



Sustainable Transportation Lay of the Land

As a citizen or activist concerned about sustainable transportation you have a voice. In Toronto, we have the Municipal and Provincial governments at our disposal, but finding out who to call and what to do can be confusing. Here are some suggestions on where to start, but don't neglect the Blue Pages of your Bell Telephone Book as a source of information on government services, particularly when you are unsure as to which division of government is responsible for a particular issue. Also check the Groups section of this directory for information from groups who focus on lobbying for sustainable transportation issues.

City of Toronto

The municipal government is responsible for arterial roads and expressways, local roads and sidewalks, car and bike parking, some bike lanes, the TTC, speed and some planning. Municipalities now have more control over local transportation making them partners with the province in transportation service planning and delivery*. Check this directory for information on municipal sustainable transportation initiatives.

Whether you need to access a service, want to make a deputation before Council or a committee or simply get some information, City Hall may be the place to start. Your Councillor is a decision-maker who is accountable to you and represents the interests of his or her community. Accessing Council, both in terms of services and the political process begins with a call or visit to **ACCESS TORONTO**, the public information centre. Pick up a copy of *Our City*, a guide on how to reach your Mayor, members of Council and telephone numbers of major municipal services for the new City of Toronto.

- **ACCESS TORONTO** General Inquiry: (416) 338-0338 (Voice), (416) 338-0889 (TTY); INTERNET: www.city.toronto.on.ca
- Councillor's Offices: call **ACCESS TORONTO**; also check the 'Very Important Phone Numbers' section for more City of Toronto transport-related resources

Greater Toronto Services Board*

The Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB) was established on January 1, 1999 to promote and facilitate coordinated decision-making among the municipalities in the GTA and to exercise general direction and control over GO Transit. GTSB Member Municipalities include the City of Toronto, all local and regional Municipalities in the GTA and the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth. The GTSB does not directly deliver services to the public other than through GO Transit.

The Board has 42 members, including a Chair, the Mayors of all GTA municipalities, one Councillor from the City of Mississauga, 10 Councillors from the City of Toronto, the Chairs of the four GTA Regional Municipalities, and the Chair of Hamilton-Wentworth Region (voting only on matters relating to GO Transit and election of the GTSB Chair). The Board has established a Transportation Standing Committee, comprising Members of the Board and other members of municipal councils in the GTA and Hamilton-Wentworth, to make recommendations on how to work towards an affordable, integrated transportation network. For more information check GTSB's listings in this directory, call (416) 338-2989 or visit www.gtsb.on.ca.

**(Source: Greater Toronto Services Board)*

Province of Ontario*

The provincial government affects transportation in the 'Big Picture' sense through planning legislation and economic policy, but is also responsible for the provincial highway network, road user safety regulations, and licensing. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is an economic ministry which aims to foster a positive business climate supported by a safe and efficient transportation network. It advocates for the health of Ontario's overall transportation system, and for the competitiveness of industries that rely on transportation within Ontario and beyond its borders. The Ministry sets safety standards, and establishes and enforces road user safety regulations. It also sets design and maintenance standards, and manages the building and maintenance of the provincial transportation network.



For more information on MTO visit www.mto.gov.on.ca. Check www.gov.on.ca to access electronic versions of provincial legislation and regulations on transportation.

The provincial government's on-line telephone directory is at www.pace.gov.on.ca

The best way to access the provincial government is through your Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP):

- Look them up in the Blue Pages - call (416) 321-3000 to check your constituency
- Call the Citizens' Inquiry Bureau at (416) 326-1234
- Meet with and write to your MPP about your concerns and issues

The Ontario Environment Network publishes "Public Consultation: A Citizen's Handbook," a guide to assessing and participating in public consultation programs. It's available for \$5.00, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling and is a good introduction to participation in planning and policy at a formal level. Ontario Environment Network, 27 Douglas Street, Guelph, Ontario N1H 2S7, Tel: (519) 837-2565, Fax: (519) 837-8113, Email: oen@web.net

**(Source: Ministry of Transportation)*

Government of Canada*

1997 was a critical year for international action on climate change. High-level officials from 160 countries reached an eleventh-hour agreement on a legally binding Protocol which stipulates that industrialized countries must reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by 5.2 per cent. The agreement - reached at the Third Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997 - aims to lower overall emissions from a group of six greenhouse gases by 2008 to 2012. Canada has never signed an international agreement that carries such potentially important changes to the way we live and work. Canada agreed to a six per cent reduction in greenhouse gases in 12 years. To meet this target, Canada

must cut its fossil fuel emissions by 21 per cent - to make up for projected economic and population growth. The work of Canadian cities, especially Toronto, to reduce greenhouse gases is now even more important.

First Ministers have since agreed to establish a process to examine the challenges of the Kyoto Protocol and provide for the full participation of the federal, provincial and territorial governments in any implementation and management of the Protocol. They directed their Ministers of Environment and Energy to work together to consider jointly the appropriate course of action. In the 1998 federal budget the Government of Canada committed \$150 million over the next three years to build momentum toward concrete action and results on climate change and lay the foundation for the development of a National Action Plan on Climate Change. The federal government also established a Secretariat to coordinate its planning and responses to climate change.

In September 1999, Transport Minister David Collenette launched Transport Canada's Moving On Sustainable Transportation program (MOST), which commits \$1,025,000 over three years to assist nongovernmental projects. "The concept of sustainable transportation cuts across the critical issues of our time," said Mr. Collenette. "This program will help provide the resources needed to allow individuals and groups to take action to protect the environment as we build toward the future."

Check this directory for more information on federal sustainable transportation related initiatives and visit www.ec.gc.ca, www.climatechange.gc.ca, www.nccp.ca, and www.tc.gc.ca. For other useful Government of Canada information check: www.gc.ca/directories/direct_e.html

The best way to access the federal government is through your Member of Parliament (MP):

- Visit the on-line Member of Parliament Directory at http://www.gc.ca/directories/direct_e.html
- Meet with and write to your MP about your concerns and issues

**(Sources: Toronto Atmospheric Fund Annual Report 1997; Government of Canada web sites)*