



Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee

Working Group:	Partnership Working Group
Report Date:	November 18, 2024

Requested Committee Direction:

The report is for information only. Submitted by co-chairs, Karen Haslam, Herbert Klassen

Discussion Points:

Overview of Previous Month:

The Partnership Working Group has continued to meet with Community groups, (in particular Service Organizations) since the last Ad Hoc meeting in October.

Oct. 28th - Kiwanis Club presentation

John Kastner presentation was well received.

Nov. 1st – Meeting with Cate Trudeau, Executive Director of Shelterlink. Shelterlink is a youth-serving organization that offers shelter support to youth experiencing homelessness, as well as outreach for youth at risk of homelessness. They are currently looking for possible options to relocate their services. Their current location is limited on space and as a result the quality of services they can provide is also limited. Shelterlink already partners with the YMCA and has a long connection with the Library. If the University of Waterloo is thinking about a residential space for students, Shelterlink would be a natural addition to a space catering to youth and young adults. They are interested in being involved with the GTR project, and we have passed on correspondence from them to Emily Robinson.

Nov. 8th – Herb Klassen, Karen Haslam, and John Kastner met with the Lions Club. The President had quite a few concerns around what the city might do if Service Clubs were not guaranteed a permanent spot within the GTR. There were also concerns about the loss of farm land, and the present policy around number of floors, that developers were allowed when building hotels, and/or housing units. We will be bringing their concerns forward in our final report.

Nov. 9th - Ron Dodson Karen Haslam and Herbert Klassen met with Craig Thompson and Symphony Directors at Ballinran Entertainment to discuss the possibility of a Media Studio as well as working together to develop a concept for an Arts Production Centre at the GTR site. The possibilities are excellent and SACC will include them in their upcoming study. Ron Dodson has the lead with this group.

Overview of Upcoming Month:

The Partnership Group will continue to meet with organizations who are interested in being part of the GTR project.

Nov. 21, Huron Perth Centre for Children and Youth

Others to be confirmed.

A report will be made in December with a full overview of what has been done by the Partnership Group over the past 14 months and how we can continue to provide input to the Ad Hoc GTR Committee.