

Office of the Chair

Rob MacIsaac

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May 12, 2008

Sheila Birrell, Town Clerk
Town of Markham
101 Town Centre
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

Re: Notice – Regional Transportation Plan

Dear Ms. Birrell:

Metrolinx was established by the Government of Ontario to improve the coordination and integration of all modes of transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. To that end, Metrolinx is creating a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). When completed this fall, the RTP will form the basis for a comprehensive, integrated transportation system for the entire region.

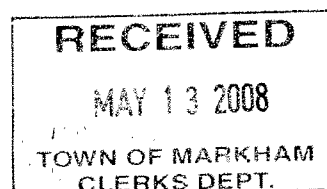
In accordance with s. 6(3) of the *Greater Toronto Transportation Authority Act, 2006*, I am writing to you at this time because on April 25, 2008 the creation of the RTP took an important step forward as the Metrolinx Board of Directors approved two White Papers and directed that they be released for public comment.

White Paper 1: Vision, Goals and Objectives presents the proposed vision for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area transportation system and a series of proposed goals and objectives that would form the basis for developing and evaluating alternatives and ultimately shaping the Regional Transportation Plan.

White Paper 2: Preliminary Directions and Concepts draws together, at a strategic level, the key policies and initiatives that could form the core of the Regional Transportation Plan, and tests several transportation system concepts for a preliminary performance/cost comparison.

I am pleased to notify you that these White Papers are now available on the Metrolinx web site at www.metrolinx.com for downloading. Comments on the papers can be posted electronically to the Metrolinx website or sent directly to Ms. Leslie Woo, General Manager, Policy and Planning Unit, 20 Bay Street, Ste. 901, Toronto, ON M5J 2N8. Electronic comments may also be submitted to RTP@metrolinx.com.

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The White Papers are being released as interim reports in order to provide a basis for ongoing consultation with stakeholders and the public. Input on the White Papers will help to inform the development of the Draft Regional Transportation Plan that will be released for public comment in late July 2008. At that time, your formal municipal response will help inform the final plan, due for Board adoption and release in Fall 2008.

When the process is complete, the RTP will constitute a Master Transportation Plan, addressing the early planning principles for projects which are subject to the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. As such, it will be the basis for and will be used in support of environmental assessments for individual projects which result from the RTP. When those projects are being considered in the future, their assessment will begin where the RTP process ended.

This is one of many opportunities for you to provide direct input into the RTP's development. We will also be hosting multi-stakeholder consultation workshops in early June and public meetings in September. All interested parties are also encouraged to post comments electronically on the Metrolinx consultation site at www.metrolinx.com.

We appreciate your assistance in communicating this information to your Members of Council, city staff and interested members of the public for their further information and follow-up.

We have undertaken an aggressive timeline for delivery of the RTP in recognition of the importance of establishing a clear way forward. We appreciate all your efforts to provide input throughout the process.

Yours truly,



Rob MacIsaac
Chair

c: Peter Smith, Vice-Chair, Metrolinx
William Fisch, Regional Chair, York Region
Michael Fenn, CEO, Metrolinx
Leslie Woo, General Manager, Policy and Planning, Metrolinx
John Livey, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Markham
Kimberley Kitteringham, Deputy Town Clerk, Town of Markham