

Hello, I'm Rob MacIsaac, Chair of Metrolinx.

Thank you for joining us as we set out on an important journey.

At the end of this journey, we will have a comprehensive transportation plan for this region. What that plan looks like depends on what we hear from you.

Here's the situation...

We live in one of the fastest growing regions of North America. It is also one of the most successful – both economically and culturally.

But our transportation infrastructure hasn't kept pace.

The result is severe congestion, and a transportation system that often doesn't meet people's everyday needs.

And it's getting worse, not better – especially as we prepare for significant population growth in the years ahead.

We're here to help solve those problems.

Next fall, Metrolinx will unveil a Regional Transportation Plan – a comprehensive blueprint for an effective transportation system across this region.

To get there, we will be undertaking an unprecedented consultation process. This will include six discussion papers, and gathering input from a wide range of stakeholders and the public – people like you.

We are being realistic about this endeavour. For example, we know we're not going to make congestion go away completely. The truth is, congestion is a common by-product of prosperous, world-class cities.

But that doesn't mean we have to accept the status quo, or watch helplessly as the gridlock gets worse.

The real issue here is that people and businesses have few choices when it comes to moving around this region. These are problems we can address. We can give people options for transport tomorrow that they don't have today.

We can also do a better job of planning and funding infrastructure decisions, to make sure the transportation system is coordinated, seamless and sustainable.

This is a tremendous opportunity, with tremendous benefits:

- We can make this a more liveable region by improving people's mobility and giving them more time with their families;
- We can position our economy as a strong competitor on the world stage by making sure that businesses get their supplies and their products to market with ease; and
- We can protect and enhance our environment by helping to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ease air pollution.

We can do all of these things, but we need your help. Your ideas. Your commitment.

We welcome you on this journey, as we work to improve all of your journeys in the future.

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.