

## BACKGROUND

### Metrolinx Uses Ontario's Transit Environmental Assessment Process

Improving public transit is a priority in Ontario – it's good for our economy and our environment and the travelling public.

#### HOW DOES THE TRANSIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS WORK?

The [Ministry of the Environment](#) developed the Transit Environmental Assessment Process. It is a rigorous review that maintains the quality, depth, public involvement, and transparency of other assessment processes.

The Transit Environmental Assessment Process uses field and planning work, community and government agency consultations, and engagement with First Nations to determine if there are provincially significant negative impacts and to identify mitigation measures that may be needed to address those impacts.

#### HOW IS THE TRANSIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS DIFFERENT?

Public transit is important for reducing traffic congestion and air pollution, improving quality of life, managing sustainable growth, and improving the business climate. Because it focuses solely on a transit project, the Transit Environmental Assessment Process is faster and more efficient, so Ontarians can have transit sooner.

As the Georgetown GO expansion is receiving federal government funding, a federal environmental assessment is required. The federal and provincial processes will be coordinated.

#### DOES THE TRANSIT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS ALLOW FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION?

The Transit Environmental Assessment Process requires extensive public consultation. As a first step Metrolinx will review previous studies and share a revised project proposal at open houses to be announced early in 2009.

Metrolinx is a Crown agency of the Province of Ontario. For more information visit our website [www.metrolinx.com](http://www.metrolinx.com).

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