

NEWS RELEASE

METROLINX LAYS OUT BIG PLAN TO SOLVE BIG CHALLENGE

100–point plan includes largest transit expansion in more than half a century

TORONTO (September 23, 2008) – Massive expansion of public transit is at the core of a draft strategy previewed by [Metrolinx](#) today, mapping out \$50 billion in new projects over 25 years. *The Big Move: Transforming Transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area* sets out nearly 100 actions to build new transportation infrastructure and improve transit service.

“This is big,” said Rob Maclsaac, Chair of Metrolinx. “Transportation is the largest challenge facing our region – and this plan will be a major step forward in addressing that challenge. “This plan will launch a ‘Renaissance of Transportation’ for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.”

The draft plan will be considered by the Metrolinx Board Friday, September 26, 2008, and Metrolinx will launch extensive consultations seeking public feedback in October. A final plan will be released later this year, with implementation to begin soon after.

It’s a plan of action, to get things moving now,” Maclsaac said. “We are finally playing catch–up, after decades of neglecting major–league transit improvements. Other jurisdictions in North America and around the world have gotten the competitive jump on us. This plan can restore our city–region as pre–eminent in transit.”

The Big Move details the largest expansion of public transit in the region in more than half a century, including 1,150 km of new rapid transit lines and other measures that will more than double the number of trips taken on transit every year. When fully implemented, 75 per cent of residents in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area will live within 2 km of rapid transit, compared to just 42 per cent currently.

“This plan will yield tangible results – moving more people, more conveniently, faster,” Maclsaac said.

A draft Investment Strategy, outlining a financial plan to pay for the transportation improvements and ongoing operations, was also put forward today. Before considering new revenue sources, Maclsaac noted that enough money has already been committed to begin moving on an extensive list of projects.

“We want to see shovels in the ground. These infrastructure improvements, particularly to public transit, are long overdue. Through the province’s *MoveOntario 2020* commitments, we can start moving on many projects within the next year,” he added.

Over the next two months, Metrolinx will be organizing open houses and public meetings across the region, as well as meeting with stakeholder groups, to gather feedback on the plan.

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.

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