

## NEWS RELEASE

### **METROLINX MAKES A BIG MOVE FOR TRANSPORTATION**

#### ***Immediate implementation to spur economic growth***

TORONTO (November 28, 2008) – The Metrolinx Board of Directors wasted no time in moving forward with its plans for improving transportation across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

After unanimously approving its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), *The Big Move: Transforming Transportation in the GTHA*, the Metrolinx Board immediately selected two major projects for construction beginning in 2009.

As part of its \$7 billion, five-year Capital Plan, Metrolinx is recommending construction funding for the Sheppard East LRT and York Region's VIVA system. The two projects will connect the suburban regions of eastern Toronto and the northern area of the GTHA.

"We're making a big move today and starting these projects right away," said Rob Maclsaac, Chair of Metrolinx. "This launches the RTP's 15 priority projects and sets *The Big Move* in motion. We are confident that the RTP construction program will generate almost 430,000 jobs in Ontario. In the first full year of construction alone, the plan will create an estimated 17,000 jobs."

"We thank the public for the thousands of valuable comments that have helped us make our plan even better," said Maclsaac. "Our plan is as much about values, as it is about vehicles. The projects in the approved final RTP are essential to improving our economy, enhancing our environment and protecting our high quality of life."

In addition, the RTP's Investment Strategy (IS) sets out a three-phased plan to finance critical regional transportation system expansion. The first phase is already underway through the almost \$750 million commitment to Quick-Win projects announced in the 2008 Ontario Budget.

The second phase, which begins next year with the Sheppard LRT and VIVA projects, is funded through the Premier's landmark \$11.5 billion commitment to rapid transit in the GTHA. Metrolinx will report to the Province by 2013, setting out options for funding the balance of the RTP in Phase Three.

More than 1,200 kilometres (km) of new rapid transit lines are planned in *The Big Move*. These lines will move people more conveniently and more quickly. More than 80 per cent of people in the GTHA will live within two km of rapid transit, compared to just 42 per cent currently. These additional transit choices will mean that there will be twice as

many people taking transit each morning. And more than half of them will spend less than 45 minutes getting to their destination. Today, 38 per cent of people take more than 45 minutes to commute to work by transit.

*The Big Move* represents a fundamental shift — to make the entire transportation system in the GTHA more customer-centred, reliable and enjoyable.

Metrolinx is a Crown agency of the Province of Ontario, operating within the legislative framework of the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority Act, 2006 and the provincial Growth Plan. For more information visit our website [www.metrolinx.com](http://www.metrolinx.com).

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