



# CREATING CONNECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS

PUBLIC MEETING  
DECEMBER 6, 2017

## CONGESTION COSTS OUR ECONOMY

- The average commute in Ontario is already over 45 minutes, and that figure jumps to more than an hour for commuters in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area. That means the average commuter spends nearly an extra work day a week sitting in their car, stuck in traffic.

Congestion is costing the Golden Horseshoe between **\$6 BILLION - \$11 BILLION A YEAR** in lost economic activity.



## WHO IS METROLINX?

Metrolinx was created in 2006 by the Province of Ontario with a mandate to create greater connection between the communities of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, and now beyond to the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Since 2008, Metrolinx has been guided by its Regional Transportation Plan, The Big Move, which is currently under review – [metrolinx.com/theplan](http://metrolinx.com/theplan).

### PLAN



### BUILD



### OPERATE



### CONNECT



**CURRENT GO BUS SERVICES**



**35 DAILY BUS TRIPS**

**SEASONAL GO TRAIN SERVICE**



**21% INCREASE IN 2017**



# **BRINGING MORE GO TRAIN SERVICE TO NIAGARA REGION**

## HOW WE GOT HERE

- **2011** – Niagara Rail Service Expansion Environmental Assessment Study Report
- **May 2015** – announcement of GO train service expansion to Hamilton-Stoney Creek with a new Confederation station – targeting service for 2019
- **November 2015** – Initial Business Case: GO Rail Niagara Service Extension
- **June 2016** – announcement of GO train service between the future Confederation station and the Niagara Region starting in 2021, with service to Niagara Falls by 2023. Service to Grimsby expected for 2021
  - new stations committed as part of this program in Hamilton-Stoney Creek and Grimsby
  - upgraded stations in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls



## WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

- Coordinating with Municipalities and the Region via regular coordination through the joint *Metrolinx-Niagara Region Working Group*
- Supporting Niagara Region's Secondary Plan public engagement
- **July 2015** – opening of West Harbour GO Station
- **June 2016** – completion of Valley Inn Road bridge replacement
- **December 2016** – completion of Desjardins Canal bridge expansion
- **August 2016** – completion of Lewis Road Layover Facility phase 1
- **2017** – GO/CN corridor scoping study complete to finalize track infrastructure needs
- **Late 2017** – construction to begin on Confederation GO Station
- **Spring 2018** – projected completion of Hamilton Expansion Phase 1: Hamilton Junction-West Harbour Station
- **2018** – ongoing corridor capacity study

DESJARDINS CANAL BRIDGE EXPANSION





## WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US

- **Weekend GO service** – all year round, not just seasonal
- **Preserve heritage and character of the area:**
  - Improve downtown Niagara Falls to support tourism
- **Environmental impacts:**
  - concerns about impacts to local environment
- **Traffic:**
  - increased traffic congestion around the stations
  - traffic calming measures
- **Station parking capacity to meet demand**
- **Station noise and lighting:**
  - impacts to surrounding community

## WHAT WE NEED TO DO

Given the magnitude, scope, and complexity of the work involved, we have an initial plan that phases implementation of the project.

- Initial phases focus on completion of work in the Hamilton-Stoney Creek area, followed by Grimsby Station
- Subsequent phases are focused on work to expand service to St. Catharines and Niagara Falls



- More than 25 kilometres of new track and signals; at-grade crossings and corridor drainage.



- Additional GO rail fleet and facilities – new facility in Niagara Falls and expansion of the Lewis Road layover.



- Bridge widenings, expansions and upgrades.



- New stations and upgrades to existing VIA stations.

## WHAT WE NEED TO DO – LOCAL CONTEXT

To provide service to Niagara Falls:

- new and upgraded 2nd track including grading, crossovers, and re-signalling from Stanley Avenue to Niagara Falls VIA station
- future Niagara Falls train layover
- corridor drainage improvements and culvert extensions
- signalling improvements and level crossing upgrades



Welland Canal

## NIAGARA FALLS STATION SECONDARY PLAN

- Metrolinx staff have been intimately involved with the Region on their station secondary plans
- Our staff have attended several public engagements and will continue to support this important work
- This work by the Region and City is aligned with Metrolinx's Regional Transportation Plan and the province's 2017 *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*
- We look forward to continuing to work together to build on the great work done to date

## CANADA GAMES 2021

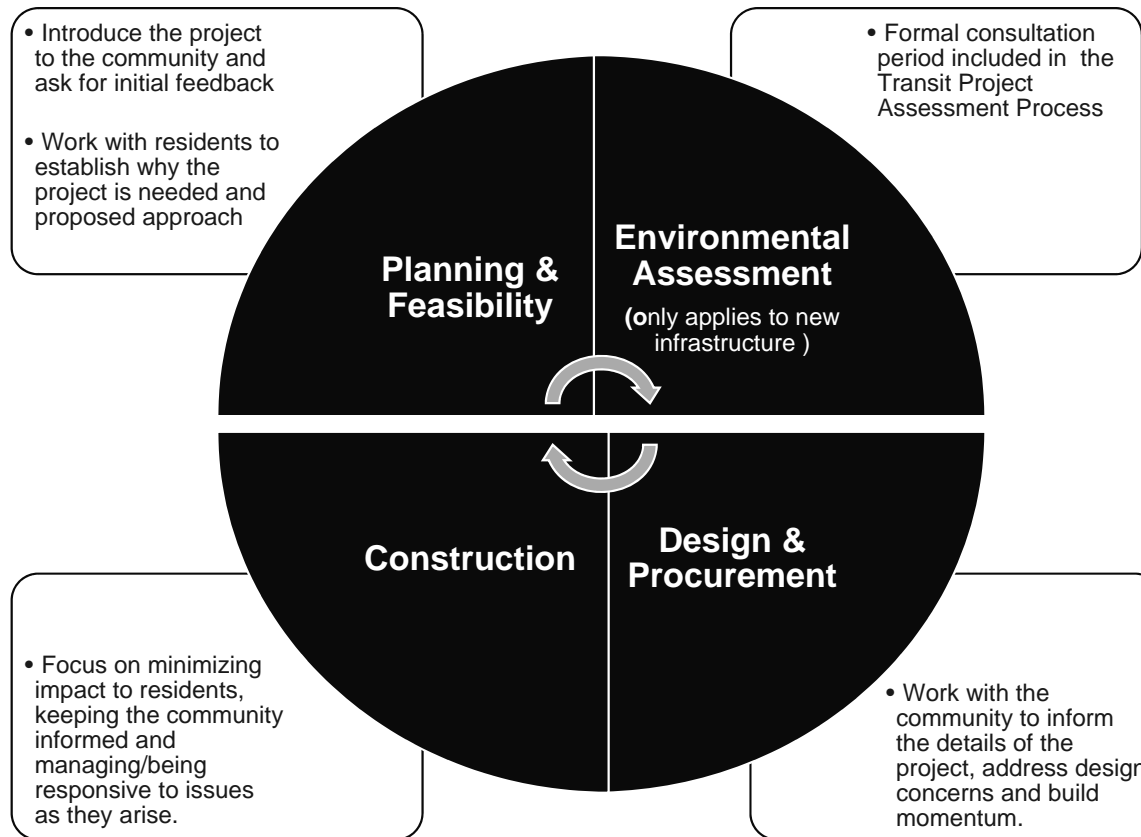
- We will work with Niagara Region as they develop their event schedule and locations to determine if there are any service gaps we might be able to address
- This is the same approach we took for the 2015 Pan Am Games
- Metrolinx will continue the conversation with all the stakeholders in the area to ensure that these Games are a success



—JEUX DU—  
**CANADA**  
—GAMES—

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**NIAGARA REGION**  
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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: PROJECT CYCLE



## CONSTRUCTION MITIGATION FOR METROLINX FACILITIES

- Before construction begins, Metrolinx will generally implement a construction mitigation plan which includes:
  - providing two weeks advance notice prior to work beginning, including temporary road closures
  - minimizing noise and vibration as much as possible
  - monitoring of construction noise and vibration to ensure work is within acceptable limits
  - avoiding overnight work where possible
  - dust mitigation plan (e.g. watering, regular street sweeping)
  - regular project updates at [metrolinx.com/Niagara](https://metrolinx.com/Niagara) and e-mails through [Niagara@metrolinx.com](mailto:Niagara@metrolinx.com)

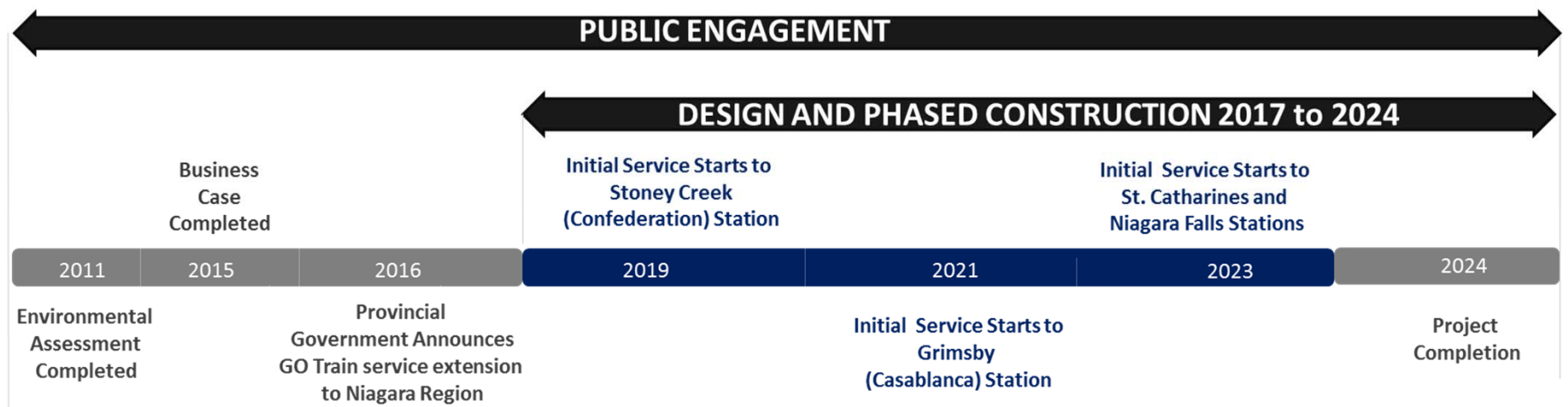
## TREE AND VEGETATION MITIGATION FOR METROLINX FACILITIES

- As part of any construction project, there may be impacts on surrounding trees and vegetation.
- Metrolinx will work to minimize impacts as much as possible. When there is an impact, we will:
  1. work with local municipalities and conservation authorities on a comprehensive replacement strategy
  2. itemize all impacts thorough an arborist's report
  3. work with the community to discuss alternatives and ideas to best ensure a green and sustainable ecosystem adjacent to the rail corridor



## NEXT STEPS

- Continue working with CN Rail, Niagara Region, municipalities and communities to finish planning and design
- Metrolinx will begin the addenda to the 2011 Niagara Expansion GO Transit Class EA in early 2018
- For more information:
  - [Niagara@metrolinx.com](mailto:Niagara@metrolinx.com)
  - [Metrolinx.com/Niagara](http://Metrolinx.com/Niagara)



## Q&A



