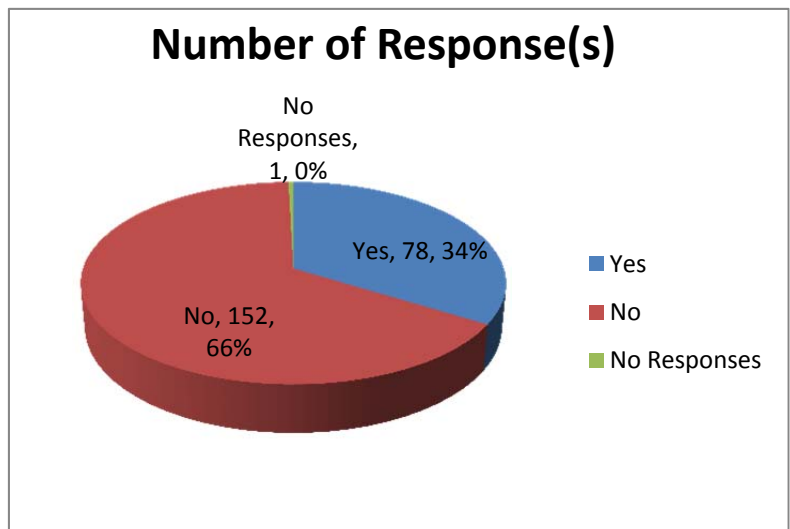


Cambridge Chamber of Commerce LRT Survey

As you know the Region of Waterloo is embarking on the largest project of its history known as the Light Rail Transit project. In a recent Record column (Feb 4th) it was stated that the 818 million dollars originally estimated by the Region, is only the capital cost and that there is an added amount for interest and carrying costs, rumored to be pushing the total cost well over 1 billion dollars. Also reported in the column was the fact that Regional Council, it seems, did not set the cost firm at 818 million as the report stated that the cost could escalate to as high as 50% more or it could end up being 25% less. There appears to be some mounting concern, however the Cambridge Chamber's position was quite clear from the onset of being concerned about the eventual cost and its real benefit in the long term which led us to oppose the project. As you are aware the Regional Council did forge ahead and accept the recommendation from Staff to approve the project as outlined at a cost of 818 million, plus any carrying costs and interest, as well with the understanding that it may well be over budget to the tune of an additional 50%. We have a deeper concern now that possibly there is a feeling at Regional Council that no matter the cost, it must be built. We of course want to represent our Members opinion and have two questions we'd like your response on.

Do you support the Region's Light Rail Transit Project?



The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce will be requesting that Regional Council place the above question on the Municipal Ballot in October so that every registered voter in the Cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo has the opportunity to express their opinion on the Light Rail Transit project.

Regional Council would not be bound by the outcome; however it may be a tool to identify the level of public (voter) support for it.

Would you be supportive of there being a question on the upcoming municipal election ballot asking if you were in favour or opposed to the Regions Light Rail Transit Project?

