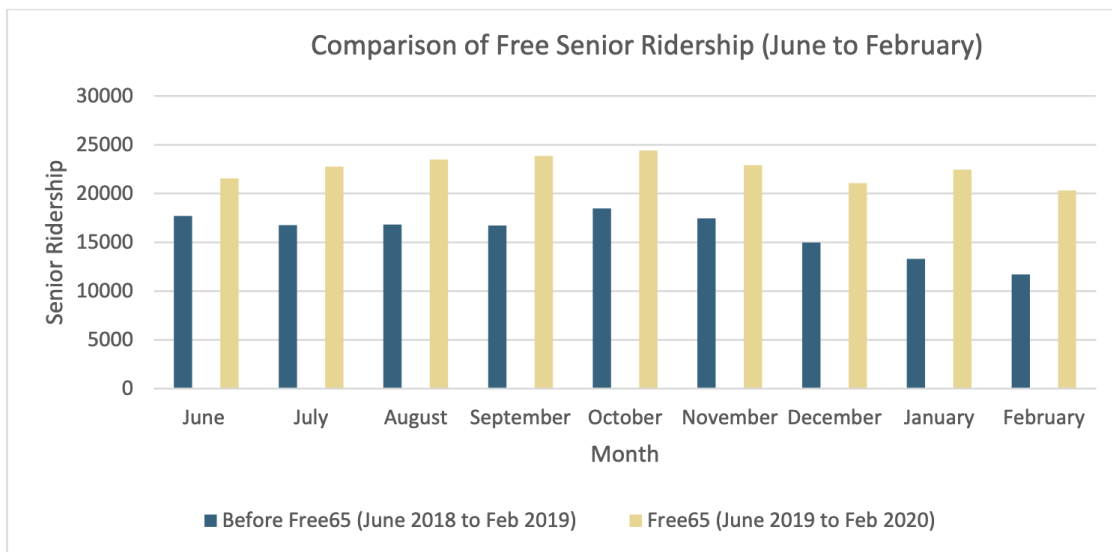


# **Council Meeting February 27, 2023**

Comments Received Regarding Item 6.6 –  
Budget Committee Minutes – February 21, 2023

# In Support of th Youth and Seniors Transit Program

We at Safe Streets Halton are writing in support of free transit for youth and seniors. As noted in our recent delegation, Burlington completed a “free transit for seniors” pilot in 2019 with great success. The City of Burlington is now piloting free transit for youth and in the future may incorporate a model similar to Kingston with the school board. These investments in transportation help break down financial barriers and incentivise healthy and sustainable transportation habits.



- *Burlington Seniors Free Transit: Free outside of rush-hours, during the day*
- *Burlington Youth Free Transit: Free evenings and weekends*

We would like to remind council that provincial transit funding is tied to transit ridership (70% ridership, 30% population) and how much the municipality invests (maximum 75% recovery). With this in mind, council will be receiving indirect financial assistance from the province for these programs.

We would also like to remind council that this investment does not eliminate future investments or programs. After receiving information from staff, council can make improvements to the programs based on their performance. Investments in frequency, convenience, and infrastructure can and should still be made in the future to capitalize on increased ridership from these programs.

Oakville Transit has the highest transit fares for youth and seniors when looking at neighbouring transit systems (Burlington, Mississauga, Hamilton). Improved fare structures are one piece of the puzzle and we hope to see council's support today.

Nick Morrison

Safe Streets Halton