

NEWS RELEASE

Metrolinx Successfully Completes First Stage of Province's Transit Project Assessment Process

TORONTO (July 30, 2009) – Today, Metrolinx issued the Notice of Completion for the Georgetown South Service Expansion project, including the Union-Pearson Rail Link (GSSE/UPRL), under the Province of Ontario's Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP).

Over the past seven months, Metrolinx has consulted extensively with neighbourhood organizations and individual citizens along the rail corridor. Over 2,000 people attended 18 Open Houses; 700 comments were posted on the Virtual Open House website. The project team held more than 20 meetings with community institutions and groups to talk about solutions to local issues. In response to the tremendous amount of feedback and suggestions, a number of amendments and refinements to the Georgetown South Service Expansion proposal were made.

"Metrolinx has worked closely with the community to understand the benefits and impacts of this project," said Rob MacIsaac, Chair of Metrolinx. "The recommended result shows we have listened and that we are intent on moving forward with an appropriate solution."

The proposed transit expansion will bring vastly improved service to the west-end of Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton. The project will build the infrastructure needed to run more frequent and convenient GO Transit services to connect communities and meet growing demand for more train trips. It will also accommodate a much needed rail connection between Pearson International Airport and Union Station.

"There is an intuitive public understanding that we need to build more transit and provide better options for travellers," said Rob Prichard, President and CEO of Metrolinx. "One of the underlying purposes of community engagement is to listen to what people have to say and deal with their concerns. We listened, we took the community's comments seriously and we developed the most reasonable solutions and mitigation strategies available to address those concerns. The community consultation process has strengthened the project and we are grateful for the active participation of so many."

The final Environmental Project Report (EPR) will be posted on July 31, 2009 at metrolinx.com for review until August 31, 2009. Interested persons, government agencies and First Nations can study it and provide their comments to Metrolinx for review and discussion. The Notice of Completion for the project outlines the next steps in the process and the associated time lines, and how to submit an objection in writing to the Minister of the Environment on or before August 31, 2009.

The Minister then has 35 days to review the comments and determine whether the project can proceed as described in the EPR, proceed subject to conditions, or require further study. All comments received will become part of the public record.



The Georgetown expansion is part of the GO Transit Rail Improvement Program ([GOTRIP](#)), a \$1B expansion initiative funded by the federal and provincial governments and local municipalities through the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund. The Union-Pearson rail link component of the project will be financed and operated by a private sector operator.

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

- 30 -

Media Contact:

Jacque Menezes
Senior Associate, Public Affairs and Media
Metrolinx
Phone: 416-874-5923/ Cell: 647-289-4523
jacque.menezes@metrolinx.com
www.metrolinx.com

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