

BACKGROUND

November 28, 2008

“NINE BIG MOVES”

“The Big Move: Transforming Transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, the final plan developed by Metrolinx to dramatically improve the region’s transportation system, includes dozens of actions and policies. Nine of these propose transformational changes to the way we get around:

A fast, frequent and expanded regional rapid transit network

- The regional rapid transit network will bring fast, frequent, all-day, two-way express rail service and expanded regional rapid transit service to every region of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and to within two kilometres of 80 per cent of GTHA residents.

High-order transit connections to the Pearson Airport district from all directions

- High-order transit will provide access to the Pearson Airport district from all directions, including a multi-purpose, fast transit link to downtown Toronto.

An expanded Union Station - the heart of the GTHA’s transportation system

- Union Station will provide seamless connections to all modes of transportation and the surrounding downtown Toronto area. Metrolinx will work with the City of Toronto, GO Transit, and stakeholders to coordinate initiatives.
- The Toronto bus terminal will be integrated with Union Station to provide more seamless connections between regional rail and bus services.

Complete walking and cycling networks with bike-sharing programs

- A complete, integrated walking and cycling network will address key barriers to active transportation and bring every urban resident to within one kilometre of a dedicated bicycling facility. An investment of \$20 million annually will ensure that walking and cycling infrastructure is improved across the region.
- Major urban centres will pilot bike-sharing programs, such as the Vélib program in Paris, France that allows people to pick up and drop off bikes at stations located around the city.
- New infrastructure will provide connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians over barriers, such as rivers and major roadways.
- Bike racks will be installed on all buses and Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles.

An information system for travellers, where and when they need it

- A regional transportation information portal, accessible online and by telephone, e-mail or PDA, will provide travellers with comprehensive, easily accessible information on the full-range of transportation alternatives and schedules available.
- Travellers can get information about schedules or delays sent to their cell phone or PDA.
- Real-time information at transit stations will tell travellers when the next transit vehicle will arrive.

A region-wide integrated transit fare system

- A region-wide integrated transit fare system will allow users to pay a seamless, integrated fare for all transit across the region.
- With no more tokens or tickets users could pay their fare in any part of the region with a single card and top-up the amount on your card any time you need to.

A system of connected mobility hubs

- Mobility hubs will be places where communities connect with the transportation system.
- More than just transit stations, they will bring together residential, employment and commercial uses, along with amenities such as day care, shopping, cafés and restaurants.
- Local transit services, bike lockers, walkways, and carpool parking will offer seamless connectivity between transportation modes.
- They will provide excellence in customer service, with comfortable and abundant waiting areas and traveller information systems.

A comprehensive strategy for goods movement

- Goods movement will be addressed within the GTHA and between the GTHA and other regions, to improve efficiency, increase capacity, enhance the region's competitiveness, and reduce emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) and other pollutants.

An Investment Strategy to provide immediate, stable and predictable funding

The Investment Strategy sets out a three-phase plan for implementing the RTP:

- Phase 1 is already underway through almost \$750 million worth of "Quick Win" projects approved in the spring 2008 Ontario Budget.
- Phase 2, beginning in 2009, will draw on the Premier's landmark \$11.5 billion MoveOntario 2020 funding commitment for large-scale, regional rapid transit projects.
- Phase 3 will require consideration of new and innovative funding methods to complete the build-out of remaining projects in the RTP, as well as meeting on-going rehabilitation and operating needs. Metrolinx will report back to the Province by 2013 with options to address these longer-term funding challenges.

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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