

BACKGROUND

September 23, 2008

STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

In developing *The Big Move: Transforming Transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area*, Metrolinx consulted extensively with stakeholders from all relevant sectors. Following is a sampling of their comments.

“Demand for public transit is increasing and we welcome all initiatives, including Metrolinx's regional transportation plan, which will address this challenge with new and better transit service.”

– Norman Cheesman
CEO, Ontario Public Transit Association

“Over the past five years, the Ontario government has returned to its essential leadership role in shaping more compact, transit-oriented, livable growth in the Toronto metropolitan region. Metrolinx is vital in that quest, along with the regional Growth Plan, the Greenbelt, and a raft of other interconnected provincial initiatives. The energy and expertise that are being applied to the production of a sophisticated transport network are very encouraging, and the Regional Transport Plan will be seen as a milestone in our region's development.

– Anthony C. Coombes
Executive Director, NEPTIS FOUNDATION

“On behalf of our members, the OCC is pleased to see a regional transportation plan take shape after many years of promoting its benefits. A regional transportation plan is an essential step towards building the infrastructure we need in Ontario to ensure success in a tough global competition for business investment, and a higher quality of life for all of our residents. Seamless, integrated transportation will help reduce congestion and enable the safe and efficient movement of goods and people, leading to higher rates of productivity, job creation and a healthier environment. Our members look forward to seeing the plan transformed into reality in an expedited fashion.”

–Len Crispino
Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

“The balanced and ambitious Regional Transportation Plan proposed by Metrolinx will provide for an essential component of the infrastructure needed to support and compliment the provincial Growth Plan and the long-term economic investment in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.”

– Stephen Dupuis
CEO, Building Industry and Land Development Association

“There is a direct relationship between our transportation systems and our productivity, our ability to attract investment, hence Toronto's global competitiveness and long-term prosperity, as well as the quality of our health and community life. Metrolinx deserves our full support as it sets out a long-term vision and concrete plan of action for transportation in Canada’s most populous region.”

– Anne Golden
President and Chief Executive Officer, Conference Board of Canada

“To make a dent in gridlock, we have to develop a solution that improves transit services and recognizes that people do not always live and work in the same municipality. Metrolinx's regional transportation plan is our best chance to make the inter-municipal commute pleasant, sustainable and quick.”

– Andrae Griffith
Public Transit Activist

“We welcome this much needed focus on the transportation challenges facing the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. CAA is committed to supporting the vision and objectives of the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan.”

– Art Leitch
Vice-Chair, CAA Board of Directors

“I am immensely gratified to see the culmination of a thoughtful and well documented regional transportation plan and financial analysis. Truly, its time has come. In recognition of the high levels of skill and experience of the Regional Transportation Plan’s creators and administrators, and the broad involvement of the public at every stage of development, the Plan deserves expeditious review followed by progressive implementation.”

– Edward J. Levy, P.Eng.
Transportation Advisor

“Rob MacIsaac and the Metrolinx Board have put forward a solid regional transportation plan that will help to facilitate important infrastructure projects which will alleviate gridlock, make our region more economically competitive and create thousands of jobs for workers in Ontario.”

– Andy Manahan
Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario

“Now that we have a world-class airport, we need world-class transportation to and from the airport. We applaud Metrolinx for a plan that would make an enormous difference for travellers – both domestically and for out-of-town visitors.”

– Lloyd McCoomb
Chief Executive Officer, Greater Toronto Airport Authority

“Perhaps the single biggest obstacle to improving the transportation system in the Toronto region over the past several decades has been the lack of a comprehensive regional transportation plan. Without a plan it has been impossible to make rational decisions about investment. While there undoubtedly will be much debate as we go forward about priorities and details within the plan, such debate is only possible due to the plan's existence, which provides a much-needed framework for decision-making. Metrolinx is to be congratulated for developing a comprehensive regional plan in a very short period of time and for thereby taking a first major step towards a better transportation system in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.”

– Eric J. Miller, Ph.D.
**Bahen-Tanenbaum Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering
Director, Cities Centre, University of Toronto**

“The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area works as an economic unit and its future economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and quality of life will depend on a bold regional plan and implementation strategy for all transportation modes.”

– Walter Mulkewich
Former Mayor of Burlington

“This is a much needed, plan. It is a milestone in the advancement of urban regionalism. The GTA is the 4th largest, and 3rd fastest growing, economic region in North America. If we are to retain our competitive position and prosperity in the 21st Century, and maintain a high quality of life for our residents, then we need a seamless and efficient regional transit system that does not stop at the 416/905 border, but one which delivers employees to their jobs, and residents of the region across all parts of the region, in an effective and convenient manner. Metrolinx is building the critical platform, not just physical, but for collaborative governance as well, required to achieve this.”

– Bob Onyschuk
Chair, Canadian Urban Institute

“The release of the Metrolinx Draft Regional Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy is one of the most significant steps towards a sustainable transportation future in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area in decades.”

– Michael W. Roschlau
**President and Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Urban Transit Association**



“The Heart and Stroke Foundation applauds Metrolinx on its recent transport initiative—an important step in leading us down the path to improved health through better community design.”

– Stephen Samis
Director, Health Policy, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

“The Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation is very pleased to see that the Metrolinx regional transportation plan is taking a serious look at walking and cycling as a critical part of the transportation planning process. It’s about time that our decision-makers realized that walking and bicycling are important ways to get around in our cities, and that we need to make it easier to do so.”

– Fred Sztabinski
Project Coordinator, Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation

“Traffic gridlock has become a competitive disadvantage. Businesses need a well financed and seamless regional transit system to ensure a productive and prosperous economy.”

– Carol Wilding
President & CEO, Toronto Board of Trade

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