

**Key Stakeholder Perspective on Seamless  
Transit in Niagara**



**Presented by**

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# History of the U-Pass

## Brock University

-  BUSU U-Pass fee passed in 2003 through referendum.
-  Current U-Pass fee (Sept – April) for Brock University students = \$177.28

## Niagara College

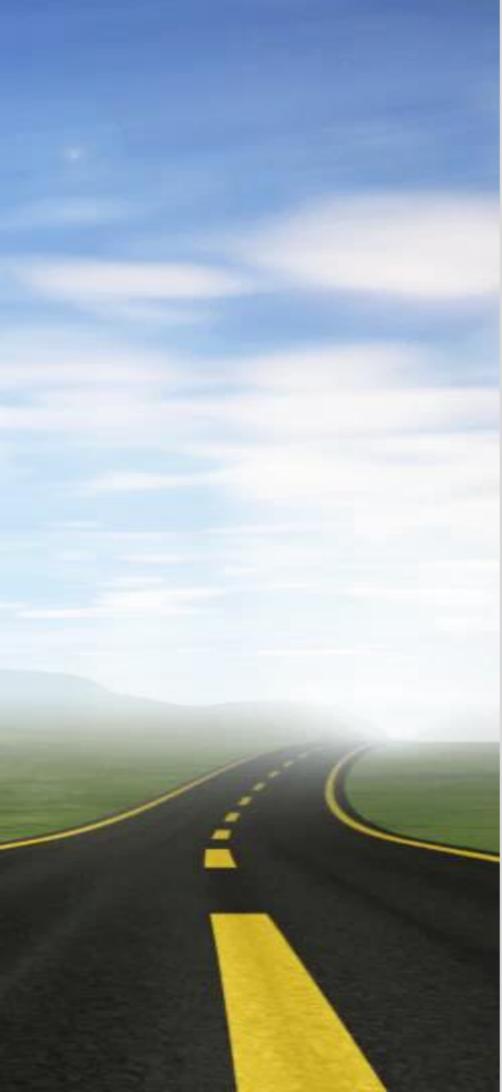
-  NCSAC U-Pass fee passed in 2007 through referendum.
-  Current U-Pass fee (Sept – April) for Niagara College students = \$161.00

U-Pass fee is non-refundable. Students cannot opt-out of the U-Pass program.



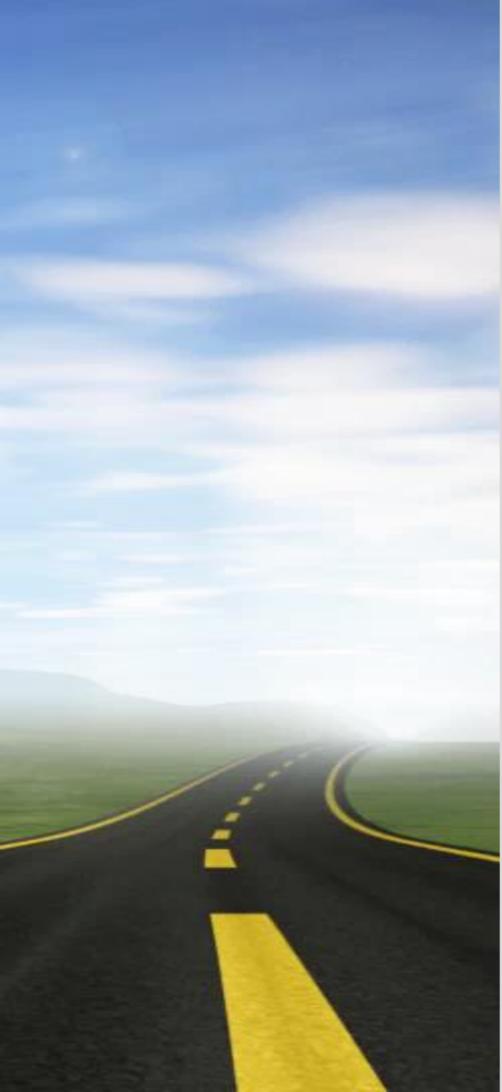
# Student Facts

- 🚌 18,000 full-time students eligible for the U-Pass between Brock University and Niagara College
- 🚌 \$6 million per year investment in transit in the Niagara Region
- 🚌 BUSU and NCSAC are the only two Student Associations in the province that facilitate the U-Pass/ transit with more than one public provider (currently negotiate with seven authorities)



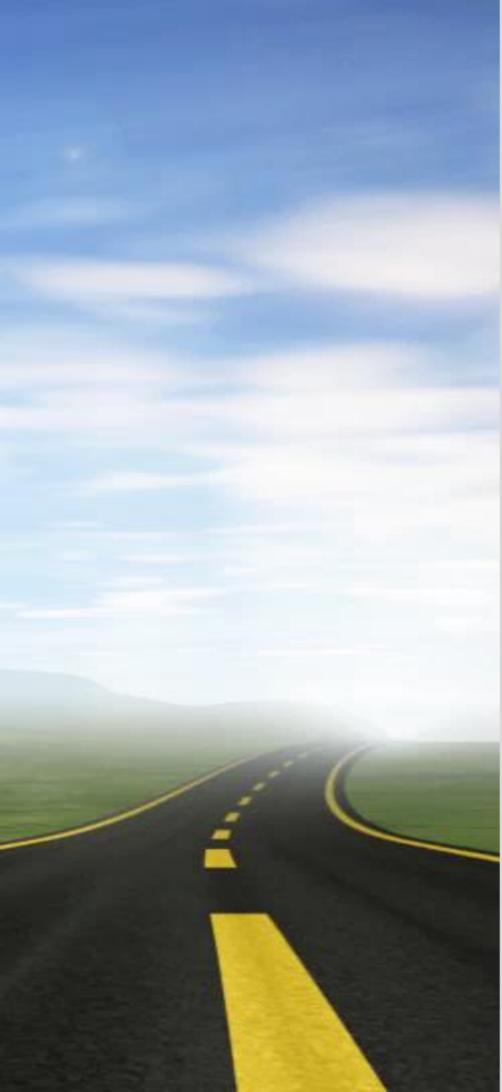
# Transit History

- ❏ At one time, Niagara had a vast pan-Niagara transit service using a trolley system
- ❏ In Niagara, we have multiple municipal transit operators, various ‘link’ arrangements, one Regional, four para-transit systems, as well as dedicated systems such as those for school boards
- ❏ In numerous public consultation exercises, including those related to social service sector (e.g. housing and homelessness), efforts of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce with the business community, the Region’s own growth strategy and Vision 2060, and more, ‘ a single regional transit system’ is at or near the top of the list as the key public infrastructure priority in Niagara



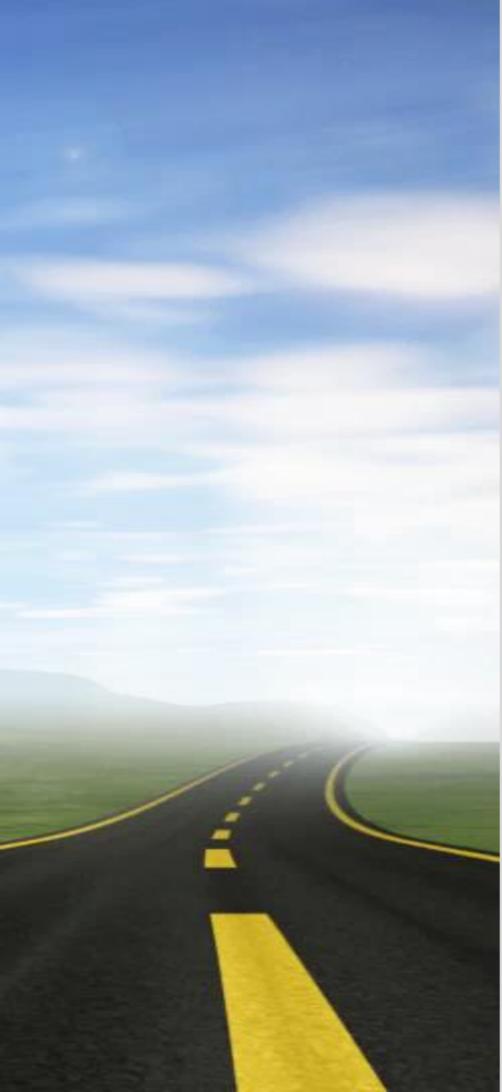
# Transit History

- 🚌 For the last 48 years an amalgamated and seamless transit system has been at the heart of conversations concerning the way forward for the Region's economic development since 1966 when it was put forward in the Mayo Commission Report.
- 🚌 Despite this we still have a convoluted system that is inadequate for today's employment, post-secondary and economic realities.



# **STUDENT EXPERIENCES**





# What are we **missing out on?**

- ❏ With no seamless regional system, we will not have GO-train extension from the GTA for anything other than summer tourist season.
- ❏ Ability to effectively compete with other jurisdictions for attracting and retaining young talent
- ❏ Not investing in effective regional service means we are disadvantaging our business community by hobbling workforce mobility
- ❏ Compare to K-W – with regional transit, they were able to secure \$300M in Provincial funding for a planned LRT system



# What are we **missing out on?**

- 🚌 Post-secondary enrollment will suffer, as other jurisdictions are much better served, and this is a significant decision factor for students and parents alike when choosing post-secondary education options.
- 🚌 Simply put, failing to address this issue in a responsible, non-fragmented and non-parochial way means we are significantly hampered in efforts to transform Niagara's economy.



# What are we **asking for?**

- 🚌 BUSU and NCSAC must be present for conversations regarding the future of transit in the Niagara Region
- 🚌 We will be hosting all candidates forums at both institutions to speak with municipal candidates to discuss transit and important issues to post-secondary students.
- 🚌 Engage our stakeholders (students) in further dialogue regarding transit to ensure routes, times and future decisions reflect needs.



*Students of today are employees and employers of  
today and tomorrow.*



**THANK YOU**



Niagara College Student  
Administrative Council

student life defined