

# Airport Employment Zone Coalition

March 8, 2016

Submitted by Ingrid Pringle

## EX13.3.4

Sent via email to: exc@toronto.ca

Mayor John Tory and Members of Executive Committee  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: Airport Employment Zone Transit  
Staff Report EX 13.3 Developing Toronto's Transit Network**

Dear Mayor and Members of Executive Committee,

We are the Airport Employment Zone Coalition. Our members represent a broad spectrum of individuals, industries, employers, labour groups and other organizations dedicated to improving transit connectivity to the western Greater Toronto Area, specifically the Airport Employment Zone (AEZ) around Toronto Pearson International Airport.

The AEZ is the second largest employment cluster in Canada, outside of Toronto's downtown. This area includes Mississauga's Airport Corporate Centre, Toronto's hotel strip, Humber College, Woodbine Entertainment, the community of Malton, as well as the industrial/commercial areas in the Cities of Mississauga and Brampton. With upwards of 300,000 employees, this area has more employees than the downtown employment zones of Vancouver, Calgary or Montreal.

At the heart of the AEZ is Toronto Pearson. With 40,000 employees, 41 million passengers and 450,000 tonnes of cargo in 2015, Toronto Pearson is not only a significant economic gateway for our Region, but for the entire province and the rest of Canada. By 2032, it is forecasted that the airport alone will employ 60,000 people, serve 65-70 million passengers and transport 600,000 tonnes of cargo. The area is home to key employment nodes such as the Airport Corporate Centre with approximately 30,000 workers, Humber College with 52,000 students and 7,709 staff, and Woodbine with 4,700 employees, as well as being a significant tourism destination with 6 million visitors annually.

Despite its size and economic importance, the AEZ is not well connected to the City or the region through higher-order transit, which has resulted in traffic congestion in the area reaching critical levels. More than 90 per cent of employees in the AEZ drive to work and only 8 per cent of air passengers and employees use transit

to get to the airport. Many of these workers must transfer bus routes multiple times and pay an additional fare as they move from one municipality to the next. Although employees in the downtown core and other high-employment zones can pursue alternative modes of transport for their commute, those options are much more limited in the auto-dependent environment of the AEZ.

The AEZ Coalition believes that Toronto Pearson's vision for a multi-modal hub located on the airport lands represents an important next step towards increasing transit usage and regional connectivity in the zone. The Greater Toronto Airports Authority recently released *Pearson Connect: A Multi-Modal Platform for Prosperity*, which further details the need and benefits of the concept. A copy of that white paper is attached to this letter.

We are very excited about the opportunity to be involved in a region-building project that serves a multitude of transportation needs. We believe this is an initiative that carries national economic significance as the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area, particularly the western GTA, is set to double over the next 20-30 years. In our view, the Pearson Hub would effectively and efficiently create stronger linkages, facilitate economic activity and produce other social and environmental benefits. Potential benefits of the Pearson Hub include:

- Take advantage of the high concentration of travel demand generated by the airport and surrounding zone;
- Provide an economically-critical "missing link" in the regional transit systems;
- Connect people to economic opportunities in Canada's second largest concentration of employment;
- Provide networked transit service to many of the GTA's most disadvantaged communities;
- Stimulate ongoing, high value economic activity in the Airport Employment Zone and beyond; and
- Support a reduction in greenhouse gas emission and other pollutants.

To make the Pearson Hub a reality, the AEZ Coalition has identified a number of short-term (5-8 year) initiatives that must be advanced and integrated in to the Pearson Hub. Below is a list of these necessary building blocks, including an identification of the work required in the short term. They include,

- funding of the Crosstown Eglinton LRT from Mt. Denis to the Pearson Hub;
- completion of the Finch LRT Environmental Assessment, west from Humber College, via Woodbine to the Pearson Hub;
- integration and connection Mi-Way BRT from the Renforth Gateway to the Pearson Hub; and
- completion of the 'Missing Link' to allow for all-day, two-way GO service on the Kitchener and Milton GO lines.

Over the next several months, the AEZ will continue to engage with the City of Toronto, City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, the Province, and Metrolinx.

We look forward to working with the City of Toronto to improve connectivity to the AEZ and building a better transit future.

Best Regards,

Airport Employment Zone Coalition



Steven Tufts

**Solidarity YYZ!**

toronto airport workers' council



Noah Gordon, Chair  
Airport Corporate Centre  
Landowners Group



Rani K. Dhaliwal  
Sr. VP, Planning and Corp Services & CFO  
Humber College



Hillary Marshall  
VP, Stakeholder Relations &  
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GTAA



Sam Kohli  
Malton BIA



William Ford  
Corporate Secretary and General  
Counsel  
Woodbine Entertainment Group



CC:

- Mayor Tory, Chair of Executive Committee
- Councillor Paul Ainslie (Ward 43), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor Ana Bailão (Ward 18), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor Michelle Holland (Ward 35), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor Gary Crawford (Ward 36), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor Frank Di Giorgio (Ward 12), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon (Ward 32), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong (Ward 34), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor Cesar Palacio (Ward 17), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor James Pasternak (Ward 10), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor Jaye Robinson (Ward 25), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor David Shiner (Ward 24), Member of Executive Committee
- Councillor Michael Thompson (Ward 37), Member of Executive Committee