

NEWS RELEASE

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New BikeLinx Program Helps Cyclists

First official Metrolinx program focuses on cyclists' needs

Toronto (May, 20 2008) – Cyclists across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) will be starting to make the link between cycling and transit, thanks to Metrolinx.

A new BikeLinx Program sponsored by Metrolinx will provide \$5 million to make it easier for cyclists to find secure parking at major transit stops and to bring their bikes with them when travelling on municipal buses.

GTHA municipalities will use the funds recently received from Metrolinx to equip each bus in their fleet with a bicycle carrying rack. As a complementary service, they will also be able to purchase and install permanent, secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities for installation at major transit stops in their local communities.

“Increasing the viability of cycling as an every day transportation option provides a number of benefits to people, the environment and our economy,” said Metrolinx Chair Rob MacIsaac. “We know that providing people with safe and convenient storage for their bicycles is an important feature for people to combine cycling with transit.”

The BikeLinx Program will make it easier for people to combine the use of their bicycles and public transit on the same trip. Metrolinx is providing a total of \$2.8 million for bike racks on buses and \$2.2 million for secure bike parking. Municipalities are already starting to plan for the installation of over 2,300 new racks and numerous bike parking facilities across the region.

“Public transit and cycling are two excellent ways to get you to your destination. Bike racks on buses are a simple way to encourage people to make transportation choices that are green and healthy.” said Minister of Transportation Jim Bradley.

“All of the municipalities are keen to participate in the Bikelinx Program,” said MacIsaac. “They want to make cycling a viable, green alternative in their communities.”

“The city has long had a commitment to making the TTC more accessible for cyclists and this announcement fits with that,” said Toronto Mayor David Miller. “These environmentally friendly forms of transportation are perfect companions and anything that can be done to integrate them is most welcome.”

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

-30-

For further information contact:

Fran Agnew, Executive Assistant to the Metrolinx Chair, 416-874-5902

Jacquie Menezes, Senior Associate, Public Affairs and Media, 416-874-5923;

Jacquie.Menezes@metrolinx.com

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