VISION 1 MILLION ARE WE READY? SCORECARD

Waterloo Region stands at the threshold of transformative growth, with projections indicating our population will reach 1 million residents within the next 25 years—an increase of over 300,000 people. Currently, our housing supply, transportation infrastructure, healthcare services, employment opportunities, and social infrastructure is not advancing at the pace needed overall to support this expansion.

To address this challenge proactively, BestWR has developed a scorecard that will track our collective progress and guide our advocacy efforts with government and private sector partners. This living document will be updated regularly to help prioritize our community's agenda, focusing resources where they're most needed.

While the scorecard doesn't encompass every aspect of growth management, it concentrates on key initiatives that community members and business leaders have consistently identified as critical areas requiring immediate action. Though we've incorporated extensive feedback during its development, we welcome your additional insights and, most importantly, your active support in this vital regional initiative.

MEASUREMENTS

NEEDS ATTENTION IN PROGRESS

ON TRACK

ACHIEVED

VISION 1 MILLION ARE WE READY? SCORECARD AT A GLANCE

















INITIATIVE

BUILDING THE HOMES WE NEED

CURRENT STATUS

Working to meet the targets

TARGET

70,000new homes built by 2031

STATUS

IN PROGRESS



INITIATIVE

CREATION
OF NEW
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING UNITS

CURRENT STATUS

452**
new affordable

units in development
** Region of Waterloo only

TARGET

2,500

new affordable housing units built in 5 years

STATUS

ON TRACK



INITIATIVE

ADDING WATER & WASTEWATER CAPACITY

CURRENT STATUS

Insufficient Capacity

TARGET

Capacity for the growth expected

STATUS

IN PROGRESS



INITIATIVE

BALANCED MARKET FOR RENTAL HOUSING

CURRENT STATUS

3.6% current rate

TARGET

3% balanced rate

STATUS

ON TRACK



INITIATIVE

PROPER FUNDING
TO SUPPORT PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS

CURRENT STATUS

2,371
people in the Region
currently experiencing
homelessness

TARGET

PROGRESS TO TARGET*

STATUS

NEEDS ATTENTION

^{*} Full plans are being validated with the support of the Future Cities Initiative team at the University of Waterloo and will be available shortly.



ARE WE READY? SCORECARD



INITIATIVE

INVESTING IN RAIL & TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE

CURRENT STATUS

Work ongoing to advance each project:

- Two-way all-day GO train service (2026)
- King-Victoria Transit Hub
- Stage 2 LRT
- Breslau GO

TARGET

Completion of all projects

STATUS

IN PROGRESS



TRANSPORTATION

INITIATIVE

NEW HIGHWAY 7

CURRENT STATUS

Verbal commitment made

TARGET

Construction complete

STATUS

IN PROGRESS



TRANSPORTATION

INITIATIVE

EXPANDING YKF

CURRENT STATUS

Planning work and economic case built

TARGET

Runway expansion

STATUS

IN PROGRESS



TRANSPORTATION

INITIATIVE

INCREASED USE OF PUBLIC TRANSIT

CURRENT STATUS

Waiting for results

TARGET

27%Increase by 2035

STATUS

IN PROGRESS



TRANSPORTATION

INITIATIVE

BETTER GO TRAIN SERVICING THE REGION

CURRENT STATUS

19

daily weekday trips

TARGET

44 daily weekday trips

STATUS

IN PROGRESS

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HEALTHCARE

INITIATIVE

NEW HOSPITAL

CURRENT STATUS

\$15M in planning grants received

TARGET

Significant milestones achieved annually

STATUS

ON TRACK



INITIATIVE

RESIDENTS CONNECTED TO A DOCTOR

CURRENT STATUS

400 doctors needed

TARGET

400 Additional doctors needed to reach the Ratio of 1:1000 (Doctor/Residents)

STATUS

NEEDS ATTENTION



INITIATIVE

IMPROVED ACCESS TO LTC

CURRENT STATUS

1,476

new beds announced by province

TARGET

3,000

STATUS

NEEDS ATTENTION



INITIATIVE

ACUTE CARE

CURRENT STATUS

- 2.85 hours wait time to see a provider in WRHN
- Current ambulance response time is 7 m 18s
- TBC on mental health indicator

TARGET

PROGRESS TO PLAN*

STATUS

NEEDS ATTENTION

^{*} Full plans are being validated with the support of the Future Cities Initiative team at the University of Waterloo and will be available shortly.



ARE WE READY? SCORECARD



EMPLOYMENT & JOBS

INITIATIVE

ADDING EMPLOYMENT LANDS

CURRENT STATUS

Currently have 1072 hectares + bought 456 hectares

TARGET

PROGRESS TO PLAN*

STATUS

NEEDS ATTENTION



INITIATIVE

SHOVEL **READY MEGASITE**

CURRENT STATUS

70% of land purchased

TARGET

100% of the land assembled

STATUS

ON **TRACK**



EMPLOYMENT & JOBS

INITIATIVE

SECURING THE JOBS NEEDED

CURRENT STATUS

200,000

iobs created

TARGET

300,000 iobs created

STATUS

IN **PROGRESS**



INITIATIVE

STRONG REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT

CURRENT STATUS

70% participation rate 7.6% unemployment rate

TARGET

67-70% participation rate 6%

unemployment rate

STATUS

ON **TRACK**



INITIATIVE

LEADING **REGION FOR TECH TALENT**

CURRENT STATUS

#1 in small tech talent market and #18 overall

TARGET

Global rankings for small tech talent and overall tech talent

STATUS

IN **PROGRESS**



EMPLOYMENT & JOBS

INITIATIVE

POST SECONDARY INVESTMENT

CURRENT STATUS

Lower cost per capita funding in Canada

TARGET

STATUS

PROGRESS TO PLAN*

NEEDS ATTENTION



INITIATIVE

ELECTRICAL **CAPACITY**

CURRENT STATUS

TBC

TARGET

Sufficient capacity for the new growth

STATUS

IN **PROGRESS**

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ARE WE READY? SCORECARD



PLACEMAKING & LIVABILITY

INITIATIVE

NEW TOURISM AND RECREATION FACILITIES

CURRENT STATUS

Convention centre feasibility study and accommodation needs assessment complete

TARGET

- Progress on the convention centre
- Recreation facilities added
- Progress to 400 4 - star rooms

STATUS

NEEDS **ATTENTION**



PLACEMAKING & LIVABILITY

INITIATIVE

INCREASES IN SPACES IN SCHOOLS

CURRENT STATUS

97% WRDSB 117% WCDSB

TARGET

PROGRESS TO TARGET*

STATUS

IN **PROGRESS**



PLACEMAKING & LIVABILITY

INITIATIVE

ENSURING THERE IS CHILD CARE **FOR EVERYONE** WHO NEEDS IT

CURRENT STATUS

9,200 on the wait list

TARGET

PROGRESS TO TARGET*

STATUS

IN **PROGRESS**



INITIATIVE

REDUCING **GHG**

CURRENT STATUS

12% reduction

TARGET

PROGRESS TO PLAN*

STATUS

IN **PROGRESS**



INITIATIVE

CREATING A SAFER COMMUNITY

CURRENT STATUS

75.5 Severity Level of policy reported crime

TARGET

PROGRESS TO PLAN*

STATUS

IN **PROGRESS**



PLACEMAKING & LIVABILITY

INITIATIVE

INCREASING OUR SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

CURRENT STATUS

We need to ensure that our growth brings us together and supports unique perspective, new experiences and identity

TARGET

PROGRESS TO PLAN*

STATUS

PROGRESS

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VISION 1 MILLION ARE WE READY? - INQUIRIES AND FEEDBACK

The Scorecard is a community initiative led by BESTWR with support from our partners at the Future Cities Institute.

ABOUT BESTWR

The Business and Economic Support Team of Waterloo Region (BestWR) is comprised of five leading business organizations working as partners for economic prosperity and community needs. Currently chaired by the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, BestWR includes: Communitech, the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, Explore Waterloo Region, and the Waterloo Region Economic Development Corporation.

ABOUT FUTURE CITIES INSTITUTE

The Future Cities Institute was founded by CAIVAN at the University of Waterloo to help local governments build better cities. The institute brings together global thinkers, industry leaders, and researchers to tackle urban challenges across housing, climate, infrastructure, and beyond, supporting healthy, prosperous cities that are resilient, inclusive, and built for the future.

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