

June 22, 2016

J. Robert S. Prichard, Chair
Metrolinx
97 Front Street West
Toronto, ON
M5J 1E6

Re: Expanded GO Train Service for the Kitchener Corridor

Dear Chair,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we would be grateful if you could share it with your Board colleagues and Metrolinx staff. The signatories of this letter all represent people and local businesses in our respective communities who want to see more transit. We wish to offer thanks to Metrolinx staff and to the Province of Ontario for the hard work on reaching an Agreement in Principle with CN Rail for GO Transit train expansion for the Kitchener Corridor, as part of the Regional Express Rail (RER) project.



June 14, 2016 announcement of expanded GO Transit train service on the Kitchener Corridor.

Photo Credit: Todd Letts

Residents and local businesses along the Kitchener Corridor have been advocating for more GO Transit train service for decades and we were thrilled with the announcement that all-day, two-way service will be in place by 2024 for the Corridor. We also understand that there will be further service increases leading up to 2024. In addition, we look forward to seeing more evening and weekend service on the Corridor. We fully support this project and are thrilled that it is now happening. We are particularly excited that it should now be possible to electrify the Bramalea to Kitchener section of the Corridor, as this will allow for more frequent, efficient, and environmentally responsible passenger rail service. This will be the most dramatic change on the Corridor since GO Transit train service started in 1974 or when the Grand Truck Railway reached our communities in 1855-1856. Electrification will be a historic turning point and we are excited to be part of it.

Reaching an agreement with CN Rail was a crucial step for this project and we look forward to doing what we can to support a design study for a freight bypass and any Environmental Assessment for the Corridor. We understand the complexity and civil engineering required to implement this project and that construction will take several years. It will be worth the wait and we will continue to encourage everyone to support it.

The agreement with CN Rail is a historic achievement and we also wish to thank CN Rail for their leadership and cooperation. CN Rail is a critical part of the economy for southern Ontario and supports economic growth for our communities, and directly and indirectly provides for many jobs. Moving goods by freight is a critical part of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area transportation network and helps to reduce the amount of trucks on our regional roads and highways.



CN Rail's Brampton Intermodal Terminal.



Chrysler plant shipping cars by train, Brampton.

Once again, thank you to all involved for reaching this agreement and we are very excited for more GO Transit train service for Bramalea, Brampton, Mount Pleasant, Georgetown, Acton, Guelph, and Kitchener-Waterloo. We look forward to seeing Metrolinx staff at any future public consultation meeting and will be encouraging residents and local businesses in our learn more about the project.

We will encourage everyone to work together to ensure this project is successful.

Thank you again and we look forward to riding the train more!

Sincerely,



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



Andrew deGroot,
Co-Founder,
One Brampton,
Brampton, Ontario



Mike Boos,
Executive Committee
Member,
Tri-Cities Transport
Action Group (TriTAG),
Waterloo Region,
Ontario



Joe Horneck,
Co-Chair,
Western GTA Summit



Eloa Doner,
Co-Founder,
Etobicoke Creek Residents Association,
Brampton, Ontario



Nicole Cedrone,
Heart Lake/Snelgrove
Community Activist,
Brampton, Ontario



LAB·B

Harpreet Zingh,
Co-Founder,
Lab-B,
Brampton, Ontario



Bruce Marshall, Bramalea
Resident, Brampton, Ontario



Harpreet Hansra, Jesse Hansra,
Brampton South and Fletcher's West
Residents, Brampton, Ontario

CC:

CN Rail

MPs, MPPs, Mayors, and Councillors along the Kitchener Corridor

Todd Letts, CEO, Brampton Board of Trade

Daniel Lewis, Founder, T by Daniel Inc.

Kyle Neill, Senior Archivist, Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives
(PAMA)

Toronto Historical Railway Association

Salza Kassam, Community Relations and Issues Specialist

(Kitchener Corridor), Metrolinx