LINK THE WATERSHED

Inter-Regional/Inter-Community Transit within Ontario

The best example in Ontario of interconnected transit would be in Niagara Region and Durham Region.

Niagara Region Transit is a regional public transit system operating in the Niagara Region of Ontario. Unlike other regional transit systems in the province, Niagara Region Transit operates with, rather than replaces, the existing municipal transit systems operating in the region by connecting them together.[1] This is due in part to the region's urban areas being distinct, rather than fully interconnected.

Durham Region Transit (DRT) is the regional public transit operator in Durham Region, Ontario, Canada. The regional centres are Ajax, Whitby, and Oshawa. It was formed by the merger of Ajax/Pickering Transit, Whitby Transit, Oshawa Transit, and Clarington Transit.

DRT PULSE Service Overview

In 2013, Durham Transit introduced PULSE, a bus rapid transit service between Durham Region and Scarborough, as part of the MoveOntario 2020 plan.[2] The 900 route runs along Highway 2 between Scarborough and Oshawa crossing outside of Durham Transit's regional boundaries into Scarborough, where the Toronto Transit Commission provides transit services. The service has been expanded further to offer more interregional routes, including the 920 route from Ontario Tech in Oshawa to McCowan Station in Scarborough.[3]

Currently, the service has 60 stops over 31 kms, and has no differential fare structure compared to regular routes provided solely within Durham Region. The route provides service between 30 minute and 10-minute intervals depending on the time of day. The route outline can be found online through Durham Transit's website.

The service was introduced to help connect students to the University of Toronto – Scarborough Campus and provide residents from Durham Region access to Toronto via the Toronto Transit Commission, which services the University of Toronto – Scarborough campus. The introduction of the route also partially replaced GO Transit

---

[1] Niagara Region Transit, *Niagara Region Transit Route Map*, accessed 7 April 2022, https://www.niagararegion.ca/transit/pdf/nrt-route-map.pdf.

[2] 'Premier of Ontario - Backgrounder - MoveOntario 2020 Projects', 9 July 2007, https://web.archive.org/web/20070709090118/http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/news/Product.asp?ProductID=1385.

[3] Durham Transit, 'South Durham Map - Mar2022', March 2020, https://www.durhamregiontransit.com/en/routes-and-schedules/resources/March-7-2022/DRT-South---Mar-2022---20220209.pdf.

services in the same area[4] and allowed GO to focus on providing more transit options and direct service to Toronto from other areas of Durham Region.[5]

The service received $82.3 million from the province to support the initiative, with Durham Region funding the remaining costs when originally introduced.[6] As the initiative was successful, Metrolinx is now supporting the building of the Durham – Scarborough BRT to allow the service to operate within dedicated lanes between Oshawa and Scarborough Town Centre, with GO and TTC being able also to utilize the BRT corridor.[7] The expansion by Metrolinx has received funding split between the Federal (40%), Provincial (33%) and Regional (27%) governments.[8]

This form of transit route demonstrates that it is possible to introduce a new service without Metrolinx within areas they serve and use it to complement the services instead of replacing them. Durham Transit plans to continue operating the PULSE service alongside Metrolinx's GO Transit services.

Other examples within Ontario

Within the **Greater Toronto Area (GTA)**, there are several transit systems such as ***Mississauga Transit, Brampton Transit, VIVA/York Region Transit, and Durham Region Transit*** that service parts of Toronto and connect to the ***TTC (Toronto Transit Commission)***. The TTC also runs service in some of these areas. Additionally, **GO Transit** connects to all these systems with various bus and train services into and out of Union Station.

Mississauga Transit and Brampton Transit both connect to each other at terminals in each others' cities.[9] Another example is ***Burlington Transit*** which connects to ***Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) and Oakville Transit***.[10] Oakville also runs routes into Mississauga and Burlington.[11]

GOST (Guelph Owen Sound Transit) has connections with ***Owen Sound Transit Guelph Transit***, along with ***RIDE WELL (Wellington County***) and ***GTR Transit (Grey County).***[12]

---

[4] 'Introducing... DRT Pulse, Starting June 29 - Transit Toronto - Weblog', accessed 29 March 2022, https://transittoronto.ca/archives/weblog/2013/05/26-introducin.shtml.
[5] 'With the Arrival of PULSE Service, DRT and GO Transit Focus Their "One Fare" Agreement', 11 July 2016, https://web.archive.org/web/20160711020910/http://www.durhamregiontransit.com/DRTNews/Pages/With-the-Arrival-of-PULSE-Service,-DRT-and-GO-Transit-Better-Complement-Their-Routes,-Focus-Their-.aspx.
[6] 'Introducing... DRT Pulse, Starting June 29 - Transit Toronto - Weblog'.
[7] 'Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit - FAQ & Ask-a-Question', Metrolinx Engage, accessed 29 March 2022, https://www.metrolinxengage.com/en/content/durham-scarborough-bus-rapid-transit-faq-ask-question.
[8] 'Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit - FAQ & Ask-a-Question'.
[9] 'City of Brampton | Brampton Transit | Transfers and Connecting Transit', accessed 7 April 2022, https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/transit/Fares/Pages/Transfers-and-Connecting-Transit.aspx.
[10] Burlington Transit, 'Connections', 28 April 2021, https://www.burlingtontransit.ca/en/schedules-and-maps/connections.aspx.
[11] Oakville Transit, 'Connecting Services', 2022, https://www.oakvilletransit.ca/connecting-services.html.
[12] 'Guelph Owen Sound Transportation', 16 March 2022, https://www.owensound.ca/en/living/guelph-owen-sound-transportation.aspx.

Transit Windsor offers a service between Leamington and Windsor known **as LTW**, which operates on a closed door service model between the two municipalities (approximately 45km) with service limited to morning, lunch, and evening service and a flat rate fare structure that allows for transfers to each system (Windsor Transit or Leamington Transit).[13] Windsor Transit is also looking to expand service to surrounding communities including LaSalle (approximately 13km away) and Amherstberg (approximately 28km away) through a closed-door service model,[14] a similar distance to Brantford to Ainslie Street Terminal in Cambridge (25.8km).

The **Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, the City of Sarnia, and the City of London** have an inter-community system called **VOYAGO.**[15]

More Services coming online across Ontario

Several other inter-community routes and services are being created across Ontario as part of recent provincial funding.

[13] 'Bus Pass and Fares', 11 February 2022, https://www.leamington.ca/en/our-community/bus_pass_and_fares_.aspx.
[14] 'Transit Windsor Service for Amherstburg Moves Closer to Reality', windsorstar, accessed 29 March 2022, https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/transit-windsor-service-for-amherstburg-moves-closer-to-reality.
[15] 'Intercommunity', Voyago Transit, accessed 7 April 2022, https://voyagotransit.ca/intercommunity/.