



MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Date:	January 11, 2011 – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Title:	COMMUNICATIONS RESPECTING THE EXTENSION OF GO TRAIN COMMUTER SERVICE THROUGH WOODBRIDGE AND POINTS NORTH IN VAUGHAN
Submitted by:	Councillor Carella

Whereas, the Province of Ontario has vested the co-ordinated development of public transit infrastructure across the Greater Golden Horseshoe in the provincial crown corporation known as Metrolinx; and

Whereas, in furtherance of its mandate, Metrolinx has developed a plan for the staged development of all types of public transit infrastructure within the Greater Golden Horseshoe; and

Whereas, the development of GO Train commuter service through the west half of Vaughan has been identified as a secondary priority within Metrolinx's planning schedule; and

Whereas, a significant number of residents of the western half of Vaughan currently travel outside the area to make use of GO Train commuter services running through stations in northern Etobicoke and two stations in the Maple area (at Major Mackenzie Drive and Rutherford Road); and

Whereas, travel to these stations by motor vehicle increases the number of automobiles on already overcrowded east-west traffic corridors in Vaughan; and

Whereas, two hundred and twelve (212) residents have, by means of an electronic petition, already indicated their wish to see GO Train commuter service in the west half of Vaughan made an immediate priority by Metrolinx;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council receives the aforesaid communications, endorses it, and directs the Clerk to forward it to Metrolinx, with the request that a substantive response be transmitted to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan, for dissemination to the signatories of the communications within three months of the receipt of the communications by Metrolinx.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella, FRSA
Councillor – Ward 2 / Woodbridge West

BACKGROUND / ATTACHMENT TO: COMMUNICATIONS RESPECTING THE EXTENSION OF GO TRAIN COMMUTER SERVICE THROUGH WOODBRIDGE AND POINTS NORTH IN VAUGHAN, SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CARELLA

One of the keys to sustainable development is the increase in the percentage of commuters who rely on public as opposed to private transportation, as contemplated in this recommendation.

Metrolinx has identified primary and secondary priorities for the creation of a comprehensive public transit plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. One part of the plan indicates that GO Train commuter service from Toronto to Bolton, through Woodbridge and other possible station locations in the west half of Vaughan, is a secondary priority for Metrolinx.

The fact is that the customer base for such a service already exists in the west half of Vaughan, as many residents in the area already commute by car to GO Train stations in northern Etobicoke and Maple, where there are two GO stations---one on Major Mackenzie, near city hall, and another on Rutherford Road, east of Keele Street.

To access service at these sites, these would-be rail commuters must first commute by automobile to these stations, where they board trains that are too frequently so crowded that the chance of getting a seat is negligible. By providing GO Train service through Woodbridge, a measure of relief will be given to overcrowding on the lines presently serving Maple and north Etobicoke, while at the same time reducing the number of automobiles needed to bring these commuters from Woodbridge and west Vaughan to the north Etobicoke and Maples stations.

Any development that improves the chances of residents opting for public as opposed to private transit has the net effect of lessening the burden of vehicular traffic on what are for the most part regional roads.

This Council endorses the request of the petitioners and asks Metrolinx to provide a substantive response to the petitioners in writing to the Clerk of the City of Vaughan within three months of the petition being received by Metrolinx

Attachments

1. Communicaitons (available in the Clerk's Department)