

# MOVING TRANSIT FORWARD

## Niagara Transit Governance

Revised Strategies Reflecting  
Phase 1 Feedback

Pelham Council  
August 23, 2021

# Niagara Transit Governance

## Overview

---

*Our focus: Demonstrate what we heard during the first round of consultation, what has changed to address that feedback, and what the path forward is*

### Phase 1 Consultation



### Revised Strategies



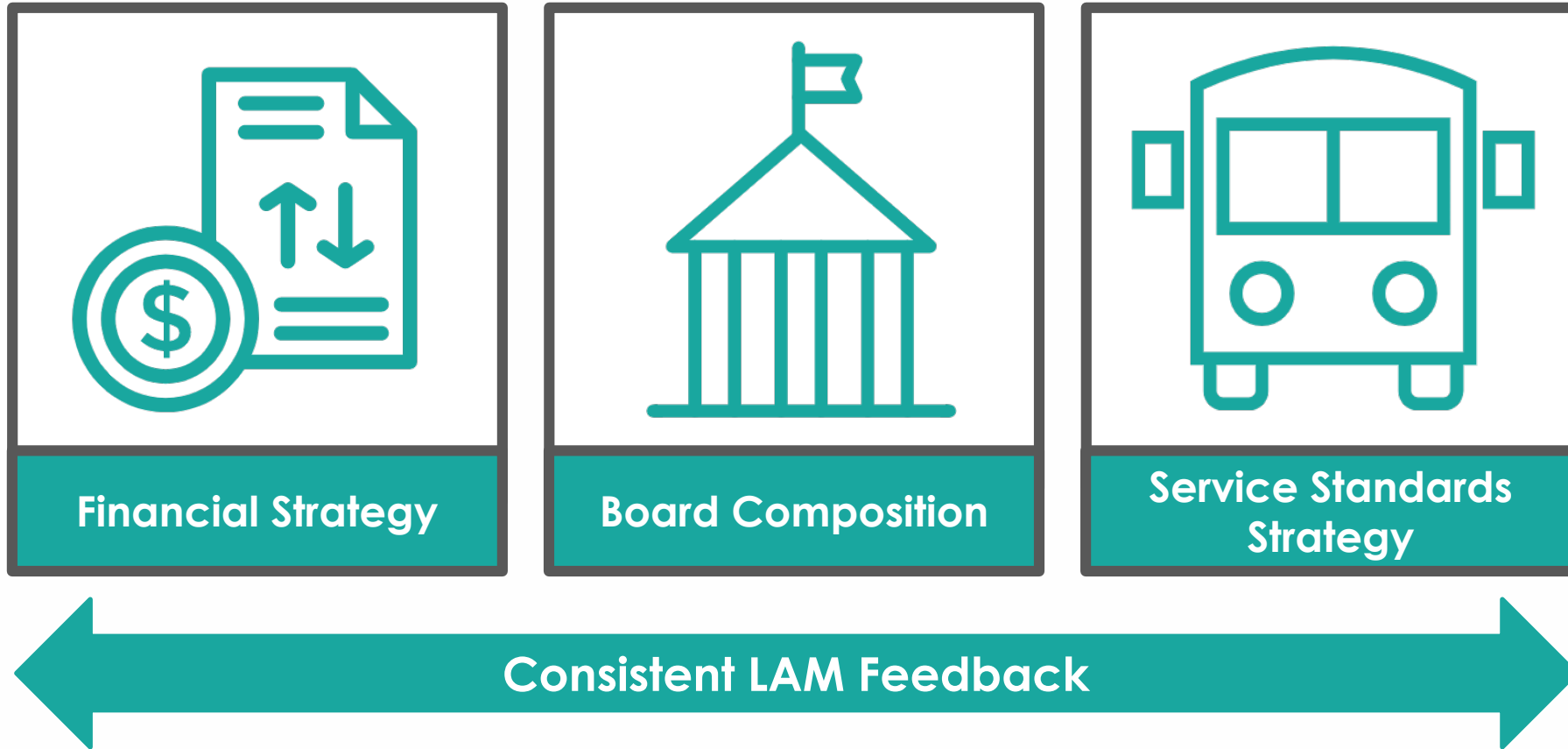
### Phase 2 Consultation



# What We Heard

## Phase 1 Municipal Themes / Focus Areas

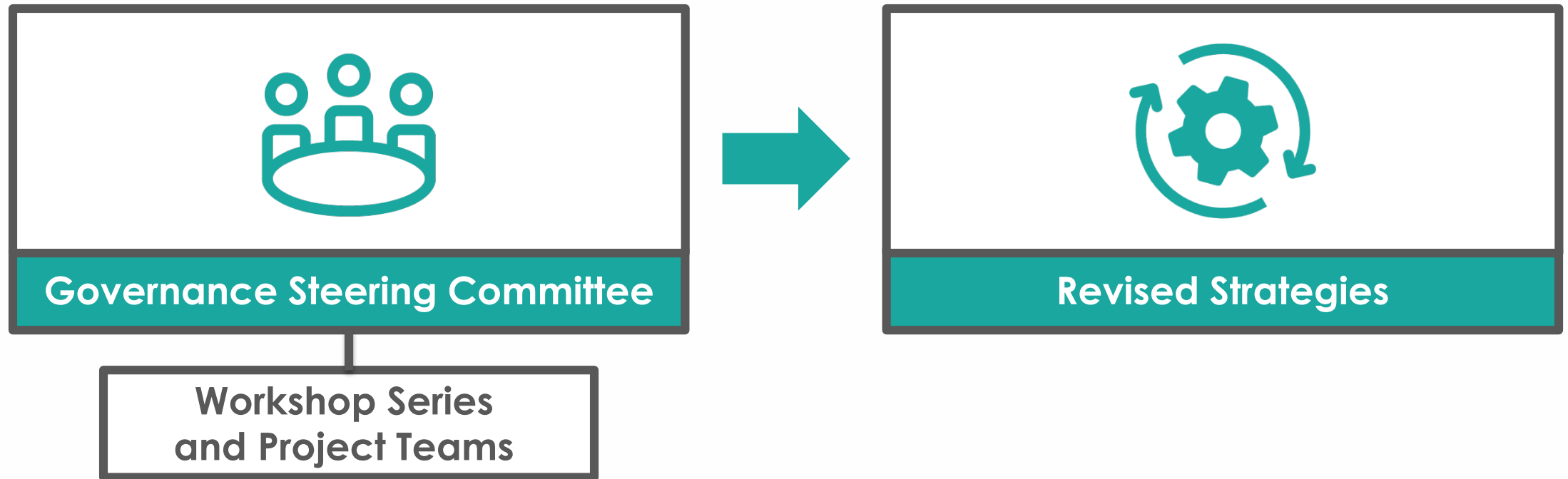
---



# What We Heard

## Leadership of CAO Governance Steering Committee

---



# Revised Strategies

## Theme 1: Financial Strategy

### Funding Strategy - 12 Special Levy Tax Rates

#### Existing Regional Transit Costs

*Current state remains with costs allocated based on Region wide assessment*

#### Local and Incremental Costs

*Costs allocated to municipalities based on service hours*

#### ***What Has Changed?***

- ✓ Municipalities who realize services will be allocated costs of those services
- ✓ Service Based Principle
- ✓ Incorporates service standardization costs and accounts for future growth
- ✓ Introduces a capital reserve strategy to ensure future needs of the Commission are met

# Revised Strategies

## Theme 1: Financial Strategy – Pelham

### Current State

2020



**\$0.9 M**

#### Transit Operating Costs

- ✓ \$0.2M Local levy
- ✓ \$0.7M Regional levy

### Opening Day

2023



**+ \$0.2 M**

#### Transit Operating Costs

- ✓ Access to a Niagara-wide integrated transit system
- ✓ All costs to Regional levy
- ✓ Includes inflation costs to 2023
- + \$0.03M Capital Reserve strategy

### Phase 1 Service Enhancement

2025



**+ \$0.3 M**

#### Transit Operating Costs

- ✓ Implementation of expanded service hours:
  - + 3 Hours weekdays/Saturday
  - + Sunday/Holiday Service
- ✓ Includes inflation costs to 2025
- + \$0.1M Capital Reserve strategy

# Revised Strategies

## Theme 2: Board Composition

---



### *What Has Changed?*

- ✓ Representation for all municipalities on transitional Commission Board
- ✓ Local councils recommend representatives to Commission and Advisory Board

*\* Reviewed after three (3) years by an external third-party to ensure that composition, size, and share of representation has resulted in an effective governing body that is achieving the strategic objectives of the Commission*

# Revised Strategies

## Theme 3: Service Standards Strategy

*Service Standards Strategy outlines how transit in Niagara could be enhanced, should the combination of the existing transit services take place*



### *What Has Changed?*

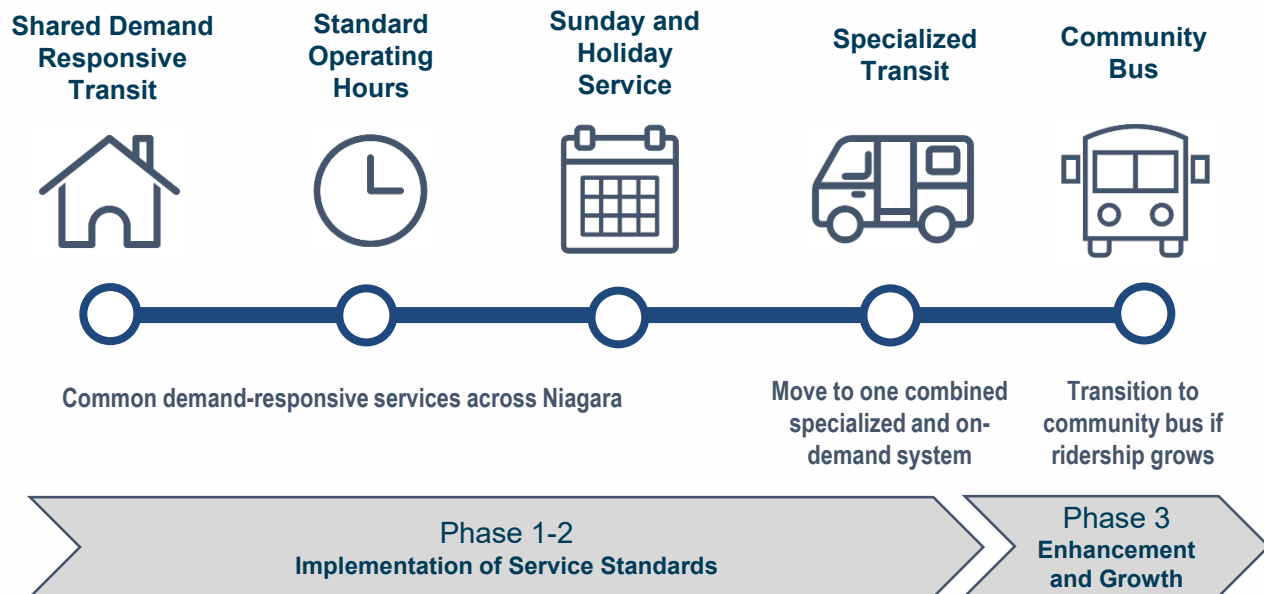
- ✓ Existing levels of service maintained and improved on
- ✓ Additional detail on where changes and growth may occur
- ✓ Three phases of improvements for Niagara residents
- ✓ Linked to Financial Strategy



# Revised Strategies

## Theme 3: Service Standards Strategy – Pelham

### Pelham Enhancements



#### *What Has Changed?*

- ✓ Increased service hours: adding 6 a.m. - 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. - midnight, and include Sundays and Holidays
- ✓ Combine specialized and demand-responsive service
- ✓ Transition to community bus or conventional service in future should ridership grow

# Revised Strategies

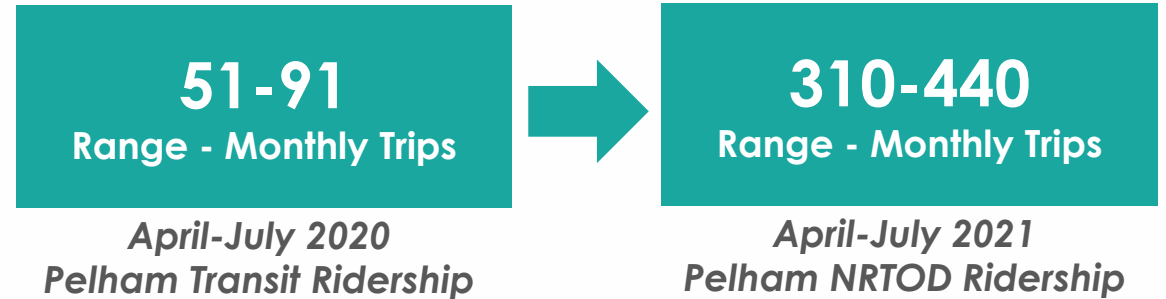
## Theme 3: Service Standards Strategy – Pelham

### Getting It Right

- ✓ NRT On-Demand has seen significant ridership and growth – especially during a pandemic
- ✓ There remains room for improvement to address resident concerns and further enhance service

Concern	Solution
Trip Pre-Booking	✓ Public launch of trip pre-booking scheduled for Sept 7, 2021
Early Morning Wait Times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Implemented earlier deployment of vehicles</li> <li>✓ Trip Pre-Booking on Sept. 7</li> </ul>
Direct Connection to Welland Destinations	✓ Medium-term - Barriers eliminated under consolidation

### Transit in Pelham during COVID



# Next Steps

## Communications and Engagement

---

*Following Phase 2 Consultation with LAMs:*

### **Public and Transit Riders**

- Launch of a dedicated project website: benefits to the public, how to get engaged
  - Explainer videos of key elements of proposal
- Public survey
- Print and social media driving public to website and survey

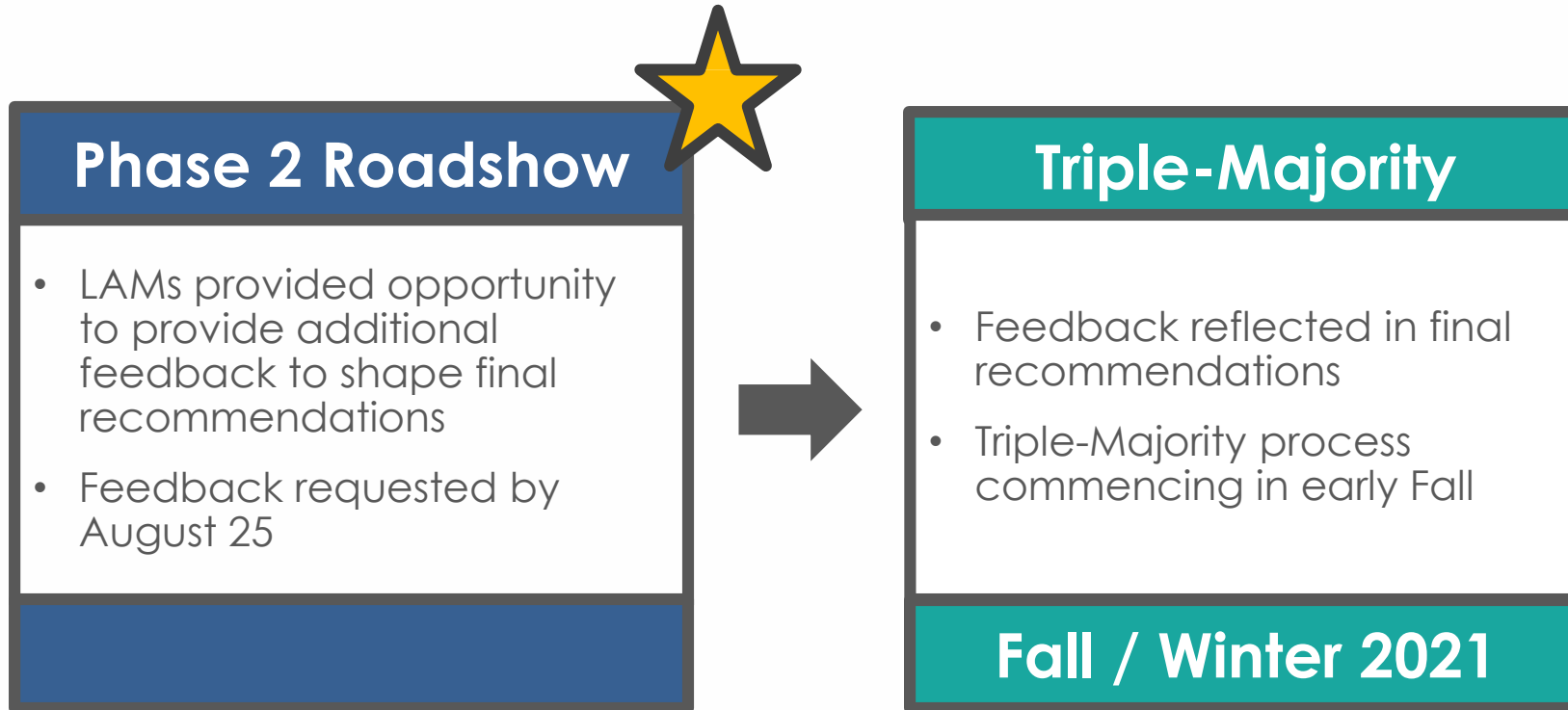
### **Transit Partners Information Workshops**

- Series of informational workshops held over mid-to-late September for partners with a mandate with relation to transit
- Grouped thematically: Environmental, Seniors, Inclusion + Diversity, Post-Secondary, Youth, Businesses, Libraries, Health Services

# Next Steps

## Phase 2 Consultation and Triple-Majority

---



# MOVING TRANSIT FORWARD

## Discussion