



Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study

Public Consultation Round 1 Summary Report

November 2022



IBI GROUP

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Prepared for The Regional Municipality of Durham
by Arcadis IBI Group
In association with Parsons, Gladki Planning
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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
1 Project Overview	2
2 Engagement Overview	4
2.1 Communication Activities.....	4
2.2 Consultation Activities.....	7
3 Feedback Summary.....	8
3.1 Open House #1 Questions and Comments	8
3.2 Community Pop-Up Event	10
3.3 Feedback from Online Survey #1.....	14
3.4 Interactive Map	21
3.5 Additional Feedback	23
4 Summary	23
Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions.....	25
Appendix B: Study Notifications.....	32

Executive Summary

The first round of public consultation for the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study took place in early Fall 2022. This included a virtual Open House on September 28, followed by a public community pop-up event at the Ontario Tech University campus on October 4.

Communications included a project website, mailout postcard notices distributed throughout the City of Oshawa in advance of the virtual open house, social media posts, a newspaper notice, digital newspaper ad, and public services announcement (PSA) by the Region and the City of Oshawa. Over 45 responses were received through the public online survey during this first round of consultation. The virtual open house attracted 36 participants and over 100 people interacted with the pop-up event. The study website has had over 641 unique visitors (September 8 to October 31).

Overall, public feedback showed varying levels of interest for rapid transit on Simcoe Street. Questions raised generally related to the types of rapid transit options being considered, construction and potential traffic impacts, and the plan for existing bus routes along Simcoe Street.

A second round of consultation is planned for November 2022.

1 Project Overview

The Region of Durham (“Region”) is set to accommodate 1.3 million people and 460,000 jobs by 2051. A growing Region requires a transportation system that continues to add capacity for the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of people and goods in a sustainable manner. The Region’s 2017 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and Metrolinx’s 2041 Regional Transportation Plan identify a rapid transit (RT) corridor along Simcoe Street between Highway 407 and the proposed Central Oshawa (Ritson) GO Station in the City of Oshawa.

The project proposes to implement an integrated rapid transit system along Simcoe Street, primarily between Highway 407 and Olive Avenue in the City of Oshawa (Exhibit 1-1). The introduction of rapid transit will continue to add capacity for the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of people and goods, sustainability and effectively, by reassigning the existing road space to accommodate dedicated transit lanes.

Public consultation began in fall 2022 to introduce the project and understand the different needs of the community, businesses, and travelling public. This report summarizes public consultation activities and feedback received between September and October 2022, as well as the feedback from the online survey that was open between September 28, 2022 and October 31, 2022.

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Exhibit 1-1: Study Area Map



2 Engagement Overview

2.1 Communication Activities

Notification for the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study and Open House #1 was distributed to Members of Oshawa Council and the City Leadership Team on September 14, 2022.

Oshawa's Economic Development team shared project information and contact for the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study in their September e-newsletter to downtown Oshawa businesses.

A variety of methods were used to notify people of the project and opportunities to participate:

- Study website: <https://www.SimcoeStreetRapidTransit.ca/>
- Durham Region study web page:
<https://www.durham.ca/en/news/durham-residents-invited-to-give-feedback-on-the-simcoe-street-rapid-transit-visioning-study.aspx>
- City of Oshawa study web page:
<https://www.oshawa.ca/en/news/durham-region-notice-provide-your-feedback-on-the-simcoe-street-rapid-transit-visioning-study.aspx>
- City of Oshawa Economic Development e-newsletter to downtown businesses: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Downtown-Oshawa--Update.html?soid=1131551909496&aid=oi5dq3xlro8>
- Connect Oshawa e-newsletter sent out on September 23, 2022 with link to study website
- A project button was posted on Connect Oshawa linking project website on September 23, 2022
- The Durham Region PSA was shared as a reminder notice by sending to the following website newsfeeds and subscribers: Business & Investment, Public Notices on September 27:
<https://www.oshawa.ca/en/news/durham-region-notice-provide->

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SIMCOE STREET RAPID TRANSIT VISIONING STUDY
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[your-feedback-on-the-simcoe-street-rapid-transit-visioning-study.aspx](#)

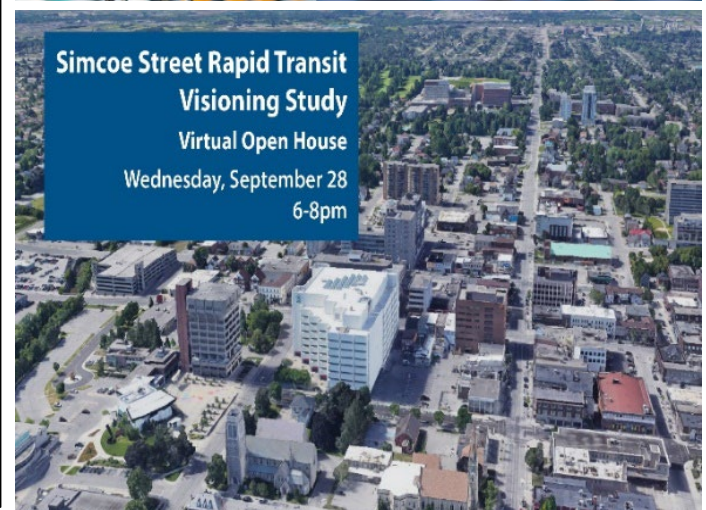
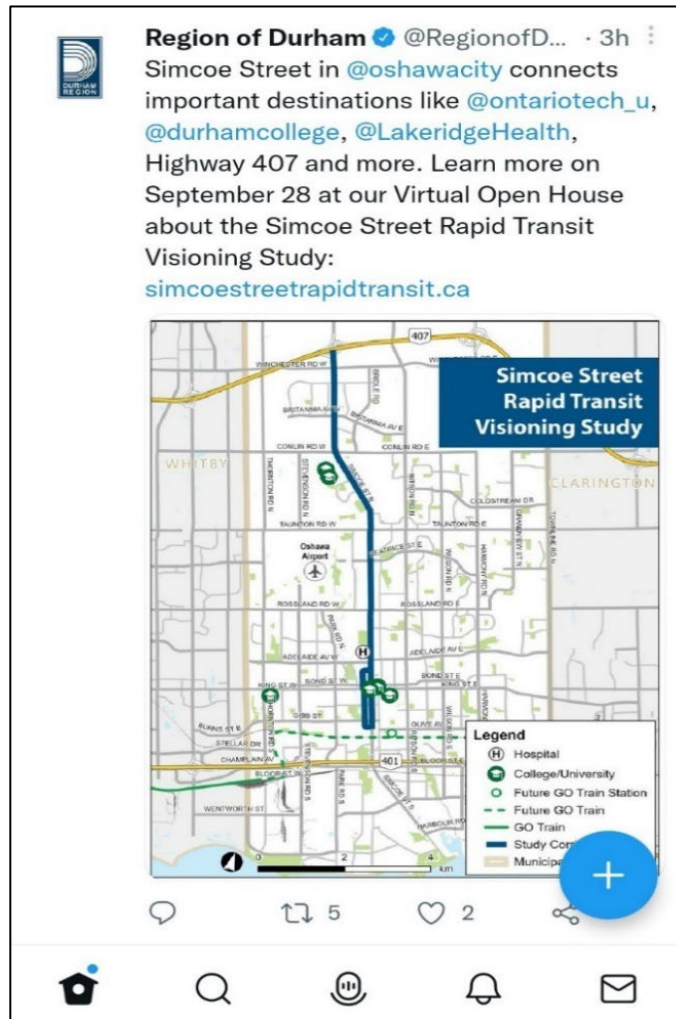
- Postcards were delivered during the week of September 19, 2022
- Canada Post direct mail (over 60,000 addresses)
- Email to stakeholder list (over 60 contacts)
- Social media posts (Exhibit 2-1 and Exhibit 2-2)

Exhibit 2-1: Metrics for social media posts

	Total # of impressions throughout campaign	Total # of Engagement throughout campaign	Total # of Post Clicks throughout campaign	Total # of engagement rate throughout campaign	Post Comments	Average Reach per post
Facebook and Twitter	9,991	279	101	2.8%	5	1,061

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Exhibit 2-2: Durham Region's Social Media Posts with Virtual Event and Pop-Up Information



2.2 Consultation Activities

The public was invited to comment on the project and provide feedback through the activities listed in Exhibit 2-3.

Exhibit 2-3: Summary of Consultation Activities and Participation

Activity	Date	Participation
Virtual Open House #1	September 28, 2022	36 attendees
Online Survey	September 28, 2022 – October 31, 2022	over 45 responses
Community Pop-up Event	October 4, 2022	80 to 100 participants
Email/Phone	September 26 – October 31, 2022	10 comments via email and 5 phone calls received
Study Website	September 8, 2022 (launch date)	Over 641 unique visitors (September 8 to October 31)
Newspaper advertisement in “Oshawa this Week”	September 15 and 22, 2022	Circulated to 42,750 homes Readership was approximately 85 – 90%
Digital Newspaper Ad		Impressions: 70,002 Clicks: 186 Interactions: 14,933 Interaction rate: 21.33%
City of Oshawa Economic Development e-newsletter	September 23, 2022	Sent to 2284 Connect Oshawa subscribers (56% open rate) Sent to 837 downtown business contacts (55% open rate)

City of Oshawa social media messages and reminders	September 23 to 30, 2022	LinkedIn (subscribers 10,400+), InvestOshawa Twitter (subscribers 1,700+), corporate Twitter (subscribers 17,000+) and Facebook (subscribers 8,000+)
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3 Feedback Summary

3.1 Open House #1 Questions and Comments

During the first virtual Open House on September 28, 2022, participants expressed questions and comments using the Q&A function. Topics are summarized in Exhibit 3-1 in alphabetical order:

Exhibit 3-1: Summary of topics at Open House #1

Topic	Question and Comment Summary
Active Transportation	• Inquiry about whether the expansion or integration of bike lanes to connect to new rapid transit is within the scope of the study. • Inquiry regarding the provision of pedestrian facilities to make Simcoe Street safer for pedestrians.
Businesses	• Inquiry about whether the City of Oshawa can add a variety of businesses around the Oshawa GO station.
Connections to GO Transit	• Inquires related to the extension of rapid transit on Simcoe Street to connect with the Oshawa GO station and future Central Oshawa (Ritson) GO Station. • Request that the future rapid transit vehicles are timed with GO train arrivals and departures. • Request for a GO bus stop to be placed at the intersection of Simcoe Street and Bloor Street. • Inquiry about whether the downtown Oshawa GO bus terminal will be reopened.

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SIMCOE STREET RAPID TRANSIT VISIONING STUDY
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Topic	Question and Comment Summary
Construction	• Inquiries related to construction management and impacts to residential streets. • Inquires about construction timelines and impacts to the existing Durham Region Transit (DRT) service. • Inquiry regarding plans to widen Simcoe Street. • Inquiry about how the project will minimize property impacts and maintain sight lines.
Cost	• Inquiry regarding study funding and visioning study funding.
Political	• Inquiry about whether the election is going to impact the study. • Inquiry asking if the project is a municipal, provincial, or federal initiative.
Post Secondary Institutions	• Consider expanding transit service for students. • Requests to consider expanding student housing to serve the growing student population. • Comment noting that the project team should gain a deeper understanding of how students are living along Simcoe Street and about their utilization of transit in the study area. • Consider adding more bus service within the Ontario Tech University/Durham College campus to accommodate for the growing student numbers. • Inquiry about whether Ontario Tech University will be considered a major stop for the project.
Rapid Transit	• Inquiry about how much faster and how much time rapid transit will save compared to a car. • Inquiry about what options are being considered as part of rapid transit on Simcoe Street. • Inquiry about whether the rapid transit system will have the same number of stops as the current Simcoe Street bus. • Concerns that Simcoe Street is not wide enough to accommodate rapid transit. • Inquiry about whether the current DRT bus routes will be removed along Simcoe Street. • Inquiry regarding the functionality of rapid transit and how it will affect general commuting patterns.

Topic	Question and Comment Summary
Rezoning	• Inquiry about whether the Region would consider rezoning areas along Simcoe Street to allow for a greater range of destinations to be built and encourage further transit use.
Safety	• Concerns about poor driving habits including speeding, running red lights, and incomplete stops at stop signs. • Concerns about illegal street racing at night. • Requests for greater traffic management including speed bumps, photo enforced radar, traffic lights, and police enforcement on the streets surrounding Simcoe Street.
Study limits	• Request for the study limits to be extended to the southern areas of Oshawa, particularly the Lakeview neighbourhood with the recent proposed high rises.
Study timeline	• Request for any utility relocation to be done ahead of major construction to speed up project timelines.
Transit reliability	• Comment about customers increasing transit usage if buses came more frequently and were more reliable. • Comment noting customers would like to be able to travel across the community using transit rather than a car. • Comment that earlier and later operation of transit service on Simcoe Street is important as the City grows. • Inquiry about the previous Oshawa Transit service, which had dedicated bus service along Simcoe Street, and whether these routes had been reviewed.

3.2 Community Pop-Up Event

On October 4, 2022, the project team held the first community pop-up event at the Shawenjigewining Hall between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., at the Ontario Tech University (2000 Simcoe Street North) in Oshawa.

Four questions were posed to participants. Creative engagement activities including interactive boards with the questions were used to engage with students. These activities were well received and over 100 responses were recorded. The results to each are summarized below.

During the pop-up event, participants were able to speak with Project Team members and were encouraged to contribute to the interactive boards as shown in Exhibit 3-2 and Exhibit 3-3. A summary of all feedback is provided in Exhibit 3-4.

Question 1: How do you get to campus?

A total of 121 responses were recorded for this question. 60% of respondents indicated they use transit, 16% of respondents indicated they walk, 14% of respondents indicated they drive a car, 8% of respondents indicated they are a passenger in a car, and 2% of respondents indicated they cycle. No respondents indicated they use an alternative form of transportation to get to campus.

Question 2: What are key destinations around Simcoe Street?

Using coloured dot stickers, students were asked to identify their homes (red dots), school or workplaces (yellow dots), and other important destinations (green dots) around Simcoe Street (Exhibit 3-2). The majority of red dots were clustered around the north campus or off the map to the west to represent Ajax, Whitby, Scarborough, North York and Brampton. All yellow dots were placed on campus. Green dots were placed along the Simcoe Street corridor, at or near the Oshawa GO Station, Oshawa Centre and near commercial areas between Simcoe Street West and Bond Street West.

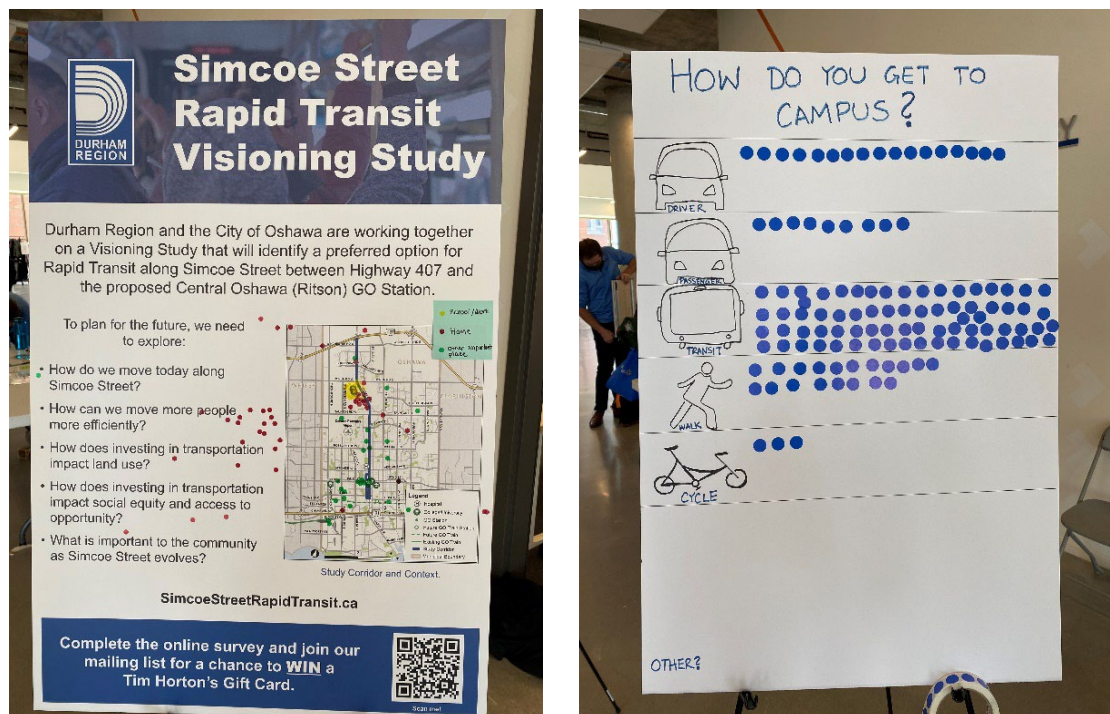
Question 3: If you don't take transit, what would convince you to take it?

A total of 45 responses were recorded for this question. 37% of respondents indicated direct routes, 13% of respondents indicated vehicle frequency of transit services, 9% of respondents indicated reduced overall trip time, 7% of respondents indicated adding in variety of routes and destinations, 7% of respondents indicated improved regional connections, 7% of respondents indicated increased reliability, 4% of respondents indicated improved communications from transit operator, 4% of respondents indicated increased stop locations, 4% of respondents indicated better schedules for student's needs, 4% of respondents indicated not applicable, and 2% of respondents indicated cost.

Question 4: If you do take transit, what could make your commute better?

A total of 157 responses were recorded for this question. 30% of respondents indicated increased vehicle frequency, 17% of respondents indicated increased reliability, 10% of respondents indicated increased carrying capacity, 7% of respondents indicated variety of routes and destinations, 6% of respondents indicated better schedules that meet student's needs, 4% of respondents indicated improved communications from transit operator, 3% of respondents indicated direct routes, 3% of respondents indicated reduced overall trip time, 3% of respondents indicated improved regional connections, 3% of respondents indicated increased transit stops on campus, 3% of respondents indicated cost and fares, 2% of respondents indicated increased stop locations, 2% of respondents indicated vehicle cleanliness/comfort, 2% of respondents indicated specific rapid transit technologies, 1% of respondents indicated active transportation, 1% of respondents indicated better road designs, and 1% of respondents indicated accessibility.

Exhibit 3-2: Interactive Boards from Pop-up #1



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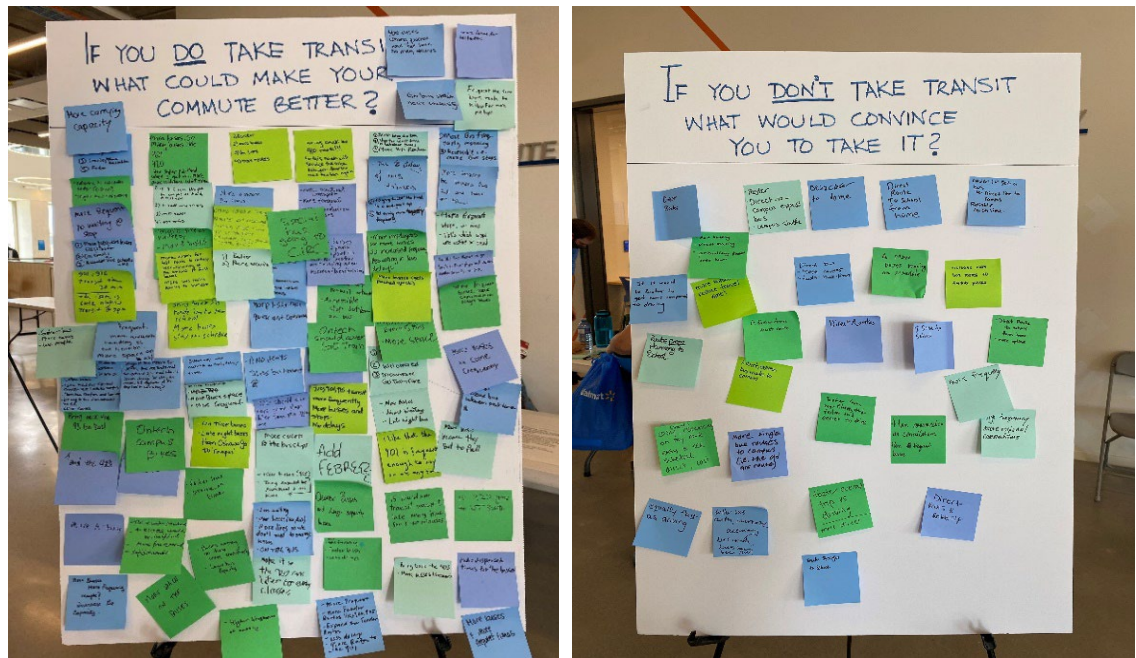


Exhibit 3-3: Photos of participation at Pop-up #1



Exhibit 3-4: Summary of feedback

Topic	Question and Comment Summary
Commute	• 60% of students who participated, expressed that they take transit to campus. • Most commuting students live in municipalities west of Oshawa, including Ajax, Pickering, Toronto, and Markham. • Students who live on campus, use transit to access destinations in the City and Region.
Transit Improvements	• Students noted that transit would be more attractive if there were more direct routes connecting home and school. • Comments received related to vehicle frequency and increasing carrying capacity to reduce crowding. • Comments received regarding transit delays or cancellations and the need for accurate trip information as well as improved communication from the transit agency. • It was noted that transit service hours should be extended to accommodate for late classes and student's social activities. • Students commented on the need for improved regional connections between DRT and adjacent transit agencies, as well as GO Transit. • Inquiries about whether transit vehicles could pick and drop off students on the campus rather than along the periphery.
Interest in study	• Students expressed interest and excitement at the prospect of rapid transit on Simcoe Street.

3.3 Feedback from Online Survey #1

An online survey was available for the public between September 28 and October 20, 2022. A total of nine (9) questions were included in the survey. The first six questions focus on rapid transit and Simcoe Street and were required. The last three questions collected demographic information and were option. Over 45 responses were received, and the results are summarized below.

Question 1: What three (3) words come to mind when you think of "Rapid Transit"?

This question allowed respondents to provide up to three words. The larger a word appears in the word cloud, the more frequently the word was submitted as a response to this question. “Fast” was the most frequently submitted response to this question.



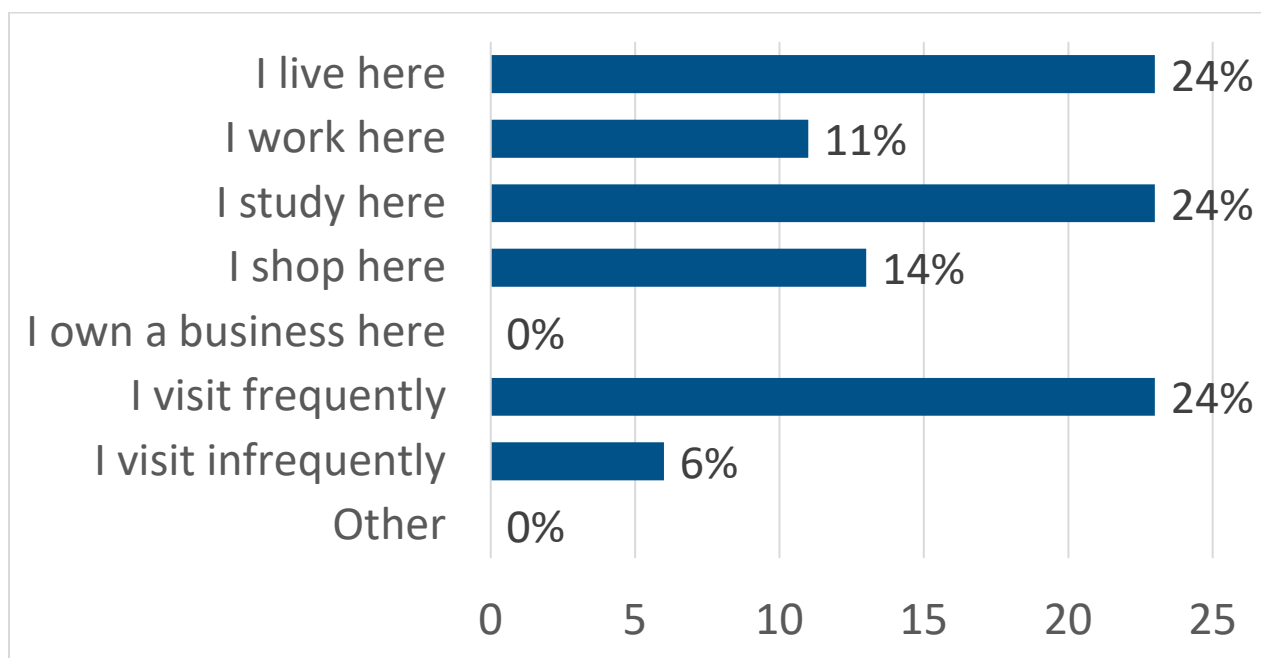
Question 2: What three (3) words come to mind when you think of "Visioning Study"?

This question allowed respondents to provide up to three words. The larger a word appears in the word cloud, the more frequently the word was submitted as a response to this question. “Future” was the most frequently submitted response to this question.



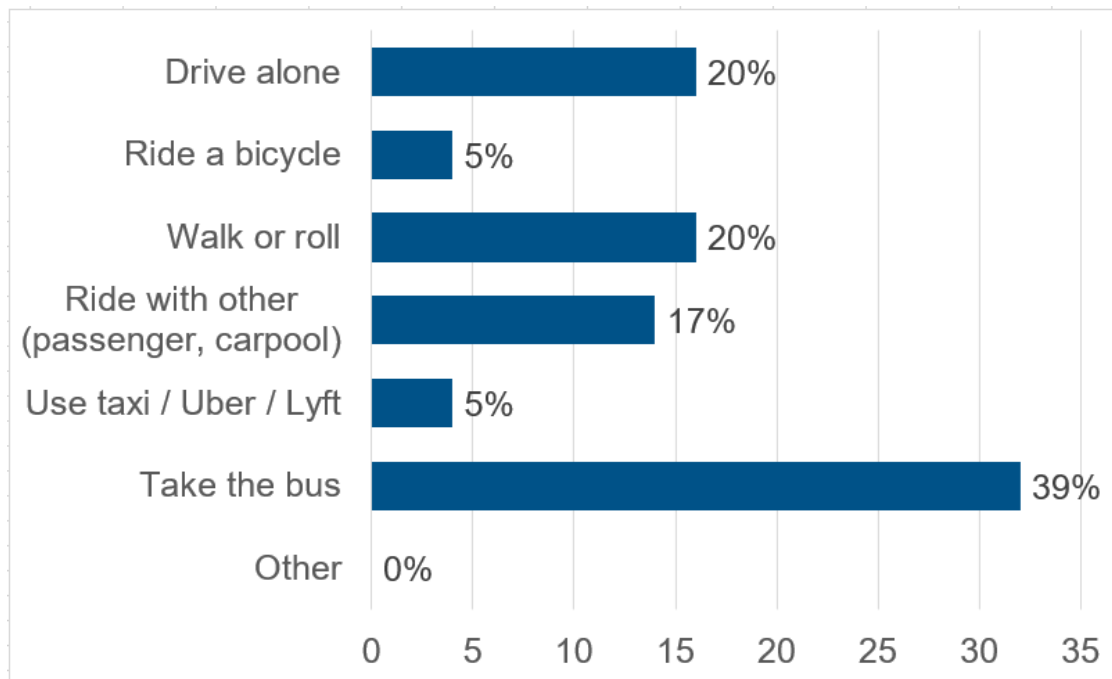
Question 3: Describe your relationship to Simcoe Street. (Select all that apply)

This question allowed respondents to select up to eight responses. A total of 24% of respondents (23) indicated “I live here”, 11% of respondents (11) indicated “I work here”, 24% of respondents (23) indicated “I study here”, 14% of respondents (13) indicated “I shop here”, 24% of respondents (23) indicated “I visit frequently”, and 6% of respondents (6) indicated “I visit infrequently”. Although the survey allowed for eight responses, only six were selected. Zero respondents selected either the “I own a business here” or “other” options.



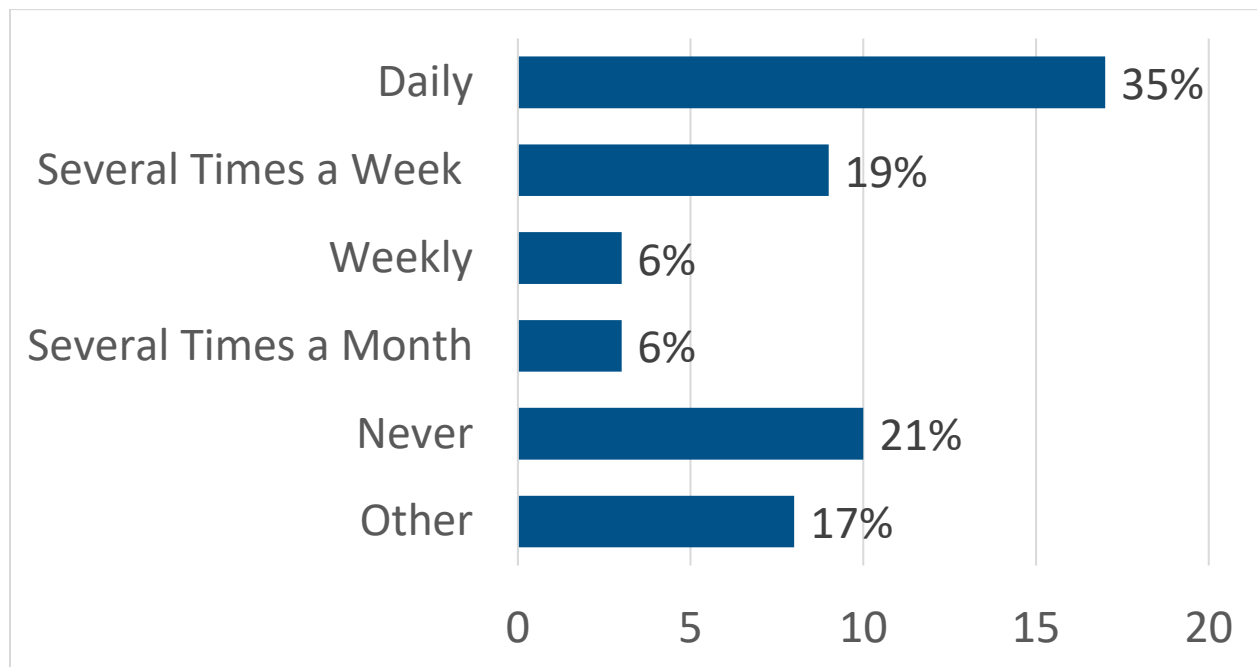
Question 4: How do you typically travel on Simcoe Street? (Select all that apply)

This question allowed respondents to select up to seven responses. A total of 20% of respondents (16) indicated “Drive alone”, 5% of respondents (4) indicated “Ride a bicycle”, 20% of respondents (16) indicated “Walk or roll”, 17% of respondents (14) indicated “Ride with other (passenger, carpool)”, 5% of respondents (4) indicated “Use taxi / Uber / Lyft”, and 39% of respondents (29) indicated “Take the bus”. Although the survey allowed for seven responses, only six were selected. Zero respondents selected the “other” option.



Question 5: How often do you currently use transit?

A total of 35% of respondents (17) indicated “Daily”, 19% of respondents (9) indicated “Several times a week”, 6% of respondents (3) indicated “Weekly”, 6% of respondents (3) indicated “Several times a month”, 18% of respondents (8) indicated “Never”, and 17% of respondents (8) indicated “Other”. Respondents who selected “Other”, specified that they use GO Transit a few times a year, used Durham Transit more often in the past but drive now because driving is comparatively faster, or indicated they are discouraged from using transit as some routes are unreliable or disjointed.

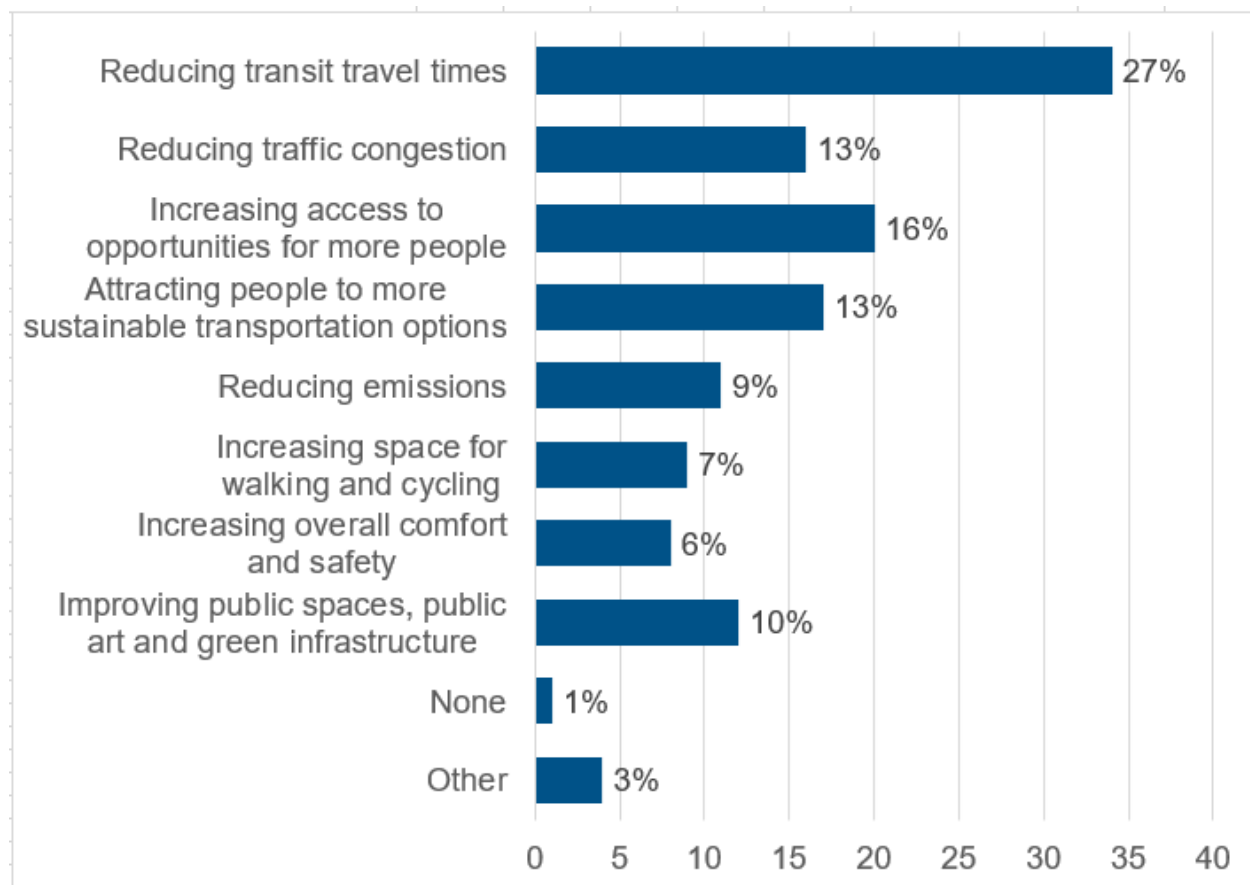


Question 6: What is the biggest opportunity for the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit study? (Select up to 3)

This question allowed respondents to select up to three responses. A total of 27% of respondents (34) indicated “Reducing transit travel times”, 13% of respondents (16) indicated “Reducing traffic congestion”, 16% of respondents (20) indicated “Increasing access to opportunities for more people”, 13% of respondents (17) indicated “Attracting people to more sustainable transportation options”, 9% of respondents (11) indicated “Reducing emissions”, 7% of respondents (9) indicated “Increasing space for walking and cycling”, 6% of respondents (8) indicated “Increasing overall comfort and safety”, 10% of respondents (12) indicated “Improving public spaces, public art and green infrastructure”, 1% of respondents (1) indicated “None”, and 3% of respondents (4) indicated “Other”.

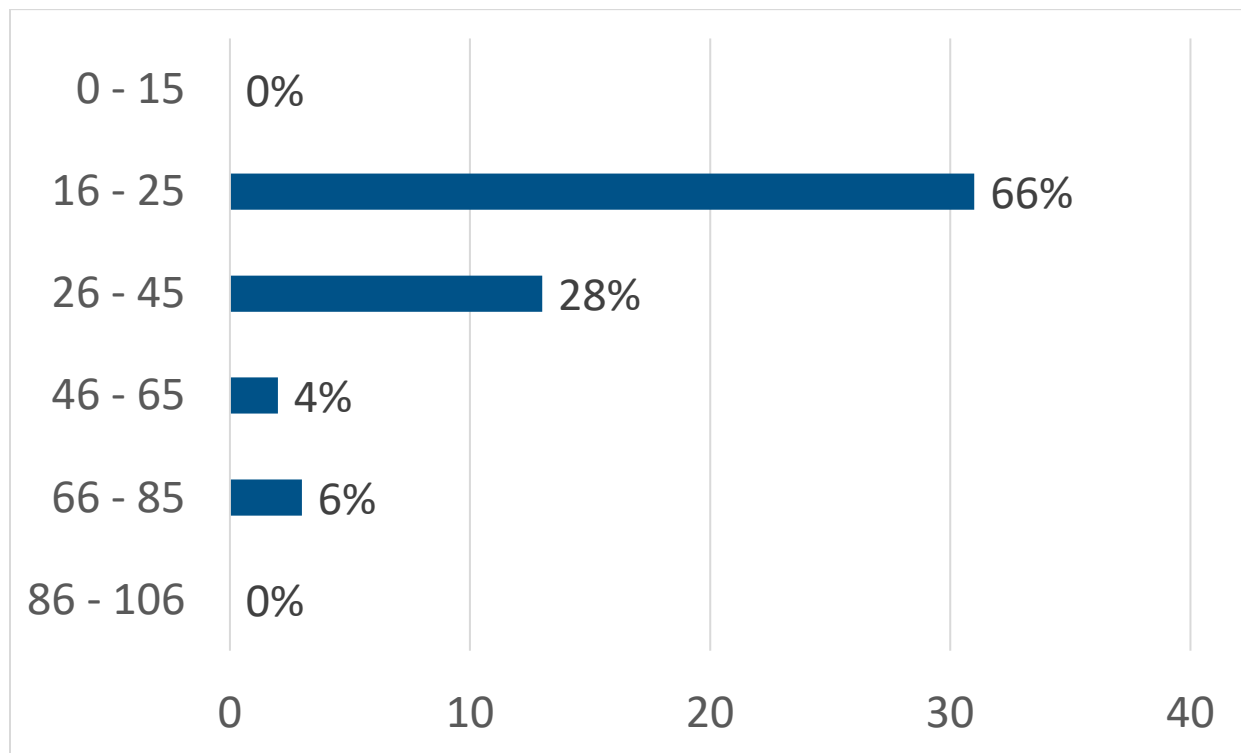
Respondents who selected “Other” specified the opportunity for increasing Oshawa’s population by providing low cost and fast transit, increasing transit vehicle frequency, or providing safe, accessible, and reliable transport to the most vulnerable and newcomers who may not have access to a personal vehicle.

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Question 7: What is your age?

A total of 66% of respondents (31) indicated “16-25”, 28% of respondents (13) indicated “26-45”, 4% of respondents (2) indicated “46-65”, and 6% of respondents (3) indicated “66-85”. Zero respondents indicated that they are between the ages of 0-15 or 86-106.



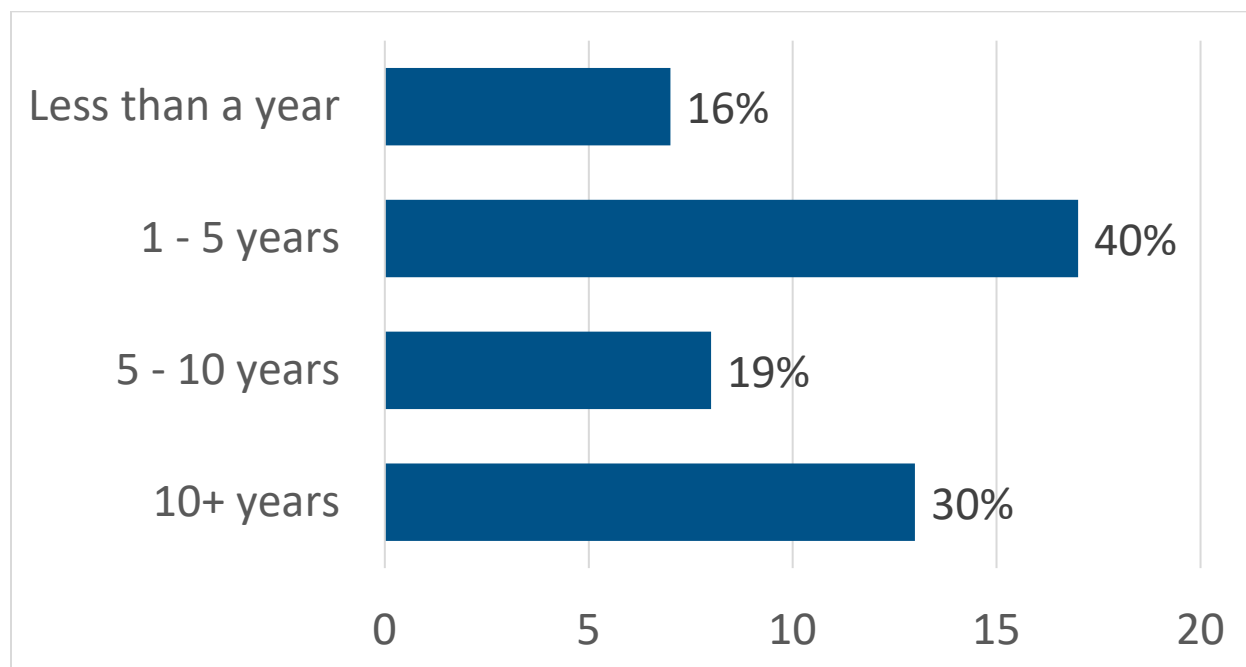
Question 8: Where do you live? (First 3 digits of your postal code)

The larger a postal code appears in the word cloud, the more frequently the postal code was submitted as a response to this question. “L1G” was the most frequently submitted response to this question.



Question 9: If you live in Durham Region, how long have you lived here?

A total of 15% of respondents (7) indicated “Less than a year”, 40% of respondents (17) indicated “1-5 years”, 19% of respondents (8) indicated “5-10 years”, and 30% of respondents (13) indicated “10+ years”.



3.4 Interactive Map

The study website included an interactive map which provided participants the opportunity to place a point on the study map and leave a comment. A total of 16 comments were received up to October 31, 2022. Topics are summarized in Exhibit 3-5 in alphabetical order: **Summary of topics from interactive study map**

Exhibit 3-5: Summary of topics from interactive study map

Topic	Question and Comment Summary
Modal Shift	Comment noting that the post-secondary institutions in Durham Region need to create a plan to shift modal share towards transit, cycling, and walking.

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Topic	Question and Comment Summary
	• Request that multi-use paths on Simcoe Street and Taunton Road be connected and that cycling infrastructure is prioritized as part of the Simcoe Street study. • Comment that rapid transit would be very beneficial in moving away from car-oriented streets.
Rapid Transit Design	• Comment noting examples of bus rapid transit (BRT) in other cities which include relatively minimal transit station designs and a single vehicle traffic lane in each direction to increase safety. • Request that bump-outs are incorporated into the design to increase safety and reduce illegal vehicle passing and excessive speeds. • Comment that the Simcoe Street corridor would benefit from light rail transit, as it is relatively dense and currently hosts DRTs most productive transit route. • Question about how rapid transit will be accommodated on the narrow Simcoe Street corridor. • Request that transit stops are no more 250 metres apart. • Comment that pedestrian safety and access should be prioritized.
Stop Location and Design	• Request that a canopy or bus shelter is incorporated into a new urban park proposed at Bond Street and Simcoe Street. • Comment noting that if buses are still to use the bus loop, priority measures should be put into place on Commencement Drive as well as the Simcoe Street and the Commencement Drive intersection. • Request that each stop has a passenger information display as well as route maps and telephone contact number.
Study Limits	• Request for the study limits to be extended to Lakeview Park. • Request that South Oshawa be included within the study limits to reduce unnecessary transfers.

3.5 Additional Feedback

The questions and comments received through phone and email between September 28 and October 31, 2022, included:

- Requests to join the study mailing list
- Difficulty joining the virtual open house on September 28, 2022
- Interest and excitement for the potential for improved transit along Simcoe Street
- Concerns regarding cost of the project

4 Summary

The first round of public consultation for the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study took place in early Fall 2022. This included a virtual Open House on September 28, followed by a public community pop-up event at the Ontario Tech University campus on October 4.

Communications included a project website, postcard notices mailed throughout the City of Oshawa in advance of the virtual open house, social media posts, a newspaper notice, digital newspaper ad, and public services announcement (PSA) by the Region and the City of Oshawa. Over 45 responses were received through the public online survey during this first round of consultation. The virtual open house attracted 36 participants and over 100 people interacted with the pop-up event. The study website has had over 641 unique visitors (September 8 to October 31).

Overall, public feedback showed varying levels of interest for rapid transit on Simcoe Street. Questions raised generally related to the types of rapid transit options being considered, construction and potential traffic impacts, and the plan for existing bus routes along Simcoe Street.

A second round of consultation is planned for November 2022.

Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions

The section below provides answers to the most frequently asked questions received from all of the consultation activities.

Study Process and Status

1. What is the purpose of the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study?

Investing in Simcoe Street in Oshawa will support a prosperous community that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, as envisioned by Durham Region's Strategic Plan, the Regional Official Plan, and the City of Oshawa's Plan for Success. A large-scale city-building corridor investment will provide a turning point for Oshawa and set the course for future growth in this part of Durham Region.

We want to know what's most important for the local community, for people who take transit today, and for people who don't take transit. We aim to design an inclusive, creative, meaningful engagement for interested parties and the public. We want anyone interested in the study to get involved, learn about rapid transit, and share their opinions.

The Study will assess travel demand and future growth from a high-level perspective and investigate community objectives and expectations for the Simcoe Street corridor. The primary objective of the Study is to develop a rapid transit concept plan, including preferred stations and connections, and a supportive rapid transit service strategy for Simcoe Street. The Study will also consider future transit planning initiatives by Metrolinx and Ontario's Ministry of Transportation.

2. What is Rapid Transit?

Rapid transit is a form of transit service with a dedicated space for the transit vehicles to operate, or dedicated right-of-way. Dedicated space for transit promotes faster, more reliable, and cost-effective transit service. Rapid transit service is more frequent than a conventional transit route, meaning you don't have to check the transit schedule before you start your trip. Rapid transit vehicles can carry more passengers. Rapid transit is also more reliable than transit operating in general purpose lanes.

Rapid transit can come in a variety of transit vehicle technologies, including:

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SIMCOE STREET RAPID TRANSIT VISIONING STUDY
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Light Rail

Subway

Bus

Aerial Tram

Monorail

3. How do I get involved in the study?

The Region held the first round of public consultation via a virtual open house on September 28, 2022. You can watch the meeting recording and materials on the study website at www.SimcoeStreetRapidTransit.ca.

Community members are also invited to visit the study website to learn more about the study and public open house, sign up for the mailing list, leave comments on the interactive map, and stay up to date on key milestones and opportunities to get involved.

4. Where can I learn more about the study?

To learn more, visit: SimcoeStreetRapidTransit.ca

E-mail the study team: Simcoe@durham.ca

Request study information in an accessible format by calling 905-668-7711, ext. 2198

5. What are the study timelines?

The Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study is currently underway. The Visioning Study will be followed by the Initial Business Case in 2023. Next, the Region would complete an environmental assessment and preliminary design before seeking approvals and funding. When and if the project receives approvals and funding, construction timelines would be determined.

Transit and Rapid Transit

6. Why is the Region pursuing Rapid Transit?

The City of Oshawa is transitioning from a manufacturing-based economy to a technology-and knowledge-based economy. This change will come

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SIMCOE STREET RAPID TRANSIT VISIONING STUDY
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with population growth. The Region of Durham is set to accommodate 1.3 million people and 460,000 jobs by 2051. A growing Region requires a transportation system that continues to add capacity for the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of large number of people and goods in a sustainable manner.

7. Why Simcoe Street?

The Region of Durham's 2017 Transportation Master Plan and Metrolinx's 2041 Regional Transportation Plan both identify the need for a rapid transit corridor along Simcoe Street between Highway 407 and the proposed Central Oshawa (Ritson) GO Station in the City of Oshawa. Simcoe Street provides access to major destinations including Ontario Tech University, Durham College, downtown Oshawa, Lakeridge Health Oshawa, the future Central Oshawa (Ritson) GO Station, and the planned Windfields Regional Centre.

In order to identify the most suitable form of rapid transit for the Simcoe Street corridor, the Region of Durham is initiating the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study. The Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study is an opportunity to learn how to improve mobility and quality of life for existing residents while preparing the corridor to attract and support future growth.

8. Who will operate the Rapid Transit service along Simcoe Street?

The transit operator will be determined in future planning phases.

9. Will this project impact my bus route(s)?

The primary objective of the Study is to develop a rapid transit concept plan, including preferred stations and connections, and a supportive rapid transit service strategy for Simcoe Street. No changes to existing bus routes are being planned through this study.

You may be interested to know that DRT conducts a regular service review and planning process. You can learn more about that process here:

<https://www.durhamregiontransit.com/en/about-us/about-drt.aspx>

10. How has COVID-19 affected transit ridership? Is public transit still needed?

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Over the last year and a half, public health restrictions in response to COVID-19 have had a major impact on travel patterns. Transit remains an essential service and is required for those who do not have a vehicle or who cannot or choose not to drive.

While the impact of public health restrictions during COVID-19 impacted ridership, DRT routes such as the PULSE 900 and 901 have been impacted less than other services. Healthcare workers, essential retail workers and manufacturing workers continue to use transit as part of their travel to and from work. As restrictions are continuing to lift, we continue to see ridership rebounding on DRT routes.

11. I don't take transit. How will rapid transit benefit me?

By providing a more frequent, fast and reliable service, rapid transit helps to create a more realistic transit option for everyone. Rapid transit offers a great alternative to driving for some of your trips, helping you to get to your destination faster, while saving money on gas and parking. F Or, perhaps you choose to get home using rapid transit after a night out with family or friends. Even if rapid transit doesn't make sense for you, the environmental benefits of fewer people using their cars can benefit everyone. And providing a fast and reliable service will connect people to jobs, education and other opportunities.

12. When could the Rapid Transit on Simcoe Street be implemented?

The primary objective of the Study is to develop a rapid transit concept plan, including preferred stations and connections, and a supportive rapid transit service strategy for Simcoe Street. Once this study is complete, the Region would need to complete an environmental assessment and design process for the preferred rapid transit concept. When and if the project receives approvals and funding, construction timelines will be determined.

13. What types of transit are you considering as part of this project?

Rapid transit can come in a variety of transit vehicle technologies, including light rail, subway, bus, aerial tram, or monorail. This study will examine all potential rapid transit technologies in order to determine the best rapid transit for Simcoe Street.

14. Will rapid transit on Simcoe Street impact on-street parking?

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SIMCOE STREET RAPID TRANSIT VISIONING STUDY
Prepared for The Regional Municipality of Durham

The potential for changes to on-street parking on Simcoe Street and/or Centre Street varies with the type of rapid transit. The Region is working closely with the City of Oshawa to understand the demand for on street parking in downtown. The extent of potential changes will be assessed during the evaluation of most suitable form of rapid transit for the Simcoe Street corridor.

Consultation

15. How are you engaging residents, businesses and other interested parties on the project?

Engagement is not just a phase, but rather a process of its own that runs parallel to the overall project lifecycle. We aim to design an inclusive, creative, meaningful engagement for interested parties and the public. The Region will be hosting four (4) Open Houses and four (4) Pop-up Consultations to provide an opportunity for anyone interested in the project to get involved, learn about rapid transit, and share their opinions.

Visit the study website and sign up for the project mailing list to stay up-to-date at www.SimcoeStreetRapidTransit.ca.

16. What are you doing with the comments and feedback you receive from the community?

The Study Team will read every comment and use the feedback received to develop and evaluate rapid transit options for Simcoe Street. Feedback is recorded and shared through consultation summaries to ensure members of the public know they have been properly heard. We commit to incorporating public feedback to the greatest extent possible and we will clearly explain how this input impacted the Study.

Funding and Construction

17. How much will the project cost?

The cost of the project will be determined through the Visioning Study.

18. How will the project be funded?

The funding of the project will be determined after the Visioning Study.

19. Will there be expropriations required along the corridor?

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Specific property requirements will be confirmed and communicated to property owners during the next phase of the study. The space required for Rapid Transit will depend on which form of rapid transit is identified as preferred through this Visioning Study.

20. When will construction start? How long will it take to construct?

Construction will not start for many years. The Region is in the early planning stages to define what type of rapid transit is appropriate for Simcoe Street. After the Visioning Study is completed, the project would need an environmental assessment, preliminary design, and funding confirmed. When and if the project receives approvals and funding, construction timelines will be determined.

21. Will construction of rapid transit have a negative impact on existing businesses & residents?

All infrastructure work can be disruptive. The extent and duration of construction varies with the type of rapid transit. While the process may be disruptive during construction, residents and businesses end up with reduced congestion and improved infrastructure, a great benefit over the medium and long term. Mitigation measures to reduce construction disruption will be detailed during the design process for the preferred rapid transit concept.

Appendix B: Study Notifications

Opportunities to Engage

Durham Region Notice: Provide your feedback on the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study



Durham Region Notice

The Region of Durham and the City of Oshawa are working together on the Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study; seeking feedback from residents to help assess the demand for rapid transit along Simcoe Street in Oshawa.

[Have Your Say](#)



**Hosting an event Downtown Oshawa? Add it to
the Oshawa events calendar and share with us!**

[Visit the Oshawa Events Calendar](#)



Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Visioning Study

Virtual open house on

September 28, 2022

6 to 8 p.m.

SimcoeStreetRapidTransit.ca

Join Durham Region and the City of Oshawa online on September 28, 2022 from 6 to 8 p.m.

This study will assess demand for rapid transit along Simcoe Street in Oshawa. Attend the virtual open house and share your thoughts.

To learn more, visit
SimcoeStreetRapidTransit.ca or
e-mail Simcoe@durham.ca.

Request this communication in an accessible format by calling 905-668-7711, extension 2198.

Scan the QR
(Quick Response) code
below with your mobile
device for more information

