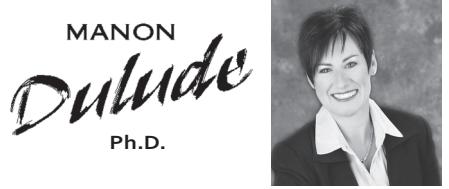




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# Big talk about Big Move

By LISA TALLYN  
*Staff Writer*

Several area residents took part in a "Big Conversation" about The Big Move—Metrolinx's plan to improve transportation throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area—Saturday afternoon.

Metrolinx hosted a public roundtable meeting at the Gellert Community Centre that drew about 35 people from Halton Hills and Milton. It was the second meeting in Halton.

"We (GTA and Hamilton residents) have one of the longest commute times in North America. We actually are above Los Angeles," said Metrolinx President and CEO Bruce McCuaig.

He said the average commute time is 82 minutes and by 2031 if there aren't any improvements to transportation that time will jump to 109 minutes.

The Big Move—Metrolinx's solution—is already underway with \$16 billion worth of construction ongoing now including \$1.2 billion being spent to upgrade track infrastructure on the Georgetown GO line "so that we can actually have more service on the Georgetown corridor," said McCuaig.

Other current projects include Mississauga Bus Rapid Transit, Union Station to Pearson Express train, and Toronto York-Spadina Subway extension.

"This is a beginning," said McCuaig. "This isn't enough."

In the next wave of projects McCuaig said they would like to move all GO Rail corridors to two-way-all day service.

"We would like to electrify the Georgetown corridor. If we can move to an electrified system we can have more trains on the same amount of corridor," said McCuaig.

"Our objective is to have more train service starting in 2015 to take you into Toronto," said McCuaig.

For Milton residents, however, Metrolinx has proposed a delay in implementing two-way, all-day rail service to Milton from a 15 year to a 16-25 year planning horizon. Some Milton residents at the meeting expressed their disappointment and frustration with that news.

McCuaig said the Milton line faces challenges because it's owned by CP Rail, and improvements to the track

**See BIG, pg. 5**



**BRUCE MCCUAIG**

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