



POLICY RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE: Political Action Committee

SUBJECT: Greater Toronto Area Transportation Authority

RECOMMENDATION: That the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Golden Horseshoe Chamber Caucus, Lobby for the implementation of a Greater Toronto Area Transportation Authority to address the issue of gridlock within the GTA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The present transportation situation within the Greater Toronto Area is of concern to business and, therefore, to local Chambers and Boards of Trade. A crisis is brewing throughout local highways that are close to, or exceeding capacity. The GHCC believes that a public-private Transportation Authority is needed to handle the unique transportation issues within the GTA, as opposed to Central Ontario. The GTA suffers most from the transportation crisis and so the GTA should be the main priority. Other areas can be addressed in the future under similar authorities. In order to operate properly, the Transportation Authority must be given the necessary tools, to operate effectively, have legitimacy and be able to carry out its mandate.

The Province also understands the need for a coordinated body to deal with transportation issues. Their Central Ontario Smart Growth Panel recommended the establishment of a Transportation Authority to deal with the future of transportation for Central Ontario.

The primary initiative of all parties is the creation and further enhancement of inter-regional transit. This is believed to be the main element in relieving Gridlock within the GTA. However, more is needed to ensure the GTA has a method to deal with future transportation needs.

The recent Liberal Party election platform discusses the need for a Transportation Authority to address the present and future concerns of Gridlock within the GTA. This aligns itself along the same path of the Golden Horseshoe Chamber Caucus (GHCC).

BACKGROUND REPORT:

See attached document.

DISSEMINATION:

Burlington Chamber of Commerce Policy Manual.

External Communication as required at a later date.

Date: July, 2003

Passed by Executive Council on August 13, 2003