

Rob Prichard
Chair, Metrolinx
97 Front St W, 4th floor
Toronto, Ontario M5J 1E6

September 14, 2017

Dear Mr. Pritchard,

We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide feedback on a number of items before the Board at your September 14, 2017 meeting.

As previously noted in our letters in June 2016 and 2017, Fight Gridlock in Brampton is a volunteer-based group of residents who want to see more complete streets and rapid transit in Brampton. We've spoken out and organized over the years in support of transit projects, such as the Hurontario-Main Light Rapid Transit (HMLRT) project, the Queen Street Rapid Transit Master Plan Study, and Regional Express Rail (RER).

In no order of prioritization or preference, please see below for our comments based on the September 2017 agenda and reports.

1) Metrolinx 2017-18 Business Plan: Kitchener Corridor Expansion and Freight Bypass¹

We are pleased to see a reference to the Brampton-Halton Freight Rail Bypass (BHFRB) for the CN Rail Halton Subdivision in the Business Plan. Page 44 of the Business Plan states:

“In 2017-18, Metrolinx will continue negotiations with CN to progress from the agreement-in-principle to a full agreement, initiate a public and stakeholder engagement process, continue planning and design work to identify route alignment and address potential concerns, as well as initiate an EA.”

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http://www.metrolinx.com/en/docs/pdf/board_agenda/20170914/20170914_BoardMtg_BusinessPlan_Report_EN.pdf

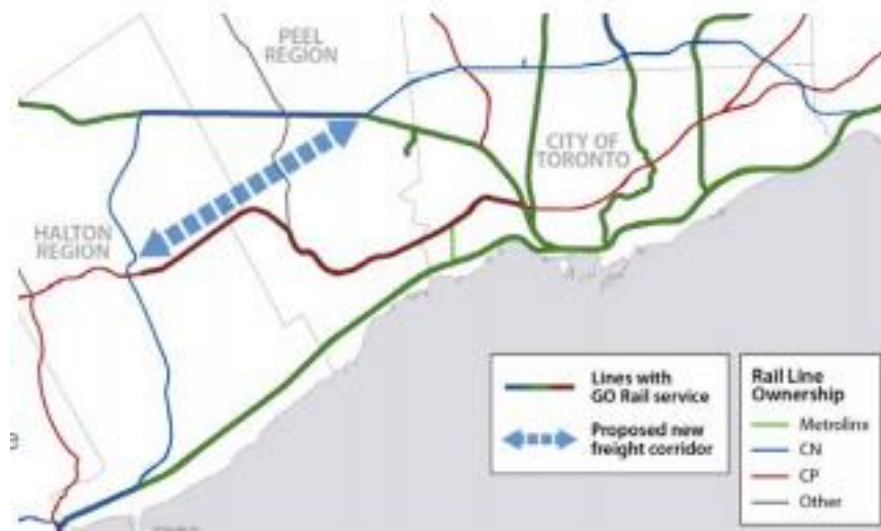
There are other references to the “Kitchener Expansion” in other sections of the Business Plan, including on page 24 under the “State of Good Repair” budget, and page 43 under “8.3 Expansion and Optimization”

Also, Metrolinx staff made a presentation to Waterloo Regional Council on August 30, 2017. A link to view the video of the presentation is here:
<http://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?&PGD=waterlooonca&eID=401>

This was a very helpful presentation which noted that Metrolinx and CN Rail are doing "feasibility reviews" right now and that the "Induction Study will be complete by December [2017]. Formal planning work will begin in the Spring [of 2018]." We think that a link to this informative video of the presentation should be added to the Kitchener Corridor section of Metrolinx’s website here under “Projects”:
http://www.metrolinx.com/en/regionalplanning/rer/rer_kitchener.aspx

In addition, we note that there is a “Waterloo Region” section of the Metrolinx Engage website². Given Brampton is on the Kitchener Corridor one suggestion we have is if a “Brampton” section of the engage website could be created which cross-posts all Kitchener Corridor-related presentations.

We support the Bypass and continue to encourage the collaboration that is happening between CN Rail and Metrolinx.



Map from September 2016 Board [report](#)³.

² https://www.metrolinxengage.com/en/engagement-initiatives/waterloo-region?sort_by=title_field

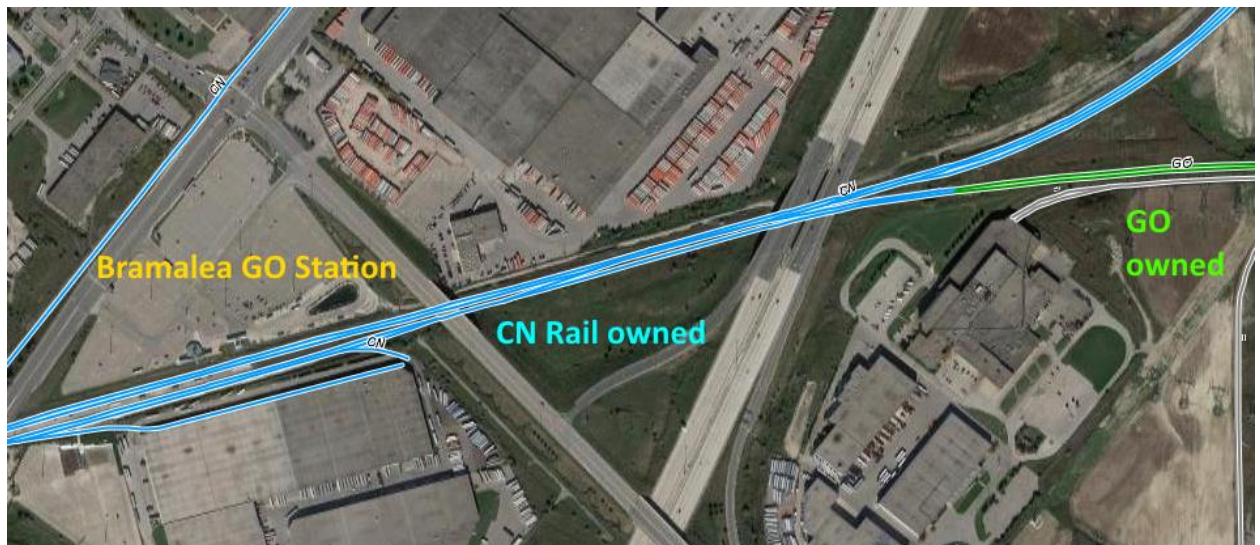
³ <http://bit.ly/MetrolinxSept2016Report>

2) Capital Projects Group Quarterly Report⁴

We reviewed in detail the Report and noted Table 1: Project Status and the line item for the “Kitchener Expansion” and the Approved Budget for Capital Construction Amount of \$2,250,000,000. It is helpful for the public to have this number as it shows the extent of the cost to improve service for the Kitchener Corridor. We continue to hope that it specifically involves electrification – adding the physical wires and other infrastructure – west of Bramalea.

3) Off-Peak GO Train Service

As we mentioned in our June 2017 letter, while collaboration with CN Rail continues to take place for the Bypass, we do hope that some movement can happen on adding more off-peak service to the Kitchener Corridor, even to Bramalea, while the Bypass is being constructed. We would also be interested in understanding how the off-peak bus service could be impacted through the introduction of more off-peak train service.



Map from the Rail Association of Canada's website⁵.

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http://www.metrolinx.com/en/docs/pdf/board_agenda/20170914/20170914_BoardMtg_CPGQuarterly_Report_EN.pdf

⁵ <https://rac.jmaponline.net/canadianrailatlas/>

4) The Next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)⁶: Draft Plan for Public Consultation

We haven't had time to fully review the draft RTP but we will certainly avail ourselves of the opportunities to provide comments and feedback. We note that rapid transit for Queen Street in Brampton is included in the draft RTP.

From our brief review, we want to complement Metrolinx staff for the quality of the document formatting, the crisp maps, and the overall graphically presentation. It's amazing to see the technological differences in graphics since the 2008 version of the Regional Transportation Plan was publically released. One suggestion we do have is if a Google Earth/Maps layer could be created for all maps provided in the draft RTP. Also, the file size of the PDF seems to be very large and it would be great if a lower-resolution option (IE smaller file size in MBs) was available for faster downloading and accessing. We would also like to note that the City of Brampton has launched a website called "Future Ready Brampton" to engage the public on "what the city should look like in five, 10, 25 years and beyond." The website for public input is here:

<http://futureready.brampton.ca/>



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http://www.metrolinx.com/en/docs/pdf/board_agenda/20170914/20170914_BoardMtg_RTP_Report_EN.pdf

5) Hurontario LRT (HuLRT)

Many thanks to the HuLRT project team members who have attended many community events in Peel Region to inform the public of this approved project. We continue to encourage them to attend as many events, festivals, public parks, and other places throughout Brampton (even if it's far from the route) to educate the public.



Photo credit: Sean Marshall (@Sean_YYZ)

We look forward to attending as many future public meetings as we can. Thank you for considering the above points.

Sincerely,
Kevin Montgomery and Chris Drew
Co-Founders, Fight Gridlock in Brampton

cc: Mayor Jeffrey
Brampton's MPPs
Minister of Transportation
Chris Duyvestyn, P.Eng., Director, Transportation Special Projects, City of Brampton
Darshpreet Bhatti, P.Eng., Director, Hurontario Light Rail, Metrolinx