

Toronto, October 26, 2007

GTТА BOARD MOVES FORWARD ON NATIONAL TRANSIT STRATEGY, INCLUDING COLLABORATION WITH VANCOUVER AND MONTREAL

Taking a proactive approach to the federal government's proposed National Transit Strategy, the Board of the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority (GTТА) today approved action to help set national priorities for transit funding, with a focus on the needs of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

"This is Canada's largest and fastest-growing urban region, and obviously it has a tremendous impact on the entire country –economically, environmentally and socially," said GTТА Chair Rob MacIsaac. "We support the development of a national framework for transit investments, and we want to make sure we are a major part of it."

In June 2007, the federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities announced the development of a National Transit Strategy, as a framework to capture objectives and priorities for public transit funding across the country. The GTТА supports this effort to bring together the three levels of government to strategically develop transit projects.

"In many ways the National Transit Strategy concept mirrors what the GTТА is doing here in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area – facilitating a coordinated, strategic approach to transportation decisions and investments," MacIsaac said.

As part of this process, the GTТА will develop a framework for collaboration with Canada's other regional transportation authorities – Montreal's Agence Metropolitain des Transports (AMT) and Vancouver's TransLink – to identify and promote shared interests. Representing the three largest urban regions in the country, the geographic mandate areas of AMT, TransLink and the GTТА account for more than two-thirds of total transit ridership across Canada.

The GTТА will also consult and work collaboratively with other key transit stakeholders, including the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

"We are counting on the federal government to play a significant role in transit investments, and a National Transit Strategy could be an important catalyst to flow federal funding commitments," MacIsaac said. "We need to engage the Government of Canada to ensure dedicated, sustainable, long-term transit funding for the MoveOntario 2020 plan and other major GTТА initiatives."

GTТА Mission Statement

At today's meeting the GTТА Board also approved the Mission Statement for the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority:

"To champion, develop and implement an integrated transportation system for our region that enhances prosperity, sustainability and quality of life"

This mission statement stems from the GTТА's legislative mandate and its unique purpose and role in creating a seamless transportation system for the residents and businesses of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

The GTTA is a Crown agency of the Province of Ontario.

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