

Friday, January 26, 2018

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

RE: Superlinx: An Uploading Strategy for a Modern Provincial Transit Agency

The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce welcomes the Toronto Region Board of Trade's *Superlinx* concept. This type of approach offers an effective way to centralize transportation. We look forward to opening discussions around the *Superlinx* strategy for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

Transportation is a core component within the GTHA's economic competitiveness model as it allows the clear movement of people and goods. However, congestion across the GTHA is impacting our economic competitiveness. *Superlinx* addresses many of the key areas that Metrolinx and individual Regional and Municipal transportation authorities are unable to move forward on; namely the ability to advance a Municipal and Region wide transportation platform with a focus on integrating transportation networks across the GTHA.

A "big picture" approach to transportation planning is often sidelined by a number of issues, including NIMBYISM within municipalities and regions across the GTHA. A centralized agency offers a key solution to this by uploading all of the GTHA transportation planning authority to a single body that can focus on this "big picture", and operate at arm's length from local governments. It will be able to deliver the implementation and development of transportation planning and infrastructure in a cost effective and timely manner. Fare integration and network connectivity which has been an ongoing challenge for Metrolinx and individual transportation authorities across the GTHA, would subsequently be made easier through a central agency.

Current transportation problems stem from a lack of proper prioritization of projects and a need for evidence-based planning. Through a *Superlinx* approach, decision making would be more transparent and accountable. It would help ensure that there will be a return on investment in part by reducing and eliminating existing barriers to service.

The concept of a central transportation authority is appealing because it will be large enough to remove the inter-agency problems that currently exist such as connectivity and fare integration. By removing local politics from transportation planning, we can help ensure that approved projects will be based on sound decision making.

The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce is pleased to work with the Toronto Region Board of Trade on further developing the concept of a centralized transportation agency.



Thank you,

Debra Scott
President & CEO
Newmarket Chamber of Commerce

cc: Jan De Silva, President & CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade
Steve Orsini, Secretary of Cabinet
Victor Fedeli, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party
Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party