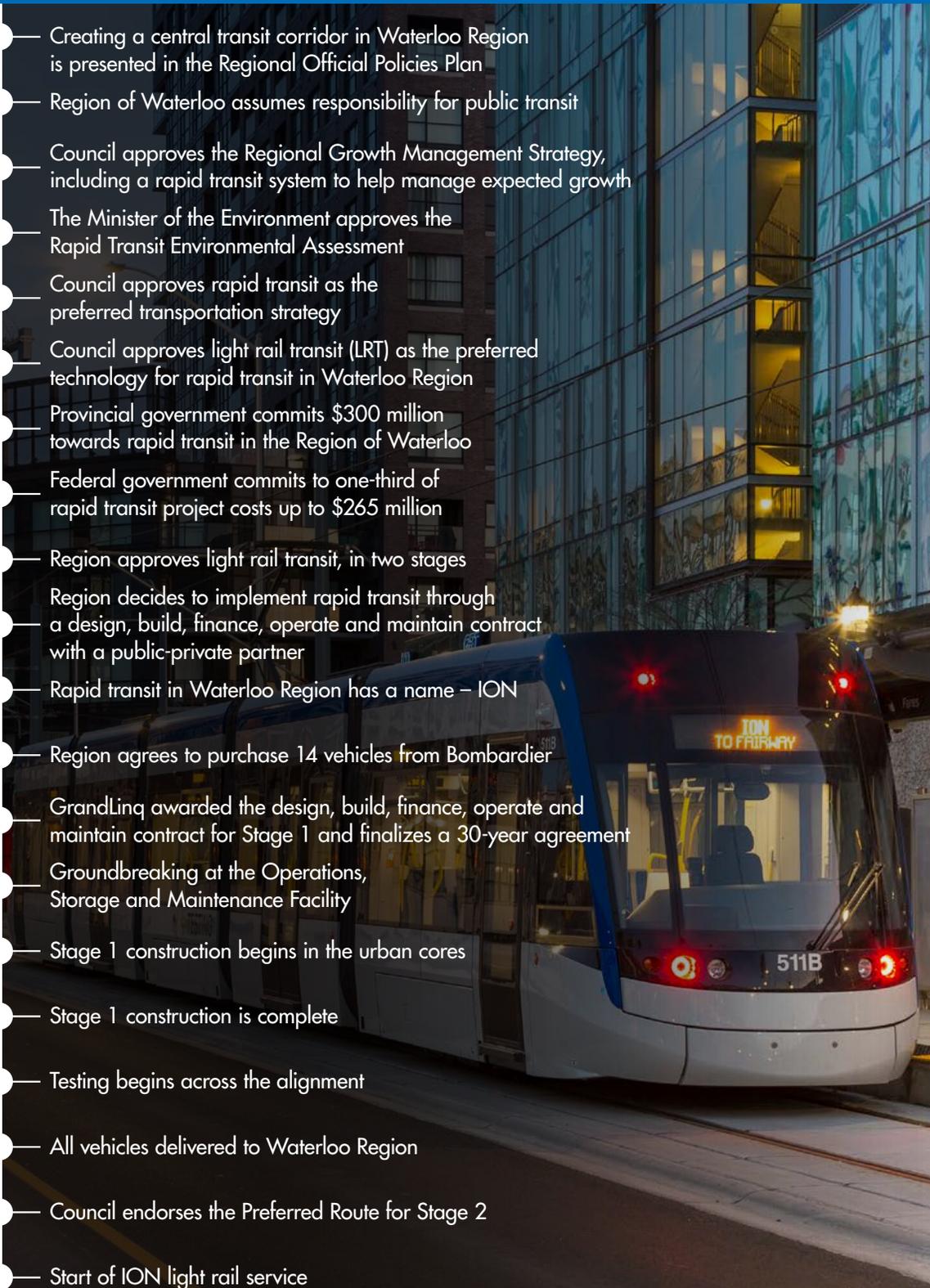


Why ION?

- 
- 1976** ----- Creating a central transit corridor in Waterloo Region is presented in the Regional Official Policies Plan
 - 2000** ----- Region of Waterloo assumes responsibility for public transit
 - 2003** ----- Council approves the Regional Growth Management Strategy, including a rapid transit system to help manage expected growth
 - 2005** ----- The Minister of the Environment approves the Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment
 - 2006** ----- Council approves rapid transit as the preferred transportation strategy
 - 2009** ----- Council approves light rail transit (LRT) as the preferred technology for rapid transit in Waterloo Region
 - 2010** ----- Provincial government commits \$300 million towards rapid transit in the Region of Waterloo
 - 2010** ----- Federal government commits to one-third of rapid transit project costs up to \$265 million
 - June 15, 2011** ----- Region approves light rail transit, in two stages
 - 2012** ----- Region decides to implement rapid transit through a design, build, finance, operate and maintain contract with a public-private partner
 - 2013** ----- Rapid transit in Waterloo Region has a name – ION
 - 2013** ----- Region agrees to purchase 14 vehicles from Bombardier
 - 2014** ----- GrandLinq awarded the design, build, finance, operate and maintain contract for Stage 1 and finalizes a 30-year agreement
 - August 21, 2014** ----- Groundbreaking at the Operations, Storage and Maintenance Facility
 - Spring 2015** ----- Stage 1 construction begins in the urban cores
 - July 2017** ----- Stage 1 construction is complete
 - February 2018** ----- Testing begins across the alignment
 - December 2018** ----- All vehicles delivered to Waterloo Region
 - June 5, 2019** ----- Council endorses the Preferred Route for Stage 2
 - June 21, 2019** ----- Start of ION light rail service



Region of Waterloo



GRAND RIVER TRANSIT



Why ION?

Moving people

Light rail provides a fast, reliable way to travel around our urban areas for work, shopping and entertainment. It provides people with more choice about how they move around the Region and increases their ability to travel without always needing a personal vehicle.

With more than 200,000 new residents expected to move to Waterloo Region over the next 20 years, light rail is a sustainable solution to meet our community's future transportation needs.

Shaping our community

Light rail encourages more residential and commercial development in our existing urban areas. This type of development helps limit urban sprawl, reducing pressure on Waterloo Region's precious farmland and groundwater sources.

Over 50 per cent of new development in Waterloo Region is happening in the existing urban areas, adding more residents and generating more jobs in our urban areas.

Without intensification, the Region would need to plan for significant expansion of the road network through existing, mature residential neighbourhoods.

ION
stations



Stage 1—
current
light rail

Stage 2—
future
light rail

