

Executive Summary







The Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) is one of the fastest growing regions in North America. Its dynamic economy and diverse population attract about 110,000 new residents every year, and will reach a total population of more than 10 million people by 2041. The region will look and feel very different than it does today, just as it now feels different than it did 25 years ago.

Keeping our growing and changing region moving – getting people and goods to where they need to go – will be ever more vital for the region’s economy, quality of life and natural environment. As the region becomes more complex and interconnected, it will require not only new transportation infrastructure, but also new transportation services and new ways of working together.

The 2041 Regional Transportation Plan (2041 RTP) for the GTHA is a blueprint for creating an integrated, multi-modal regional transportation system that will serve the needs of residents, businesses and institutions. It supports Ontario’s *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017*, which sets out a broad vision for where and how the region will grow, and identifies policies on transportation planning in the GTHA.

The 2041 RTP presents a common vision for the region:

The GTHA will have a sustainable transportation system that is aligned with land use, and supports healthy and complete communities. The system will provide safe, convenient and reliable connections, and support a high quality of life, a prosperous and competitive economy, and a protected environment.

The Goals of the 2041 RTP are to achieve strong connections, complete travel experiences, and sustainable and healthy communities.

The 2041 RTP was developed by Metrolinx and builds on the success of *The Big Move*, the first RTP for the GTHA that was released in 2008. *The Big Move* was the springboard for a historic \$30 billion investment in rapid transit that has led to the completion of nine major transit projects:

- UP Express (Union Station - Pearson International Airport);
- Highway 7 bus rapid transit (Yonge - Unionville GO);
- Davis Drive bus rapid transit (Yonge - Newmarket GO);
- Mississauga Transitway (Winston Churchill - Renforth);
- Toronto York Spadina Subway Extension; and
- four GO Transit extensions (Kitchener, Barrie, Richmond Hill and Lakeshore West lines).



Fourteen more transit projects are In Delivery, which means that they are either in the engineering design stage or under construction.

There is little doubt that *The Big Move* moved the yardstick significantly for regional transportation, but the work is far from complete. In a region that will continue to grow rapidly, it is vital that governments collaborate to further build out the transportation system and increase the capacity for people and goods to move around the GTHA. It is also important to make the best possible use of transportation assets, and to provide the best traveller experience possible. This work requires approaches to funding and decision-making that effectively serve the needs of a maturing region.

The 2041 RTP builds on *The Big Move* by putting traveller needs at the core of planning and operations.

This will be done by:

- providing even more people with fast, frequent and reliable transit;
- integrating fares and services to allow people to move seamlessly across the region;
- designing communities, transit stations and Mobility Hubs to support transit use and active transportation;
- anticipating and preparing for integrated mobility systems that use emerging transportation technologies and business models;
- using parking demand strategies to encourage car-sharing and other modes besides the car;
- addressing the beginning and end of a traveller's journey—the first- and last-mile;
- optimizing the use of roads and highways to support transit and goods movement; and
- embedding design excellence, sustainability and universal access in transit planning.

Goals



**Strong
Connections**



**Complete Travel
Experiences**



**Sustainable
and Healthy
Communities**

Strategies

1

**Complete
Delivery of
Current Projects**

2

**Connect
the Region**

3

**Optimize
the System**

4

**Integrate
Transportation
and Land Use**

5

**Prepare for
an Uncertain
Future**

To achieve the 2041 RTP's Vision and Goals, this plan is organized around five Strategies that drive action.

STRATEGY

1

Complete the delivery of current regional transit projects

There can be no slowing down of the current multi-billion dollar commitments to expanding transit infrastructure. A major focus of the 2041 RTP is the development of GO Regional Express Rail (RER), transforming today's GO rail system from a commuter-focused service into one that offers frequent two-way, all-day service. Completion of the remaining fourteen In Delivery transit projects (i.e., under construction or in the engineering design stage), and of the thirteen additional projects that are In Development (i.e., in advanced stages of planning and design), will extend the reach of convenient transit via subway, bus rapid transit (BRT), light rail transit (LRT) and GO Transit.

STRATEGY

2

Connect more of the region with frequent rapid transit

A Frequent Rapid Transit Network (FRTN) will connect more people in the region with the places they want to go, and provide an attractive alternative to driving. Priority Bus corridors will be an important part of the FRTN, bringing fast and frequent transit services to parts of the region that have not yet developed the density or ridership needed to support LRT, BRT or subway services. Meeting travellers' needs to 2041 will also require further expansions to GO RER, other surface transit systems and subways across the GTHA, and connections to other communities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

STRATEGY

3

Optimize the transportation system

Optimizing the GTHA's transportation system means making the most of what we have. First, this means integrating fares and services across the region so travellers can move seamlessly from one transit system to another without paying a second fare. The traveller experience will be enhanced as better multimodal options are provided for the first- and last-mile of every trip. Integrated mobility services will allow travellers to access a fully coordinated, enhanced suite of mobility services from different providers. The transportation system will provide universal, barrier-free access. An enhanced system of high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes will support faster, more reliable bus service and help make carpooling more attractive. Roads and highways will be managed to support transit use.

STRATEGY

4

Integrate transportation and land use

To achieve the 2041 RTP's Vision, transportation investments and decisions must align with land use plans. This plan contains actions to better integrate transportation planning and land use, especially around transit stations and Mobility Hubs. Regional collaboration, supported by appropriate regulatory measures, will encourage the planning of communities and road networks to support transit, cycling and walking. Parking management will encourage car-sharing and prepare the region for the arrival of autonomous vehicles. A Regional Cycling Network will make it easier for commuter cyclists to make longer trips, overcome barriers and connect more easily to rapid transit stations.

STRATEGY

5

Prepare for an uncertain future

We live in a time of constant and accelerated change. Metrolinx and GTHA municipalities will work with the Province to plan and prepare for the deployment of new transportation technologies, including autonomous vehicles. Regional coordination will produce a transportation system that is resilient to flooding and other impacts of climate change. Joint actions, including a transition to low-carbon transit vehicles, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Transit agencies will partner with the private sector to drive innovation in mobility.

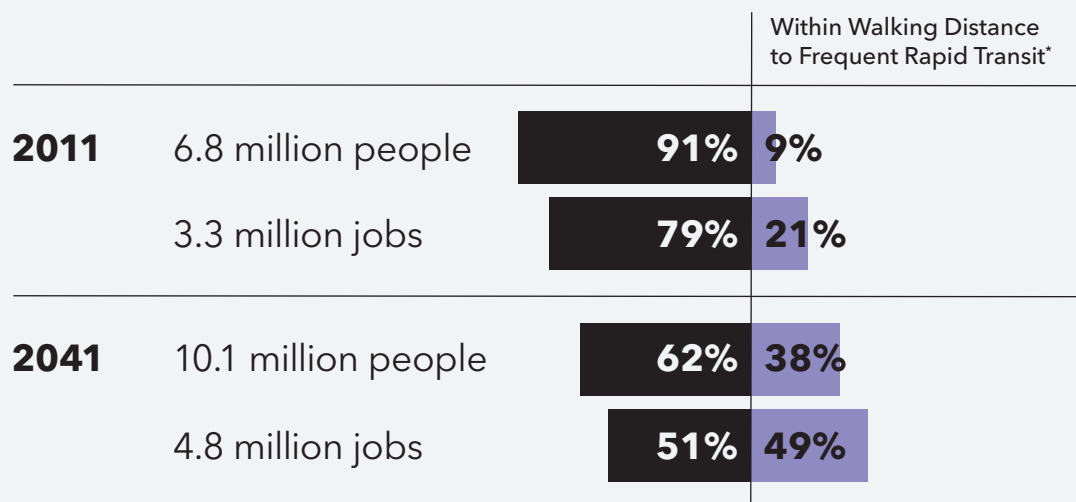
How will the plan make a difference?

Implementation of this plan will have a profoundly positive impact on travellers. The GTHA of 2041 will see many benefits, compared to today:

- more than 20 times the current length of frequent rapid transit routes;
- more than triple the current number of residents and double the number of jobs within walking distance of frequent rapid transit;
- stabilized, and in many cases improved, transit travel times;
- a Regional Cycling Network that doubles the length of dedicated cycling facilities in the GTHA;
- double the number of walking and cycling trips; and
- progress towards the goal of having 60% of school trips made by walking or cycling.

These improvements to the quantity, proximity, reliability, comfort and convenience of rapid transit service will be particularly important for low-income residents and others who rely heavily on transit. Economic competitiveness and productivity in the GTHA will also benefit from better connections between workers and employers.

Residents and Jobs within Walking Distance of Frequent Rapid Transit¹

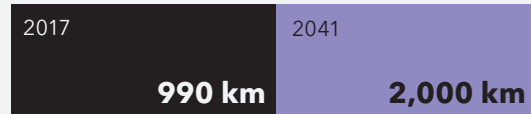


* Walking Distance is 400 m from Priority Bus, BRT and LRT lines, and 800 m from subway and 15-minute GO stations

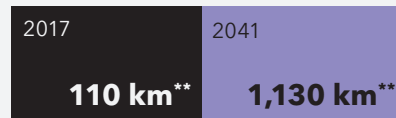
Frequent Rapid Transit Network



Regional Cycling Network



HOV Lanes Network



*Includes 15-minute GO Rail service, subway, BRT, LRT, Priority Bus, Priority Streetcar and Frequent Regional Express Bus corridors.

**lane-km. Lane-km accounts for roadway length as well as the number of lanes in each direction.

Next steps

The 2041 RTP articulates and responds to the shared goals of Metrolinx, municipalities and other partners across the region. The scale of growth anticipated in the GTHA—a 41% increase in population between 2016 and 2041—and the extent and complexity of the future transportation system, demand new levels of cooperation and collaboration among the Province, municipalities, transit agencies, the private sector, and residents.

As a regional transportation agency with a legislated mandate to plan the multimodal transportation system in the GTHA, Metrolinx is in a unique position to catalyze action by:

- providing technical expertise and guidance;
- coordinating regional initiatives;
- convening stakeholders; and
- providing a regional perspective on projects, programs and policies.

However, Metrolinx cannot undertake this work alone: success of the 2041 RTP is premised on all stakeholders responsible for aspects of the transportation system working together. Implementing its Strategies and Priority Actions will require us to improve the ways we collaborate, and to be innovative in how we approach our regional goals for transportation.