



TRANSPORT ACTION ONTARIO

Advocating for Rail-Based Public Transportation

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Hon. Jeff Yurek
Minister of Transport
email: minister.mto@ontario.ca

December 10, 2018

Dear Minister Yurek:

Bravo on the Relief Line Statement

Further to recent press reports, we at Transport Action Ontario want to congratulate you on your realistic statement that the Relief Subway Line should enter service before a new subway extension to Richmond Hill.

Lest there be any doubt, we believe that a Yonge Subway Extension (YSE) is badly needed. A significant fraction of the mandated growth in York Region is slated for the Yonge corridor, including the Yonge/Steeles area and the Richmond Hill Centre (RHC)/Langstaff Urban Growth Centre. Modeling by Metrolinx shows that 2031 boardings at RHC and Langstaff stations will be 14,000 people in the peak AM hour, well above ridership thresholds for subways to be cost-effective, and well above the 7000 boardings expected per peak AM hour at Scarborough Centre station on the proposed Scarborough Subway Extension.

There is also no doubt that the Yonge Subway is at capacity today, particularly at Bloor-Yonge Station and south of Bloor Street. Although improvements such as Automatic Train Control will add capacity, it is expected that this will be consumed by extra demand from growth in the corridor south of Finch and from new passengers from new lines like Eglinton, Finch and Sheppard LRTs. Improvements to the GO system will off-load some demand, but the key GO Richmond Hill line is limited by heavy CN freight traffic north of its York Subdivision and by the unfavourable topography of the line in Toronto

The biggest part of the solution, both for Toronto and York commuters, is construction of the Relief Line (RL) subway. Modeling in 2015 showed a RL from Pape Station to Queen Station to Osgoode Station would dramatically reduce congestion at Bloor-Yonge and south of Bloor, opening up capacity for the YSE.

An important milestone was reached in May, 2017 when the City of Toronto and York Region agreed to jointly pursue funding for both projects. Both governments and Metrolinx agreed that the RL and the YSE need to advance in an integrated way and both lines should open at the same time. We support this agreement.

Obviously, we would be please to discuss these and various other transportation needs for our province. We are working on a meeting with your Policy Director (Liam O'Brien) in early January, and will add this topic to the agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Miasek
President, Transport Action Ontario

cc. Liam O'Brien – MTO (Liam.O'Brien2@ontario.ca)