



December 12, 2013

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario  
Room 281, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne:

The Burlington Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to offer our perspectives on the important role Metrolinx plays in helping plan and deliver public transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

The present transportation situation within the GTHA is of concern to business and, therefore, to local Chambers and Boards of Trade. For many of the region's businesses traffic gridlock is a major drag on productivity. The overstretched transportation networks are a *regional* problem requiring *regional* solutions; congestion does not recognize municipal borders.

For many years the Burlington Chamber of Commerce has been advocating for effective and regionally-based transportation planning and development. We were among the first stakeholders to recommend the establishment of a regional transportation planning agency, which eventually became Metrolinx. Metrolinx's mandate to develop, adopt and implement a region-wide transportation plan and ensure the efficient and cost effective resolution of transportation matters is as relevant now as it was then. It is worth recognizing the important progress Metrolinx has made in fulfilling these objectives. The development of The Big Move and a recommended investment strategy with revenue tools to implement it are significant and notable milestones. The rollout of several major regional transportation projects is more than welcomed after years of underinvestment.

"I firmly believe that the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area is one economic region and that we need to embrace transportation improvements for the region as a whole" states Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring. "Municipalities need to forge partnerships and alliances with other communities that share common interests, goals, resources and barriers to develop a strong and more impactful voice. I welcome any opportunity that allows municipalities to have some involvement in directing the investment and plans locally, but also suggest that the federal government needs to participate in funding and supporting urban transportation systems. Canada is the only country in the G8 without a National Transit Strategy. Compared with

other regions in the world, we are very far behind in our transportation network and this will, over the long term, compromise our prosperity and economic vibrancy.”

Nonetheless, we can't ignore the increasing challenges to Metrolinx's role as an *independent* voice in the planning and delivery of transportation projects in the GTHA including Burlington.

While no one would question the need for political oversight of major infrastructure investments, this must be balanced with the very real necessity of having long-term planning and funding certainty in place for transportation projects which have multi-decade horizons.

To summarize, the Burlington Chamber of Commerce strongly believes in the need for a robust regional transportation planning and service delivery agency to make our regional transportation aspirations a reality. With the right governance structures, in a depoliticized environment, Metrolinx should play this role in the future.

Yours truly,



Keith Hoey  
President  
Burlington Chamber of Commerce



Shelley McQuade  
Chair  
Burlington Chamber of Commerce

cc.

Hon. Glen Murray  
Mayor Rick Goldring

