**Make Transit Safer and More Comfortable for Riders and Staff**



**Build a Strong and Integrated Foundation for Transit Growth**

**NEXT STEPS**

# Next Steps

1

## Wrap-up Round 1 Engagement:

- **Online Survey** closes November 9, 2025
- **Pop-up Events:**
  - October 29 8:00-10:00 AM Burlington GO
  - October 29 6:00-8:00 PM Skyway Community Centre

2

## Options Development

3

## Round 2 Engagement

4

## Developing the Transit Strategic Plan

