

**City Council**

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**Notice of Motion**

MM5.5	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Electrification of the Air Rail Link - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Doug Ford**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Planning and Growth Management Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Doug Ford, recommends that:

1. City Council request that the Minister of Transportation consult with international rail electrification experts to determine whether electrification of the Air Rail Link can be completed by 2015.
2. City Council request that if rail electrification experts are of the opinion that the Air Rail Link cannot be built to operate as electric in time for the Pan Am Games, alternative transportation plans be made to transport people from the airport to Union Station for the duration of the Games to avoid added costs of converting from diesel operation to electric.

**Summary**

On June 27-28, 2009, City Council requested Metrolinx to use electric vehicles for the Georgetown GO and Air Rail Link (ARL) services. Recently, Metrolinx has recommended to the Province that the Georgetown South Corridor be considered a priority for electrification, with the ARL to be electrified first. While this is a move in the right direction, the ARL is still planned to operate as diesel first, to be later converted to electric. The justification for this to date has been that an electric ARL cannot be completed in time for the Pan-Am Games in 2015.

It appears as though to date, serious consideration of electrifying the ARL from the onset has not been given. While Metrolinx has asserted that building an electric line would not be possible within the deadline of the Pan-Am Games, many do not believe this to be the case and that consultation with rail electrification experts who have experience in building electric lines may counter Metrolinx' assertion.

If Metrolinx is correct in stating the ARL cannot be up and running by 2015 if built electric, one must question whether the Pan-Am Games justifies the additional costs that will be incurred by the Province, and borne by taxpayers, to convert to electrification later on. At question is not the need for the ARL.

Private Members Motions have been presented at both the Provincial and Federal level by local representatives MPP Laura Albanese and MP Alan Tonks in support of electrification. On February 24, 2011, MPP Laura Albanese presented another Private Members Motion which contained a recommendation that the electrification of the ARL be completed by 2015; the motion was carried unanimously. It would be befitting that at this time, the City of Toronto reaffirm this position as well.

(Submitted to City Council on March 8, 2011 as MM5.5)