

Toronto, October 1, 2007

GTТА board calls on federal government for immediate commitment to transit funding

Determined to move ahead with the MoveOntario 2020 transit plan, the Board of the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority (GTТА) has forwarded a resolution to the federal government calling for an immediate commitment to its requested share of the plan.

"We want to start moving on these crucial projects as soon as possible, but we need the federal government as committed partners," said GTТА Chair Rob MacIsaac. "All levels of government agree that public transportation is a top priority for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. We need all levels of government participating in taking action on that priority."

The provincial government's Move Ontario 2020 proposal plans for \$17.5 billion in funding over 12 years, with the federal government's requested share of this funding identified as \$6 billion.

In approving the resolution at its monthly meeting on Friday, the GTТА Board pointed to the recently announced \$13.8 billion federal budget surplus as an impetus for seeking immediate action. It also cited calls for a National Transit Strategy by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Big City Mayors Caucus and others - and the federal Minister of Transportation's stated support for developing such a Strategy.

"This is a win-win-win proposition. We all recognize that this region is vital to Canada's economic and social well-being, and that improving the transportation system is essential to the region's ongoing success," MacIsaac said.

Copies of the GTТА resolution have been sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, and federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Lawrence Cannon. It has also been copied to GTТА counterparts in Vancouver (Translink) and Montreal (AMT).

The GTТА is a Crown agency of the Province of Ontario. Its mandate is to create a seamless and sustainable transportation system for the residents and businesses of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

BACKGROUND:

GTТА RESOLUTION

Whereas the Move Ontario 2020 proposal by the Province of Ontario plans for \$17.5B in funding over 12 years

Whereas the Federal Government share of the \$17.5B plan is \$6B

Whereas the Federal Government has announced a \$13.8B surplus

Whereas the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Big City Mayors Caucus and others have called for a National Transit Strategy and the Federal Minister of Transportation has indicated the Federal Government is developing such a Strategy

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Federal Government be requested to immediately commit to its requested share of the Move Ontario 2020 transit plan

And that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, Federal Ministers of Finance and Transport and our counterparts in Vancouver (Translink) and Montreal (AMT)

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