



Moving Forward....Moving People

Linking Growth and Transit

As Ontario's population continues to climb, there's an increasing sense of urgency around the need for strategic growth planning – particularly around transportation. Recent estimates indicate that over the next 30 years, the number of people living in Ontario will grow by as many as four million – with the majority of those locating in the Greater Toronto Area.

A reliable, convenient and much more extensive transit system will be critical in order to accommodate this growth. The success of our economy hinges on the ability to transport residents and business people quickly, safely and effectively.

Mississauga's Rapid Transit Program

Mississauga's **Rapid Transit Program** represents an innovative and strategic vision, designed to meet the challenges associated with future growth. The Rapid Transit Program has been built around the vision of moving people through the Greater Toronto Area in an efficient, safe and reliable manner. This program has been designed to complement Ontario's Smart Growth and Places to Grow strategies. It also directly supports Canada's emphasis on supporting communities by improving our national infrastructure and fighting congestion through public transit.

The Rapid Transit Program consists of two initial components, which can be introduced in a phased approach:

- BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) along the Highway 403/Eglinton Corridor; and
- Higher order transit such as BRT or LRT (Light Rapid Transit) along the Hurontario Street corridor.

BRT – Ready to Move

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) initiative will play a key role in easing traffic congestion and facilitating the quick, efficient transportation of people within the Greater Toronto Area. The BRT is a provincially-planned rapid transit network, extending from Oakville to Pickering. The BRT was designed to complement, and interconnect with, the existing radial commute rail and subway systems.

The BRT has been designed as a roadway for use exclusively by buses. The BRT will serve many different markets within the region, and will feature stations which allow for easy integration with local services.

Easing Gridlock

The Mississauga segment of the BRT will benefit businesses, particularly offices in the City Centre and near Pearson International Airport, which is the second largest employment area in the GTA. The BRT network will offer local businesses and residents new options for commuting, while easing gridlock on our key highways and streets and ultimately improving air quality. At the Toronto border, it can tie directly into the Kipling subway station to the south and York University to the north via Highway 427. In fact, the government is currently reviewing options for incorporating transit priority measures within the Highway 427 corridor.

The BRT is not simply a one-way commuting route into Toronto. In fact, many people are surprised to learn that more people actually commute into Mississauga for work each day than commute out to Toronto. As the GTA continues to grow and mature, this dispersed travel pattern will require innovative transit alternatives to the GO Rail system, which focuses primarily on downtown Toronto.

Positioned for Success

The portion of the BRT within Mississauga is ready to move toward construction today. A great deal of time and effort has been invested over the past several years, in partnership with GO Transit, building toward this vision for the future of transportation in the Greater Toronto Area. The environmental assessment has been completed and approved.

We have not only an opportunity, but an obligation to begin construction on this important project. We can't do it alone, however. It is vital that senior levels of government provide partner funding to make the BRT a reality.

Higher Order Transit – An Alternative to the Car

The second key component of this critical transit strategy is a higher order transit system that addresses the Hurontario corridor.

Hurontario is Mississauga Transit's busiest and fastest-growing transit corridor, with significant potential for ridership growth. This corridor directly services two stations within the GO Rail network, it links Mississauga and Brampton, and also ties into Brampton's Acceleride transit program.

Transportation Planning Meets Land Use Planning

The Hurontario corridor has great potential for intensification. It also represents a tremendous opportunity to combine transportation planning and land use planning in a true, long-term vision for this region. In fact, current ridership rates for this corridor warrant the introduction of LRT service today.

A higher order transit system would also present an opportunity to fundamentally change the way people get from point A to point B. It would provide fast, convenient, node-to-node transit. And combined with the BRT, this full transportation network would also take pressure off the existing provincial highway system.

For Now, For the Future

This is a well-designed, strategic solution, designed to meet our transportation needs – now and well into the future.

The feasibility study and environmental assessment for the Hurontario corridor are currently in the planning stages. We can be ready to move forward soon. But for success, we need the government there as a strategic partner, to help make this important plan a reality.

Moving Forward

Mississauga's Rapid Transit Program has the potential to create fundamental change – to get people out of their cars and onto transit.

Mississauga's Rapid Transit Program is a key component of a larger transit strategy for Ontario. As a member of the Central Ontario Smart Growth Panel, we recommended to the Province that a BRT system be built as a way to help meet long-term transportation challenges. The Greater Toronto Services Board recommended the BRT system as a priority and the Smart Growth Panel endorsed it. The Province's Draft Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe area includes both the Mississauga segment of the BRT and the Hurontario transit corridor.

Mississauga's Rapid Transit program complements the strategic planning approach embodied by Smart Growth and builds upon the positive momentum created by initiatives such as the continuing enhancements to GO Transit, the evolution of the provincial highway system, and the recent introduction of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes.

It's clear that there is a real need for a more extensive, reliable and convenient transit system for residents and businesses in Mississauga. The stakes are high, but our Rapid Transit Program plan, comprised of the BRT and Higher Order Transit along Hurontario Street, represents a decisive step in addressing this important issue. The next priority is to ensure that funding is available, so work may proceed on this initiative which is so vital to our future.