

NEWS RELEASE

Environment Minister Issues Positive Decision on Metrolinx Study

TORONTO (October 5, 2009) – Metrolinx received the approval with conditions announced today by Minister of the Environment John Gerretsen of the Environmental Assessment conducted for the Georgetown South Service Expansion and Union-Pearson Rail Link project.

“We are pleased that Minister Gerretsen has approved the environmental assessment with conditions,” said Rob Prichard, President and CEO of Metrolinx. “We accept the conditions. They are constructive and consistent with our commitment to mitigate any adverse impacts of the project on the surrounding communities. When completed, the Georgetown South Service Expansion will make a major contribution to improved transit in the Greater Toronto Area, reduced congestion and better air quality.”

The Minister placed eighteen conditions on the Georgetown South Service Expansion that address concerns raised by the community about the effect of diesel emissions on human health and air quality. Three highlights are as follows:

- Trains operated by GO Transit on the Georgetown rail corridor and the Union Pearson Rail Link service must use Tier 4 state of the art engines when the service expansion begins or as soon as the technology is commercially available;
- A significant human health and mitigation plan must be put in place to address any remaining risks to human health after Tier 4 engines are in operation on the line;
- An ambient air monitoring and reporting plan must be put in place with monitoring locations situated within the boundaries of the Georgetown South Corridor or within the adjacent community.

Metrolinx will comply fully with all of the conditions outlined in the MOE approval including the use of Tier 4 locomotives. Tier 4 compliant locomotives will reduce emissions of hydrocarbons, particulates and nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the corridor. As an example, emissions of nitrogen oxides from these engines will be reduced by more than three quarters from the original estimate.

This service expansion is a critical step towards getting people out of cars onto public transit. The public will begin to experience improvements in frequency of service on the Georgetown line in 2015.



The Georgetown expansion is part of the GO Transit Rail Improvement Program (GO TRIP), a \$1 billion-dollar expansion initiative funded by the federal and provincial governments and local municipalities through the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund. The Union-Pearson link component of the project will be financed and operated by a private sector operator.

Metrolinx is a Crown agency of the Province of Ontario. For more information, visit our website www.metrolinx.com

- 30 -

Media Contact:

Jacque Menezes
Senior Associate, Public Affairs and Media
Metrolinx
Phone: 416-874-5923/ Cell: 647-289-4523
jacque.menezes@metrolinx.com
www.metrolinx.com

Disponible en français