

NEWS RELEASE

METROLINX ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ELECTRIFICATION STUDY

TORONTO (July 13, 2009) – The new Metrolinx Board of Directors today established a Community Advisory Committee that will work with Metrolinx to study the electrification of the entire GO Transit rail system.

The Community Advisory Committee will work with the Metrolinx Board to define the scope of the study. The committee will also recommend the terms of reference to the Board, including the benefits, impacts and costs associated with converting the existing railway from conventional diesel to electric.

After receiving the advice of the Advisory Committee, the Board of Metrolinx will set the terms of reference for the study in fall 2009. The electrification study is scheduled to be completed by December 2010.

The 16-member Community Advisory Committee is comprised of community members with expertise in transportation, environment, engineering, health, urban planning, policy analysis, alternative energy, community leadership, business, finance, law and GO ridership.

“Metrolinx is very excited to have this outstanding group of community representatives giving us their best advice on this important study,” said Rob MacIsaac, Chair of the Metrolinx Board. “We are directing significant Metrolinx resources to ensure that careful consideration is given to all the benefits, challenges and costs. We want to make the right choices the first time when it comes to electrification of the GO system.”

This is the first electrification study of the entire GO rail system and will be the most comprehensive study to date of its kind.

“Electrification is a critically important issue and we want to get it right. This excellent Community Advisory Committee will help us do just that,” said Rob Prichard, President and CEO of Metrolinx. “Electrification would require a major new investment by the Province. We want to make sure the choices are properly framed in the context of our broader mandate to recommend the best possible investments to improve transportation, the environment, the quality of life and the economy in the GTHA.”

The Community Advisory Committee members are:

- CHAIR, Daniel Burns, Former Deputy Minister, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; Chairman, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Trustee, Maytree Foundation
- VICE CHAIR, Pamela Robinson, Assistant Professor and Vice Chair, School of Urban & Regional Planning, Ryerson University; Secretary, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
- Frank Giannone, President, FRAM Building Group; President, Ontario Home Builders' Association
- Dina Graser, Lawyer, Goodmans LLP; Chair, People Plan Toronto

- Dr. Linn Holness, Professor and Director, Gage Occupational and Environmental Health Unit, University of Toronto and St. Michael's Hospital
- Gerry Johnston, Former Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Transportation
- Ed Levy, Former President and Chairman, BA Consulting Group Ltd.
- Eva Ligeti, Executive Director, Clean Air Partnership; Former Environmental Commissioner of Ontario; Former Principal, Sheppard Campus, Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology
- Eli Malinsky, Member, Center for Social Innovation; Member, Clean Train Coalition
- Brian E. McCarry, Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, McMaster University; Chair, Clean Air Hamilton
- Danny Nikitopoulos, Chartered Accountant and Valuation Specialist, KPMG LLP; Member, GO's Customer Service Advisory Committee
- Bob Oliver, Executive Director, Pollution Probe
- Murray Skinner, Former President, Metroland Media Group; Honourary life member, Canadian Community Newspaper Association
- Jim Tovey, President, Lakeview Ratepayers Association; Vice Chair, City of Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee
- Michael Warren, Chair and CEO, The Warren Group; Former Chief General Manager, TTC
- Alan Wells, Chair, Rouge Park Alliance; Former Chief Administrative Officer, York Region

"We have an ambitious task before us and together with my colleagues we will rise to the occasion," said Dan Burns, Chair of the newly-formed Community Advisory Committee.

The Big Move, Metrolinx's 25 year integrated transportation plan, identified electrified Express Rail and Regional Rail as part of the organization's overall plan for more rapid transit expansion.

A single 12-car GO Train takes nearly 1,700 single occupancy vehicles off the road and every weekday, more than 25,000 single occupancy vehicles are removed from roads by passengers taking the GO Train. GO Transit's current fleet of diesel locomotives are among the cleanest available, using technology that maintains emissions consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Act's Tier 2 Emission Standards.

Metrolinx is a Crown agency of the Province of Ontario. For more information, visit www.metrolinx.com

GO Transit, a division of Metrolinx, is the Province of Ontario's interregional public transit system linking Toronto with the surrounding regions of the Greater Toronto Area. For more information, visit www.gotransit.com.

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