

February 26, 2014

Planning and Growth Management Committee
City Hall
100 Queen St West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the PGMC:

Re: GO electrification & GTHA Regional Rapid Rail: A Vision for the Future

The electrification of the Union-Pearson Express has been recommended as the cornerstone project to begin transforming the GO Network to run on electric power by Metrolinx. The Electrification Study put forward by the Metrolinx Board approved this in principle on January 26th, 2011, subject to the environmental assessment and funding availability. Premier Kathleen Wynne was the Minister of Transportation at that time.

Metrolinx has ranked electrification as the priority in its next wave expansion and the current Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure, Glen Murray, tweeted last April that Union Pearson is to be electric by 2017. Metrolinx is now finalizing the implementation planning work for electrifying the Georgetown corridor and is into their EA process which to be completed this year. It is now time for the Province to commit to the implementation of this project, a key part of electrifying the region, and to commit the necessary budget which will be repaid over time by the cost savings on fuel and servicing of the vehicles.

The opportunity to build a better system for the GTA is now. We are at our tipping point between being able to move forward or stagnation. For far too many years and too many opportunities to build a viable and reliable transportation system have been passed by on the premise that it's 'too expensive' or through indecision as to what to do next. We need to be bold and think of the future of our great City and the residents around the GTA who are starving for a 'better way'.

Respectfully,

Rick Ciccarelli

Rick Ciccarelli, Chair
Clean Train Coalition

Suri Weinberg-Linsky

Suri Weinberg-Linsky, Co-Chair
Weston Community Coalition