

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **METROLINX OPENS DISCUSSIONS ON MOBILITY HUBS AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION**

TORONTO (February 6, 2008) – If you have ideas on how to create a better transportation system for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area, Metrolinx wants to hear from you. Metrolinx today issued two Green Papers, focusing on mobility hubs and active transportation.

Both Green Papers have been posted for public review and comment on Metrolinx’s interactive consultation website at <http://metrolinx-consult.limehouse.com/portal>. Metrolinx staff will be meeting broadly with stakeholder organizations to gather further input for a comprehensive Regional Transportation Plan.

“The release of these papers is intended to provoke discussion throughout the community on a wide range of ideas and policy options for improving transportation in our region,” said Metrolinx Chair Rob MacIsaac. “We want people to tell us what they think will work, and what they think won’t work. We are determined to get this right.”

Green Paper #2 sets out concepts and questions around mobility hubs - key points of intersection between various forms of transportation.

“Creating easier links between walking, cycling, auto use and public transit is a key element in improving people’s ability to get around,” MacIsaac said. “These hubs often foster vibrant employment and residential areas, and draw amenities such as entertainment, shopping and family services to their vicinity. This mix of land use and transportation can be mutually supportive and should be encouraged.”

The Mobility Hubs Green Paper asks readers to think about a vision for these landmark facilities, offering concepts like secure bicycle stations on covered walkways leading to subway platforms, networks of mini-buses taking passengers from their neighbourhoods directly to GO stations, and urban marketplaces next to high-speed GO train stops.

Green Paper #3 deals with active transportation – human-powered travel, such as walking and cycling.

“We have engineered walking and cycling out of many parts of our region and it has had very negative consequences. Our environment and our health have suffered because we can’t do as much as buy a cup of coffee without using our cars. Other cold climate cities do a much better job of encouraging – and enabling – people to walk or cycle. We’re looking for ways to make active transportation a much more important part of the way we get around,” MacIsaac said.

## NEWS RELEASE

Potential innovations cited in the Green Paper to encourage active transportation include ideas like “road diets” – narrowing existing roadways for bicycle lanes and sidewalks – in high pedestrian areas, “bike-n-ride” parking spots at subway stations, and self-service bicycle-rental stalls at subway stations (for passengers who need a bike at both ends of the trip).

“We are open to whatever ideas will work to improve the transportation system, at every level,” MacIsaac said.

The release of these Green Papers is an important milestone in Metrolinx’s development of a Regional Transportation Plan. Looking ahead, Metrolinx will publish four additional papers over the next month focusing on Transportation Demand Management, Moving Goods and Services, Highways and Roads, and Public Transit. Based on feedback from the public and stakeholders, these papers will form the foundation for a related series of policy recommendations dubbed “White Papers” to be considered by the Metrolinx board of directors.

A Draft RTP will integrate the transportation policies formulated and approved by the Metrolinx board. This document will be published in late spring and will be available for comment by the public until early fall of 2008. The final RTP – a comprehensive strategy for a coordinated transportation system in the urban area encompassing the Cities of Hamilton and Toronto, and the Regional Municipalities of Peel, Durham, Halton and York – will be released in the fall of 2008.

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.

-30-

For further information contact:

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

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