

**MOVE ONTARIO 2020**  
**Rob Maclsaac, Chair**  
**Greater Toronto Transportation Authority**  
**Friday June 15, 2007**  
**Mississauga Transit Main Office, Mississauga**

I am pleased to be part of today's announcement. In my view, today's events represent a watershed for the future well-being of the Greater-Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTAH).

I have been spending a lot of time since taking this role trying to spread the word that we need to make some fundamental changes in how we plan and fund transportation in this city-region.

Despite rapid growth, the last two decades have seen us under invest in transportation infrastructure.

We have been standing on the shoulders of the people who a generation ago planned and built so many of the transportation systems that are now strained to capacity.

As a result, we are at a critical juncture as a city region.

If we don't proactively begin planning and building a first class transportation infrastructure, our economy, our environment, and our quality of life will all suffer enormously.

This announcement will set us on a different track towards a more sustainable, more liveable city region.

I want to thank both the Premier and the Minister for this tremendous show of confidence in the GTTA. Planning for and implementing 17.5 billion dollars worth of transit improvements over the next 12 years is an extraordinary task.

However, I'm confident that the GTTA will rise to the challenge.

I have a number of messages I want to leave with you today

First, today's announcement responds to the GTTA's most urgent priority: a partnership commitment from the Province to fund our plan.

With this vote of confidence, the GTTA Board can deliver on our core mandate: developing a regional transportation plan, a rolling capital plan, and an investment strategy for our region.

Second, it is important to remember that today's announcement is a beginning not an end for us at the GTTA.

This announcement does not relieve us of our responsibility to diligently develop and recommend transportation plan that accords with our best judgement. It does however give very strong guidance that the Province expects a bold plan for public transit and is prepared to pay for it.

We will take the vision put forward by the Province today and work with all our partners to integrate it into our plan with whatever changes are appropriate.

It is also important to remember that we are mandated by our legislation to deliver an integrated multi-modal transportation plan.

While today's announcement speaks to one of the most critical modes in our plan, public transit, our plan is about more than just transit.

The Province has made clear in our legislation that we are to take a holistic approach to enhancing people's mobility throughout the region.

So there is a lot of work left for us to do.

Next, this announcement recognizes the urgency surrounding the need for transportation improvements in the GTA. People are stuck in traffic, and jammed onto trains and subways and streetcars everyday.

We need to get moving now on identified improvements for the system.

Today's announcement sets very aggressive timelines that should result in short term improvements for transit users.

The fact that the EA process for transit projects is being expedited is very significant. It addresses a major concern that many stakeholders have raised with me over the past months.

Finally, we will also engage our Federal partners in our investment plan as they will have a significant role to play in the expansion and renewal of the GTA's infrastructure.

Greater Toronto and Hamilton are the economic engine for this country. But to be successful, Greater Toronto and Hamilton need the federal government's help.

In conclusion, I want to again thank the Premier and Minister Cansfield for the support and confidence they have placed in me and my board today.

We will spend the next months diligently working to deliver on the ambitious targets provided us by this announcement.

And at the end of the day, we will deliver on a plan that leads us to a Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area that competes effectively with the world because of its healthy environment and strong communities.

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