



<http://ontario.transportaction.ca>

Hon. Jeff Yurek
Minister of Transportation
Email: minister.mto@ontario.ca

Hon. John Tory
Mayor of Toronto
Email: mayor_tory@toronto.ca

January 29, 2019

Dear Minister Yurek and Mayor Tory:

OPEN LETTER

Full Transparency and Public Consultation Needed on Proposed Subway Upload

As you know, the Provincial government's Plan for the People campaign platform indicated a plan to "upload responsibility for existing and new subway lines from the City of Toronto (\$160M/yr. for existing) while guaranteeing the City keeps all revenue." A provincial advisor was appointed in August and the Fall Economic Statement maintained the promise.

Transport Action Ontario believes this concept is worthy of study and we await the advisor report with interest. It is clear that the status quo is not acceptable, with the City of Toronto responsible for a huge capital budget (\$20B over 15 years) simply to maintain existing subway service (state-of-good-repair). This capital gap does not even include important expansion projects such as the Relief Line.

There are many important aspects of the upload that need to be dealt with fairly and efficiently. These include:

Service

- Maintaining good subway-surface transit connectivity
- Maintaining good subway service level
- Cooperative process to replace subway service with surface transit during outages and overnight

Financial/Funding

- Fair valuation of the current subway system (hardware + property), including development potential
- Proper amount of provincial funding for state-of-good-repair. The \$160M/yr for the existing system is much below latest estimate of over \$1B/yr.
- How to handle the City's subway-related debt
- Continued Provincial contribution towards non-subway projects, such as new LRT lines
- Continued provision of Provincial Gas Tax funds towards transit in Toronto
- City to decide on the future of the Scarborough Subway Tax

Planning

- Joint Province-City process to prioritize subway capital projects (state-of-good-repair and expansion)
- Evidence-based joint decision making on planning and prioritization of other non-funded rapid transit projects (eg Eglinton East and West LRTs, Waterfront LRT)

To date, there have been virtually no details provided on any of these vital issues. And it must be acknowledged that the New York City precedent, where the state uploaded the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in 1965, has done nothing to improve investment, operations or quality of governance in that city. We urge the Province and City to conduct a transparent, open public consultation on the upload. This includes demonstrating a viable business case and taking the time to do a diligent process.

We would be pleased to discuss these further with you or your staff.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Miasek

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President, Transport Action Ontario