

**Ministry of
Transportation**

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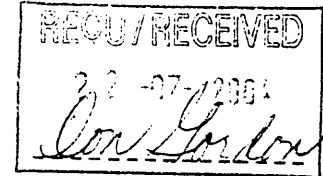
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JUL 20 2004

Mr. Bill Fisch
Chair
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1



Dear Chair Fisch:

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the GTA Integrated Ticket System project, in which your transit system has been an active participant.

This project is an important priority for the government. The province committed \$40 million in 2003 for the project's current design and implementation, with investments also required from participating municipalities. In March 2004, the province, Toronto and the federal government committed a further \$140 million for the TTC to implement this integrated ticket system. We have also committed to delivering this project quickly, given its importance in the delivery of an integrated and seamless transit system across the region.

GO Transit has provided the leadership to bring the project to where it is today. We are moving quickly through the design phases of the project, towards the release of a Request for Proposals and the deployment of the system.

Looking ahead, I am committed to ensuring that this project has all the resources and the appropriate structure necessary to meet municipal needs and the provincial government's commitment for timely delivery. To ensure this accountability, the ministry has assumed direct responsibility of the project from GO Transit.

This transition in leadership will strengthen the project and the Ministry of Transportation will provide additional staff in key areas so the project can be achieved in the necessary timelines. To ensure the smooth transfer of responsibility, other aspects, including the Project Team consultant work, municipal representatives, regular Steering Committee meetings and the location of the project office, will remain the same. GO Transit will continue to play a major role in the project.

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I expect to announce soon the site of the fare card's initial deployment. This initial deployment should be operational by mid to late 2006. By this fall, the project should be ready to start the procurement process.

We believe that this project will have a major impact on the future success of transit in the GTA. I trust that you, as a key partner in this exercise, will appreciate the ministry's increased commitment.

I look forward to working with you, your council and municipality as we move forward together to improving transit services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. S. Takhar".

Harinder S. Takhar
Minister

c: Dr. Gordon Chong, Chair, GO Transit