

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the Associate Minister

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**Ministère des
Transports**

Bureau de la ministre associée

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Feb. 3, 2021

107-2021-353

Mr. Wayne Emmerson
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Region of York
wayne.emmerson@york.ca

Dear Mr. Emmerson:

The Government of Ontario is committed to building a seamless, convenient and affordable regional transit network throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). On Aug. 12, 2020, the Minister of Transportation's letter announced funding under the Safe Restart Agreement and asked municipalities to participate in discussions with the province on advancing fare and service integration (FSI).

I'm pleased to let you know that the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is establishing a new Fare & Service Integration Provincial-Municipal Table ("the Table"), comprised of senior representatives from transit systems within the GTHA and the broader GO service area.

It is my honour to take on the role as Chair of this Table and I sincerely look forward to the collaborative and important work ahead. The Table's work and recommendations will help inform the provincial government on ways to improve transit and the customer experience. It will serve as an objectives-based, problem-solving body comprised of transit and transportation experts that will foster collaboration between the Ministry of Transportation, Metrolinx, transit systems, and other transit-focused organizations.

In the short-term the Table will address immediate FSI objectives, such as:

- One bus/one fare;
- Cross-boundary challenges for short, "local" trips; and
- Harmonizing fare concessions across systems.

The table will also identify FSI-related service challenges with the goal of supporting COVID-19 economic recovery by improving accessibility, mobility, and access to employment and other essential areas. In the long-term, the table will advance broader FSI objectives with the goal of recommending a single regional fare structure and implementation steps.

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For the first round of meetings, I would like to invite the CEO of your transit agency or a senior delegate to participate on the Table. We are planning to convene our first meeting by mid-February (details to follow).

Please note that the existing FSI-focused tables convened by Metrolinx, such as the Fare Integration Forum and GTHA FSI Working Group, will be paused as MTO convenes the new Table. This will allow us to collectively focus efforts within one forum.

Attached to this letter are the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) governing the Table's work, which will be finalized at the first meeting.

Please send the name of your Table representative to Graham Pedregosa at Graham.Pedregosa@Ontario.ca by Feb. 10, 2021. I look forward to working with your representative to advance fare and service integration for riders. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Kinga Surma
Associate Minister of Transportation (GTA)

- c. The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
Graham Pedregosa, Executive Assistant to the Associate Minister of Transportation (GTA)