
For Immediate Release

Emergency Responders Meet to Review Cambridge Rail Concerns Sharing Safety Information with the Public

Cambridge, Ontario. August 18, 2010... When every second counts in an emergency, it's important that there is regular dialogue with the wide variety of responders that locally support our community.

Recently, partners from the Cambridge Central Ambulance Communications Centre, Cambridge Fire Department, Canadian Pacific (CP), City of Cambridge Corporate Communications, Region of Waterloo EMS, Region of Waterloo Design and Construction, Region of Waterloo Transportation Engineering, Waterloo Regional Police Service and Transport Canada met to discuss a recent emergency call delay and to foster enhancements to the local response system.

"The meeting provided an opportunity to debrief partners, critique the current communications system and look to improvements through technology and other processes that will shave time in the event of an emergency," says Cambridge Deputy Fire Chief Bill Chesney.

The group discussed ways to identify blocked rail crossings early enough to prevent emergency vehicles from being delayed, and then updated the communications process to ensure the most timely response by railways should an incident happen again.

John Prno, Director, Emergency Medical Services at the Region says "there's much more to be done, but we're off to a great start. Delivering emergency services is a partnership that needs to be continually evaluated and fine-tuned to provide the best possible service for our citizens, when seconds count."

Public emergency services providers work together with all three railways operating in the Region of Waterloo: The Goderich-Exeter Railway, CN, and CP railways. The Region will work with all the railways to create a map system to put, what can be vital information in an emergency, at responders fingertips

Randy Marsh, Canadian Pacific Director of Public Affairs, said it was important that emergency responders know that most crossings in the

Region, including all of CP's, have emergency contact information posted at each crossing. When a call comes into CP's Network Management Center, crews are immediately notified of the incident and the necessary steps are taken.

Residents with questions or concerns about CP's operation can also contact CP Community Connect toll free at 1-800-766-7912 or email community_connect@cpr.ca.

The Region of Waterloo and CP are currently working on upgrades at the Delta location on Hespeler Road. Scheduled for completion in late 2012, the area will receive an overpass that involves lowering the railway tracks and elevating traffic lanes - thus totally eliminating traffic delays related to rail operations at that location.

The group also discussed further communications plans to ensure rapid contact with rail crews, the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS), training and community outreach, and other technology upgrades including exploring the installation of cameras at intersections. These ideas build on the Region's traffic signal pre-emption system which recently received over \$3 million in upgrade funding. The implementation of these systems to pre-empt traffic signals when an emergency vehicle is at the intersection could also be considered to alert train crews.

Both the City of Cambridge and the Region have comprehensive Emergency Response Plans that engage every facet of emergency planning from first responders to social services. First developed in the late 1970s, the latest version of the Cambridge Plan can be found online at:

<http://www.cambridge.ca/relatedDocs/Emergency%20Response%20Plan%20-%20Website%20Copy%202008.pdf>

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About Cambridge

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2009, the population reached over 126,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in advanced manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a progressive work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

About the Corporation of the City of Cambridge

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is a dynamic organization filled with dedicated people who deliver vital municipal services to you. Services that residents, businesses, visitors and people like your family and friends enjoy. We're a comprehensive team of professionals: engineers, financial specialists, skilled trades, administrative experts, customer service, communications - and the list goes on.

We're proud to be part of the systems that bring you the array of services that citizens in Cambridge need:

- Parks and recreation
- Activities and programs like pools, seniors' centres, community centres, arenas and other facilities
- Sports programs and all the needs related to playing fields, like indoor soccer, baseball diamonds and other amenities
- Events
- Farmers' Market
- Cemetery services
- Road programs
- Leaf pick up services
- Winter maintenance services
- Water and sewer services
- Fire, emergency and related services
- By-laws and enforcement
- Tax administration
- Licensing for businesses, lotteries, marriage, dogs, and other services like applications for birth, death and marriage certificates, notarizing or commissioning of documents
- Archival research
- Economic Development and business support programs
- Tourism support to share opportunities to showcase the festivals and help bring visitors in to support retail and other elements of the economy
- Administration of committees, steering groups and advisory groups
- Planning and development services
- Traffic and parking services
- Ensuring the best security, police, transit, garbage, water processing service, utilities, animal control are in place.
- Libraries and galleries
- Centre for the arts
- Accessibility matters
- Council services including things like supporting the up coming needs of our residents for the Oct 2010 municipal elections

It's a multitude of services and we continue to refine and review them to ensure we deliver the services in the most effective, efficient, and proactive ways.

In 2010 we are undergoing a corporate service review. This is a further check and balance system to seeking improvements - like better technologies to simplify processes or realigning how we operate. The comprehensive

review is happening this year with a view to providing a report to Council for consideration. The report will be available by year end and will be addressed by the newly elected council for the 2011 budget.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca

The City of Cambridge press room is located at

http://www.cambridge.ca/the_office_of_the_chief_administrative_officer/corporate_communications_marketing

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