

COMMUTING: Another option for residents starting in 2013

GO Transit adding rail stop in Gormley

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Commuters living on the west side of Whitchurch-Stouffville will have another option when it comes to getting into Toronto in two years.

A new GO Transit train station and more parking spaces will soon arrive in Richmond Hill, it was announced Tuesday.

The new station will be in the Gormley area, just north of Stouffville Road and east of Leslie Street, just west of Hwy. 404, the Whitchurch-Stouffville/Richmond Hill border.

Construction will cost \$12 million and work is expected to begin this fall, with the station being operational by early 2013.

More immediate relief is on board for GO commuters who use the Newkirk Road station, as a new 500-space parking lot is planned, adding to the existing 1,500 parking spaces. The expanded parking lot is expected to be finished by year's end.

More than 2,300 commuters use the Newkirk station daily.

Both announcements were made Tuesday by GO Transit president Gary McNeil and Ontario Transportation Minister Kathleen Wynne.

Ms Wynne, who grew up in Richmond Hill, was also joined for the announcement by Richmond Hill MPP Reza Moridi, Oak Ridges-Markham MPP Helena Jaczek, Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Barrow, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and York Regional chairperson Bill Fisch.

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STAFF PHOTO/ADAM MCLEAN

Transportation Minister Kathleen Wynne and GO Transit president Gary McNeil announced this week that a GO rail station will be built in Gormley for commuters in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Oak Ridges and Richmond Hill.

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Kathleen Wynne
Ontario Transportation Minister

convenient and one day, the most convenient of options," said Ms Wynne, speaking at a podium on Gormley Road West, in the Gormley Heritage District, just metres from the CN tracks.

"And it's important we have the community here, so we have a sense of their feeling. Speaking with them, I'm glad to hear that more transit options are important."

One of those Gormley Road West residents on hand for the announcement was Jim Corrigan, who said a new GO stop roughly 200 metres up the track sounds like a good idea.

"Its proximity to us won't be much of a problem and you figure it can only help our property value

now that this new transit option is nearby. I think this move will make a lot of sense to a lot of people," he said.

Not only will the station help the daily commuter, but as Dr. Moridi was quick to point out, construction of the new station and parking lot expansion will create roughly 1,000 new jobs.

"We need these new jobs as much as we need these additional transit options," he said.

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• For more information on GO Transit in York Region and the GTA, go to www.gotransit.com

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