

LRT Won't Work in the Tri-cities

The concept of utilizing rail as a mode of rapid transit is certainly plausible in large metropolitan areas like Toronto or Vancouver, however I believe that the Tri-Cities are simply too small for Light Rail Transit (LRT) to operate efficiently here. Further, in my opinion the projected \$800-plus million start-up costs to run a rail line from the north end of Waterloo to the east end of Kitchener is simply too expensive and completely out of touch with reality. Although this start-up cost will largely be subsidized by Queen's Park and the Feds, the cost of maintaining such an expensive system will fall on the backs of Regional taxpayers in all subsequent years.

The high cost of running LRT would, I believe, necessitate considerably higher transit budgets than conventional I-xpress would require. The \$800 million would go a long way if applied towards I-xpress. An infusion of that amount of money would give the Tri-Cities a tremendous head start through expansion of express technology and infrastructure. Ignoring a costly LRT with its inflexible rail line and focusing instead on expanding our existing I-xpress infrastructure will more than meet the requirements of an increasingly mobile urban population.

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