



TRANSPORT ACTION ONTARIO

(formerly Transport 2000 Ontario)

Advocating for Sustainable Public and Freight Transportation
Box 6418, Station "A" Toronto, ON M5W 1X3

For Immediate Release

May 27, 2014

Regional Express Rail GO Service Forms Plank of Toronto Mayoral Platform

Today, the John Tory mayoral campaign unveiled its transit platform. The flagship piece of that transit platform was SmartTrack, an electrified transit corridor based mostly on parts of the GO rail network. SmartTrack would alleviate the overcrowded Yonge subway from the east and offer alleviation across the entire Bloor-Danforth subway as well. It has the same thrust as the Province's Regional Express Rail (RER) announcement in mid-April, which was virtually identical to Transport Action Ontario's concept of Regional Rapid Rail proposed in its major report released last July, "Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Regional Rapid Rail: A Vision for the Future," a concept also promoted later by the Neptis Foundation.

Transport Action Ontario, a Non-Government Organization advocating sustainable public and freight transportation, is very pleased to see the RER concept picked up by one of the top-tier candidates for mayor of Toronto. While RER will ultimately be a provincial decision, the importance of strong and vocal champions at the municipal level cannot be underestimated. If Toronto puts some of its own resources towards a RER project, it would send a compelling signal to the Province.

The reality of the transportation challenge facing Toronto is that the world does not end at Steeles Avenue. For a top-tier candidate for mayor of Toronto to acknowledge this through a transit proposal that includes cross-boundary travel is a welcome development. This would be a strong start for something that the Province could continue further beyond Toronto's borders, linking vast swaths of the region with attractive and effective electric rail service.

Transport Action Ontario encourages other candidates, both in Toronto and in other municipalities across the region, to make cost-effective, speed-competitive, electric GO service a part of their campaigns as well.

-30-

Contacts:

Karl Junkin – Senior Researcher

416-316-4510

karl.junkin@nonpartisan.com

Bruce Budd – Secretary (parle français)

416-690-3299

bfb2020@gmail.com