

BACKGROUND

November 28, 2008

What We Heard Results of Our Public Consultation Process

Metrolinx released its *Draft Regional Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy* for public consultation in early October 2008. Feedback was received by mail, online, by telephone, and during public meetings and open houses. Below are some of the highlights of what we heard (a full report on the feedback received is available at www.metrolinx.com):

- Metrolinx received strong support across the region for a bold and transformative plan that addresses all modes of transportation in an integrated way.
- Members of the public indicated their strongest support for a comprehensive regional rapid transit network. Modifications to the proposed transit network made in response to public input will bring half a million more people to within two kilometers (km) of rapid transit by 2031, for a total of 81 percent of the region's residents.
- People want Metrolinx to look beyond the GTHA, and in response the final plan outlines a commitment to work with the federal government and private operators to better connect the GTHA's regional passenger transportation network to national and international networks, such as VIA Rail.
- Metrolinx heard repeated calls about the importance of Union Station as the heart of the GTHA's transportation system. The final plan has emphasized and expanded on the draft version's policies about Union Station, to ensure that Union Station continues as the GTHA's premier hub and accommodates the growth contemplated by the RTP, while providing an unprecedented user experience. This has been highlighted in the final plan as one of the "Big Moves".
- People across the region want an integrated transit system. The plan delivers - with its commitment to a region-wide integrated fare system by 2012.
- The public wants walking and cycling to become real, viable options for people to travel to work and school and to meet their daily travel needs. The plan continues to place a strong focus on active transportation, and additional actions have been added to improve safety for cyclists and to ensure that local land use and transportation planning place a strong emphasis on accommodating pedestrians and cyclists.
- The public wants a plan that has "teeth" and which results in real change for travellers. The plan sets out a strategy for implementation that would ensure key decisions affecting our transportation system are guided by the RTP.



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- People are sceptical about the pattern of high-level project commitments and continuing re-announcements with no construction ground-breaking in sight. They want to see action and results, and to get on with the construction of the major new transit projects that will improve mobility in the GTHA region.
- People want Metrolinx to build implementation credibility and a track record first using existing resources before seeking any new revenue and financial tools.

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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