

Attention News Editors:

McGuinty Government's Bold New Rapid Transit Plan To Benefit Barrie Residents

Largest Rapid Transit Expansion in Canada's History

BARRIE, ON, June 15 /CNW/ - Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Transportation Donna Cansfield today released MoveOntario 2020, a bold new rapid transit plan that will create more jobs in the City of Barrie, reduce traffic congestion and improve the environment.

"The people of Barrie deserve a transit system that meets their needs so they can spend less time commuting and more time with their families," Premier McGuinty said. "Businesses will also be able to get their goods to market on time and keep Ontario's economy strong."

MoveOntario 2020, a \$17.5 billion rapid transit plan, is the largest transit investment in Canadian history. By 2015, two-thirds of the construction for MoveOntario 2020 will be completed, with nearly full completion of the plan in 2020.

The province is contributing up to \$11.5 billion and is calling on the federal government to cover at least one third of the costs, expected to be \$6 billion. The province will cover the balance of the capital costs and the province and municipalities will continue to share operating costs through the existing provincial gas tax program. The Greater Toronto Transportation Authority has been asked to report back with an implementation plan for these projects by early 2008.

Ontario's plan calls for 52 rapid transit projects that will create 175,000 jobs during construction. By 2020, it will also reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the region by 10 megatonnes.

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Under the new rapid transit plan, the City of Barrie would see the:

- Expansion of service on the Bradford GO rail line extension to Barrie beyond the four daily trains expected to serve Barrie by late 2007
- Doubling the tracks to allow for more frequent service

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"Transforming our system will not happen overnight, but it must be done," Transportation Minister Donna Cansfield said. "We need to develop a sustainable transportation system which gets people out of their cars and onto transit to reduce congestion and improve our environment."

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Disponible en français

www.mto.gov.on.ca

Backgrounder

MOVEONTARIO 2020 PROJECTS

GO Transit Commuter Rail

1. GO Lakeshore West rail line capacity expansion by adding a third track from Port Credit to Oakville
2. GO Lakeshore West rail line capacity expansion by adding a third track from Burlington to Hamilton
3. GO Lakeshore East rail line capacity expansion by adding a third

- track from Union Station to Scarborough
- 4. GO Lakeshore East rail line extension from Oshawa to Bowmanville
- 5. GO Lakeshore rail line electrification (SuperGO)
- 6. GO Milton rail line capacity expansion from Union Station to Milton
- 7. GO Georgetown rail line capacity expansion from Union Station to Georgetown
- 8. GO Bradford rail line capacity expansion from Union Station to Bradford
- 9. GO Bradford rail line extension and capacity expansion from Bradford to Barrie
- 10. GO Richmond Hill rail line capacity expansion from Union Station to Richmond Hill
- 11. GO Richmond Hill rail line extension to Aurora Road
- 12. GO Stouffville rail line capacity expansion from Union Station to Stouffville and extension of the line to Uxbridge
- 13. New GO Crosstown rail line between Weston Road and the Don Valley
- 14. New GO Crosstown rail line between the Don Valley and Agincourt
- 15. New GO rail line from Union Station to Bolton
- 16. New GO rail line on the Havelock line from Agincourt to Pickering
- 17. New GO rail line on the Seaton line from Agincourt to Brock Road in Pickering

GO Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

- 18. GO Bus Rapid Transit along Highway 403 from Oakville GO rail station to Mississauga
- 19. Mississauga Transitway west of Mississauga City Centre to Winston Churchill Boulevard
- 20. Mississauga Transitway east of Mississauga City Centre to Renforth Drive
- 21. GO Bus Rapid Transit northwest Toronto link from Renforth Drive to York University
- 22. GO Bus Rapid Transit on Markham Road from Highway 407 in Markham to Highway 401
- 23. GO Bus Rapid Transit on Highway 401 from Markham Road in Scarborough to Pickering GO rail station
- 24. GO Bus Rapid Transit connector on Highway 427 from Renforth Drive to Highway 407
- 25. GO Bus Rapid Transit along Highway 407 from York University to Langstaff (Yonge Street) and on to Markham Road
- 26. GO Bus Rapid Transit along Highway 407 from Burlington to Highway 401
- 27. GO Bus Rapid Transit along Highway 407 from Highway 401 to Highway 427
- 28. GO Bus Rapid Transit along Highway 407 from Highway 427 to York University

Subway and Other Rapid Transit

- 29. Yonge subway line extension north from Finch station to Highway 7 (Langstaff)
- 30. VIVA Markham North-South Link from Markham Centre to Don Mills station
- 31. Pearson Air-Rail link to Union Station
- 32. Hamilton east-west rapid transit on King/Main Streets from Eastgate Mall to McMaster University
- 33. Hamilton north-south rapid transit on James/Upper James Streets from Rymal Road to King Street
- 34. Brampton Acceleride on Queen Street from Main Street to Highway 50
- 35. Hurontario Light Rail Transit from Queen Street in Brampton to Lakeshore Road in Mississauga
- 36. Eglinton Avenue Light Rail Transit from Renforth Drive to Kennedy Road in Scarborough
- 37. Yonge Bus Rapid Transit busway from Finch station to Steeles Avenue

38. Dundas Street West Light Rail Transit from Kipling station to Hurontario Street
39. Scarborough RT extension from McCowan station to Sheppard Avenue
40. Sheppard Avenue Light Rail Transit from Don Mills Road to Morningside Avenue
41. Finch Avenue West Light Rail Transit from Highway 27 to Yonge Street
42. Don Mills Road Light Rail Transit from Steeles Avenue to the Bloor-Danforth subway
43. Jane Street Light Rail Transit from Steeles Avenue to Jane station on the Bloor-Danforth subway
44. Malvern Light Rail Transit from Kennedy station to Malvern
45. Waterfront West Light Rail Transit from Union Station to Long Branch
46. VIVA Yonge Street from Steeles Avenue to Highway 7 (Langstaff)
47. VIVA Yonge Street from Highway 7 (Langstaff) to 19th Avenue in Richmond Hill
48. VIVA Yonge Street from 19th Avenue to Newmarket
49. VIVA Highway 7 from Highway 50 to Yonge Street (Langstaff)
50. VIVA Highway 7 from Yonge Street (Langstaff) to Cornell
51. Durham rapid transit line on Highway 2 from Oshawa to Pickering
52. Spadina subway line extension north from Downsview station to Highway 7 (Vaughan Corporate Centre)

(*) Projects subject to the review of the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority.

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The Government of Ontario also announced today it will fund up to two-thirds of the project costs for Kitchener-Waterloo's rapid transit plan. The government will work with the region to request the balance of funding from the federal government.

Click the following link to view a map of MoveOntario project locations:
<http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/documents/movingontariomap.pdf>

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www.mto.gov.on.ca

Backgrounder

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

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"This is the boldest, most visionary development in the history of the Greater Toronto Area and will transform the region into a community where public transit makes a real difference. Where there's a will, there's a way, and this announcement makes it clear that this government has the will to make it happen."

Michael W. Roschlau, President and Chief Executive Officer,
Canadian Urban Transit Association

"This government's unprecedented investment in public transit in the GTA will have a huge impact on improving traffic and in contributing to economic growth. This is a tremendous shot in the arm for public transit and our Associations look forward to working with the Provincial Government and with stakeholders to help make it all happen.

Beatrice Schmied, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Public Transit Association

"Solving our municipal infrastructure deficit can really only be solved through significant, sustained and predictable infrastructure investments. The benefits of increasing inter-regional transit are numerous and invaluable to citizens, the economy and our environment."

Doug Reycraft, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

"This is wonderful news. Serious transit infrastructure expansion has lagged for over 20 years in the GTA, but this historic funding announcement should put public transit back on track for the next 20. It shows an excellent commitment to cities."

"The new six month cap on environmental assessments is itself a monumental breakthrough as EAs on public transit had so lost track of their purpose they were forever stalling transit projects and driving up costs to prohibitive levels."

Paul Bedford, Urban Mentor and Chief Planner Emeritus, City of Toronto & Board of Directors, Greater Toronto Transportation Authority

"Today's announcement is historic in proportion. It affords the GTTA an immense opportunity to positively influence the day-to-day lives of people in Greater Toronto and Hamilton. It will surely be viewed as a key turning point in our region's history towards a sustainable transportation system."

Robert MacIsaac, Chair, Greater Toronto Transportation Authority

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