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# Regional Express Rail (RER) Update

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# Overview

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Metrolinx's RER program continues to grow with the Province's June 2016 announcements to expand GO Transit rail service to Bowmanville, Niagara and Kitchener

This Report includes an update in the following areas:

- Update on the service plans and planning work to be undertaken on each of the GO expansions
- Infrastructure implementation updates for each GO rail corridor, Union Station and network infrastructure
- Community and stakeholder engagement updates on key events and outreach activities





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## Service Plan

- **Expansions (Niagara, Bowmanville, Kitchener)**

# GO Regional Express Rail



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# Background

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The following GO rail extensions were announced in June 2016 :

- June 14 – Two-way all-day rail service to Kitchener
- June 20 – Rail service extension from the future Confederation GO Station to Niagara Falls
- June 28 – Rail service extension from Oshawa to Bowmanville

This section provides an overview of each of these expansion projects, as well as an update on next steps

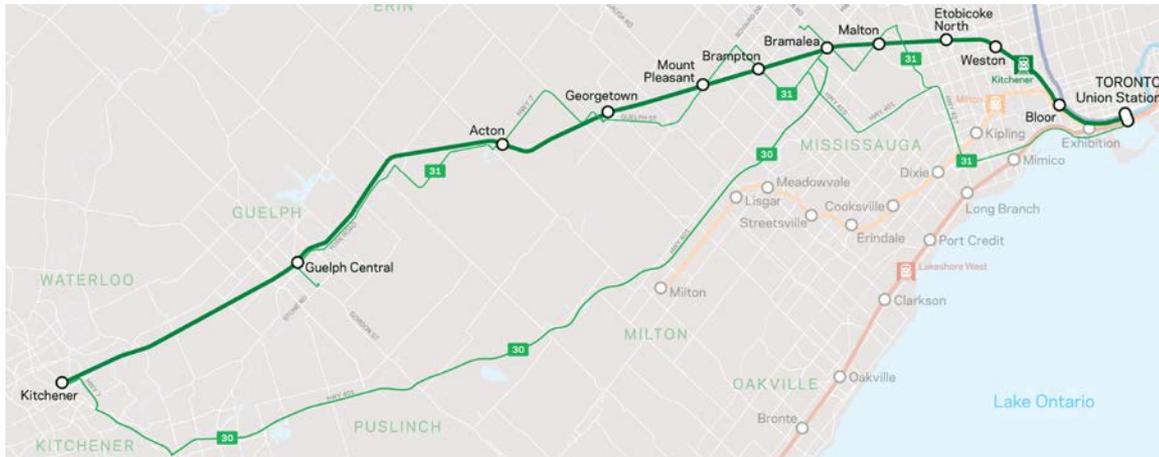


# Expanding GO Services to Waterloo Region

## Current Service

- GO previously operated a weekday peak-period service between Kitchener GO Station and Union Station

- On September 6, 2016, service levels were expanded to provide an **integrated** two-way all-day rail and bus service



- **Morning peak hours:** four trains towards Union Station, half-hourly bus service towards Kitchener\*
- **Middays:** integrated hourly two-way bus/rail service between Kitchener and Union Station\*
- **Afternoon peak hours:** four trains towards Kitchener, half-hourly bus service towards Union Station\*
- **Evenings:** hourly bus service between Kitchener and Union Station\*

\*with a transfer at Bramalea GO Station

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# Expanding GO Services to Waterloo Region

## Future Expansions

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- The initial RER program includes electrified two-way all-day rail service to Bramalea GO station only, with rush hour extension to Mount Pleasant GO station
  - The June 14 provincial announcement calls for a full extension of electrified, two-way service to Kitchener GO station
  - Adjustments to the RER service plan will be required to accommodate the new service
- Beyond the new bus and rail services launched on September 6, 2016, Metrolinx will continue to work with CN on incremental service enhancements in the future

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# Expanding GO Services to Waterloo Region

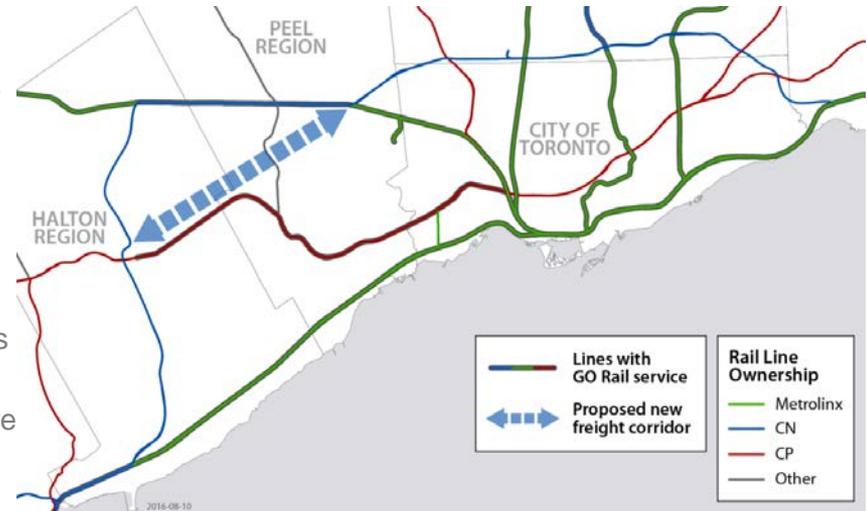
## Infrastructure Requirements

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- Infrastructure requirements for two-way all-day
  - A new freight corridor between Brampton and Milton (see next slide)
  - A second mainline track along 52 km of the Metrolinx-owned rail corridor between Georgetown and Kitchener
  - Other corridor infrastructure including electrification, fleet, signalization, communications, and appropriate upgrade to select rail crossings
  - A new station in Breslau, pending the municipality's response to the June 28 Board resolution
- Amendments to previous environmental assessments (EA) are required in advance of construction

# New Freight Corridor

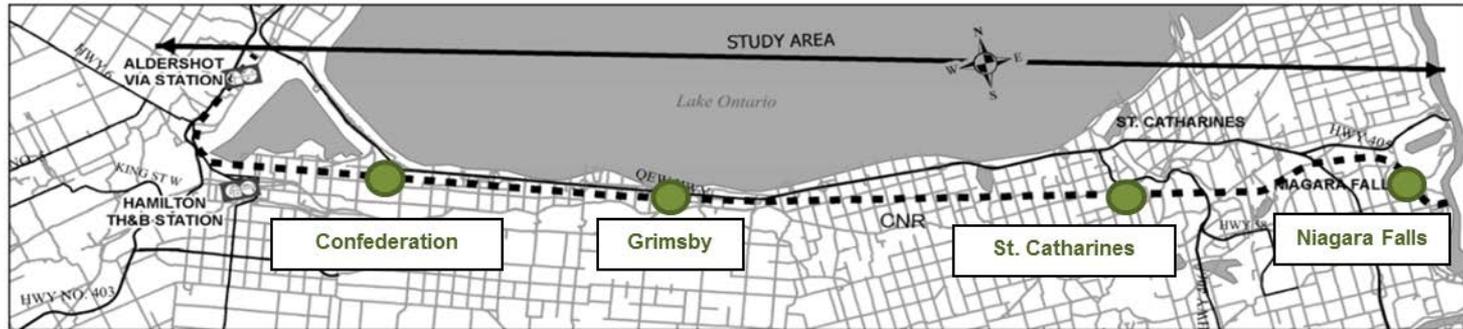
- The Province of Ontario and Metrolinx have secured an agreement-in-principle with CN to build a new, 30 km freight corridor between Brampton and Milton
- Most of the CN freight traffic would be shifted from the existing CN corridor to the new corridor, allowing Metrolinx to extend future RER services through Brampton and deliver two-way all-day rail service to Kitchener GO station
- Concept includes:
  - Two mainline tracks, initially, and up to a total of six tracks in the longer term
  - Protection for stations and electrification for possible future passenger rail service in the longer term
- Potential route alignments, technical feasibility, community impacts, cost, environmental impacts, regulatory requirements, etc. are being identified and evaluated



# Niagara Extension

## Lakeshore West Corridor

- New weekday diesel-powered GO rail service in Niagara Region by 2023
- 60 km corridor extension from the future Confederation GO station to Niagara Falls
- One new station in Grimsby plus improvements to two existing stations in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls



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# Niagara Extension

## Service Overview

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- GO currently operates an integrated bus and rail service between Union Station and Niagara Falls, with a bus connection at Burlington GO station
  - Service operates year-round, seven days a week in both directions
- During the summer months and on select holidays, GO operates a seasonal rail service between Union Station and Niagara Falls on Fridays and weekends only
- In the future, a new weekday rail service will be introduced between Niagara Falls and Confederation GO station with a train connection to Union Station
- Service will reach Grimsby in 2021, and Niagara Falls by 2023
- Adjustments to the RER service plan will be required to accommodate the new service



# Niagara Extension

## Infrastructure Needs

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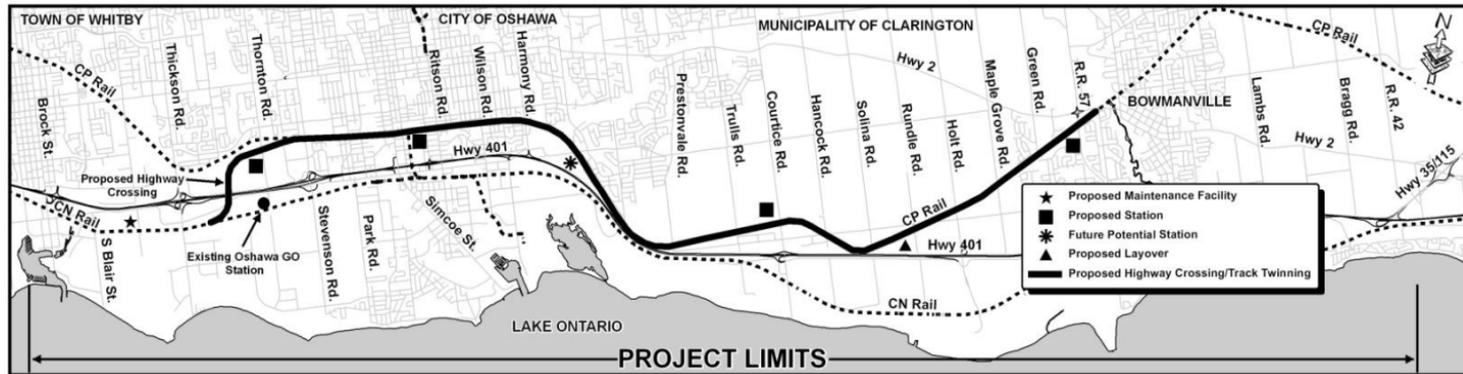
- Infrastructure needs
  - Track improvements on the CN-owned corridor between West Harbour GO station and the Town of Lincoln west of St. Catharines
  - A new station in Grimsby
  - Upgrades to existing VIA/GO stations in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls
  - A new overnight train storage facility in Niagara Falls
  - Upgrades to the existing signaling system
- Requires amendments to the approved EA to incorporate additional infrastructure
- Requires coordination with CN to avoid conflicts with freight operations, as well as coordination with the St. Lawrence Seaway to control timing of GO train crossings at the Welland Canal
- Discussions with Niagara Region on their related planning work are occurring



# Bowmanville Extension

## Lakeshore East Corridor

- New diesel-powered GO rail service in Clarington by 2024
- 20 km corridor extension from west of Oshawa GO station to Martin Road in Bowmanville
- Four new stations: two in Oshawa (Thornton Road, Ritson Rd.), one in Courtice (Courtice Rd.), and one in Bowmanville (Martin Rd.)



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# Bowmanville Extension

## Service Overview

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- GO currently operates an integrated bus and rail service between Union Station and Bowmanville, with a bus connection at Oshawa GO station
  - Service operates year-round, seven days a week in both directions
- In the future, a new weekday peak period rail service will be introduced between Union Station and Bowmanville
- This is in addition to the planned electric RER service between Union Station and Oshawa
- Adjustments to the RER service plan will be required to accommodate the new service



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# Bowmanville Extension

## Infrastructure Needs

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- Infrastructure needs
  - A new rail line connecting the existing Lakeshore East corridor to the CP-owned corridor, including a new rail overpass at Highway 401
  - New stations, including associated customer amenities and station access infrastructure
- Requires coordination with CP to confirm updated service, operational and infrastructure requirements
- Discussions with Durham Region on their related planning work are occurring
- Requires amendments to the approved EA to incorporate additional infrastructure



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# Current Status

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The GO RER program is being updated to integrate the recently-announced new services. Work is underway in the following areas:

- Service Plan and Project Scoping
- Infrastructure Plan
- Phasing Plan
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Discussions with CN and CP to advance the RER program, including the new service extensions, are ongoing





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# Infrastructure Implementation

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# Introduction

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The Capital Projects Group (CPG) is advancing a large and growing program of RER projects. In addition, work is also underway to enhance overall program management systems, controls and processes.

Metrolinx's major capital projects are currently on-time and on-budget.

# Corridor Infrastructure Updates

## Barrie Corridor

- As part of the Dufferin Street Bridge widening project, Metrolinx is partnering with the City of Toronto to extend the West Toronto Railpath which will connect into a new city park that is being built by the City of Toronto.
- Construction commenced on the Downsview Park GO Station in July 2016 and is expected to be complete by the end of 2017.
- The Davenport Diamond grade separation Environmental Assessment (EA) approval was issued on August 2 and the project may now proceed, including the commitments made by Metrolinx on design and community amenity that will be incorporated into the project



Dufferin Bridge at Queen Street West

## Stouffville Corridor

- Construction contract for the Lincolnville Layover Expansion to support the addition of new peak-hour and peak-direction service awarded in August 2016.
- The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for station modifications at Agincourt, Milliken, and Unionville GO Stations closed August 12, 2016. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on September 8, 2016 and the project is now in the in-market phase.

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# Corridor Infrastructure Updates

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## Lakeshore East Corridor

- The Notice of Commencement for the EA for the Lakeshore East Corridor Expansion project was issued on July 7.
- The consultant assignment for the detailed design of the fourth track between Union Station Rail Corridor (USRC) and Scarborough Junction was awarded in August 2016 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2017.
- Two new pedestrian tunnels were installed at Guildwood Station in July 2016.

## Lakeshore West Corridor

- The second phase of the West Harbour GO Station in Hamilton opened in August 2016.
- The consultant assignment for the EA and preliminary design of the Burloak Drive grade separation was awarded in June 2016.



West Harbour GO Station in Hamilton

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# Corridor Infrastructure Updates

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## **Kitchener Corridor**

- A Kiss & Ride, bike shelter, heated customer shelter and 223 new parking spaces opened at Mount Pleasant GO Station in July 2016.

## **Milton Corridor**

- Construction will begin this fall to add over 250 parking spaces at the Streetsville GO station, bringing the total number of available spaces to more than 1,650. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2018.

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# Corridor Infrastructure Updates

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## Union Station Rail Corridor

- Next phase of track and platform rehabilitation work for the Union Station Trainshed Rehabilitation began in August 2016.
- Design services contract awarded in August 2016 for the Union Station Enhancement Project (USEP), a key component of RER.
- Design contracts awarded in July 2016 for the East and West Track Enhancement projects.



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# Network Infrastructure Updates

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## Network Signals and Communication

- The Request for Qualified Quotes (RQQ) for technical advisor services for the Enhanced Train Control and Conventional Signalling Program was released June 30 and closed August 25.

## Network Facilities

- Construction on the fuel system upgrade at the Willowbrook Rail Maintenance Facility began in August 2016 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.
- Construction of the new East Rail Maintenance Facility continues.
- Construction of the new GO Transit Control Centre in Oakville continues.





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# Community and Stakeholder Engagement

# Community and Stakeholder Engagement

## Summer 2016

- More than 45 public meetings and stakeholder briefings were held between July – September in support of the RER projects that are underway.
- To support work along the Barrie corridor, an event was held at the Dufferin Street bridge where work is starting to support RER that brought out 18 media outlets. This followed successful innovation of using a pop-up information booth for the project where over a hundred residents visited with staff and received information on the project.
- With the approval of the environmental assessment for Davenport, focus has shifted to working with the community on the project design and two Community Advisory Committee meetings were held to work on principles and design elements that will guide the project as it moves forward.



Minister Steven Del Duca, Councillor Ana Bailao, Chief Capital Officer John Jensen, MP Han Dong, and Mayor John Tory announced improvements to the Dufferin Street Bridge

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# Community and Stakeholder Engagement

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- There have been weekly community drop-in hours along the Stouffville corridor to provide a regular touch-point during construction of Phase 1 of the second track. The Fall quarterly public meeting was held and staff door-knocked to inform residents along Phase 2 of the project of the start of activities this fall.
- On the Lakeshore East corridor, weekly connections were made with residents living along segment one of the corridor (Union to Scarborough station) to discuss GO expansion plans and start building relationships in the community in advance of the environmental assessment for the addition of a fourth track which is planned for this fall. Weekly updates were provided to residents living in Guildwood on the progress of the construction at the GO station. Drop-in sessions were held in the Scarborough – Pickering community to discuss the progress on the environmental assessment underway on that section of the corridor.



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