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The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Ministry of Transportation
5th Floor - 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Thursday, October 24, 2024

Dear Minister Sarkaria,

Re: Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF)

Thank you for your letter dated Tuesday, September 24, 2024. We are pleased York Region's rapid transit priorities are included in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) Metro Region Agreement proposal. Infrastructure investments by all levels of government are critical to achieving housing supply, economic growth, climate change targets, and social equity objectives across Ontario.

\$1.7 billion is needed immediately from the Canada Public Transit Fund, Metro-Region Agreement stream, for the critical Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects along Highway 7 East in the City of Markham, and Jane Street in the City of Vaughan.

Active development is underway, with more than 40,000 units already approved and approximately 85,000 additional units anticipated along these two BRT corridors in the near future. Regional, Markham and Vaughan staff also continue collaborating on measures to increase the affordable housing supply along these corridors.

These BRT projects are top transit priorities in the GGH. In addition to supporting the residential growth, they:

- Support over 90,000 new jobs anticipated in these two corridors by 2051;
- Service the significant transit ridership growth already occurring and anticipated to continue;
- Create thousands of construction jobs;
- Reduce GHG emissions and increase active transportation use; and
- Leverage past and current transit investments like the Yonge North Subway Extension, and provide vital inter-regional connectivity to GO Transit, health care and education services.

York Region is now advancing design and approvals. Highway 7 East and Jane Street BRT construction funding commitments will help build new housing, increase affordability and further stimulate the economy. The continued success and competitiveness of the GGH depends on an integrated public transit system which includes these two critical BRT projects.

York Region is growing and together, we can keep it moving. We look forward to meeting with your ministry to discuss next steps and to support the development of your Metro Region Agreement proposal.

Yours very truly,

Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and CEO
The Regional Municipality of York

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor, City of Markham and
Chair, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation



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