

# Metrolinx plan may mean improved rail service here

**LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

Massive expansion of public transit is at the core of a draft strategy to be considered by Metrolinx today (Friday).

The draft plan maps out \$50 billion in new projects over 25 years—including the expansion of local GO train service to all-day two way service between Georgetown and Union Station.

The plan called The Big Move: Transforming Transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area sets out nearly 100 actions to build new transportation infrastructure and improve transit service.

The plan, that was previewed Tuesday, still needs approval by the 11-member Metrolinx board which will consider it today, and after that, public consultation will be held to study the recommendations before a final report is issued to the province, with implementation to begin soon after.

Included on the Regional Transportation Plan (to be done within 15 years) is a list of proposed services and service enhancements impacting Halton: the enhanced Georgetown GO service; dedicated bus lane on Dundas St. West between Hwy. 403 and Waterdown and on Trafalgar Rd. between Hwy 407 and mid-town Oakville; express rail service on the Lakeshore West line between Hamilton and Union Station; upgraded GO Train service in Milton and Union Station/Summerhill and a rapid bus transit lane between Oakville GO and Mississauga City Centre via Hwy. 403.

“As Halton and the GTA continue to grow,



**GARY CARR**

it becomes increasingly important to have a reliable inter-regional transportation system that can get commuters from one point of the GTA to the other seamlessly,” said Halton Region Chair Gary Carr.

Carr said there was no timeline yet for when the improvements to GO in Georgetown

would occur.

Halton Region is planning to hold a Metrolinx Open House at Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Rd., however, a date has not yet been set.

“A great deal of work and research has gone into Metrolinx’s Regional Transportation Plan. It will affect everyone who uses Halton’s highways, roads and streets. I urge everyone to voice their opinion at the open house or to me through email. It is very important that we have community feedback,” said Carr.

Carr can be reached via e-mail at [gary.carr@halton.ca](mailto:gary.carr@halton.ca).

“This is big,” said Rob MacIsaac, Chair of Metrolinx. “Transportation is the largest challenge facing our region—and this plan will be a major step forward in addressing that challenge. This plan will launch a ‘Renaissance of Transportation’ for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.”

See METROLINX, pg. 10

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