

## **A Message from Mayor Jim Watson**

Hello, I'm Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa, and it gives me great pride to welcome you to Stage 2.

As we speak, we are building the Confederation Line, the 12.5-kilometre first stage of Ottawa's world class light rail transit system.

This system will reduce commute times and take riders downtown, quickly and reliably.

When the Confederation Line launches in 2018, light rail will connect Tunney's Pasture in the west, to Blair Road in the east, with thirteen beautiful stations and a best-in-class vehicle that is being assembled right here in Ottawa.

But stage 1 of LRT is just the beginning.

In 2013, City Council approved a new Transportation Master Plan, which called for an expansion of our rail network to the east, west, and south, together.

Called Stage 2, together these three extensions will add almost 30 kilometres and 19 new stations to our rail network, all by 2023.

And we want to start the construction of Stage 2 right after we open the Confederation Line.

In the east, Stage 2 will extend light rail transit to Place d'Orléans, bringing 95 per cent of all Orléans, Blackburn Hamlet and Beacon Hill residents within five kilometres of rail.

Heading west, Stage 2 will extend the Confederation Line to Bayshore and Baseline at Algonquin College.

Stage 2 will also expand the Trillium Line south to Bowesville supporting the fast growing communities in Riverside South, while adding stations along the way at Gladstone and Walkley.

When we launch Stage 2 in 2023, Ottawa's light rail network will stretch more than 40 kilometres and boast 32 stations.

We will have connected:

- 3 major post-secondary institutions
- 6 shopping centres
- Countless hotels
- Important arts and cultural destinations
- And the communities in which we live

The connection will be fast, comfortable, reliable and 70 per cent of Ottawa residents will live within 5 kilometres of this light rail transit system.

Our public transportation system is already the most used for a city of its size in North America.

Light rail transit will help us build on that, making it faster, easier and more environmentally sustainable to get around in our city.

We will be able to see and do more, connect with more people, and create a city that is a global model for quality of life.

There is no better investment to make in our city.

Today, I am asking you to support this vision for Ottawa and join me as a champion of Stage 2.

And I am asking our provincial and federal partners to help us make Stage 2 a reality.

I'm ready for Stage 2. Are you?