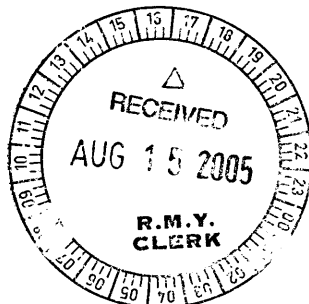


August 8, 2005

Phone: (416) 869-3600 ext. 5500
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Mr. Jeffrey Abrams
Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket
ON L3Y 6Z1



REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. -

POB
→ . chair
→ . CPO
→ . Comm. Finance
→ . Comm. Planning
→ . Comm. HW

Dear Mr. Abrams:

Subject: Correspondence from Minister of Transport, Toronto Air Rail Link Project

At the July 8, 2005 Board Meeting the Members received a letter from the Hon. Jean C. Lapierre, Minister of Transport, dated June 7, 2005. The letter addressed the importance of the airport rail link and reiterated Transport Canada's commitment to, and support for, the project. The letter further referred specifically to partnership with the private sector and included reference to "all three levels of government" working towards the success of the airport rail link.

Some Members of the GO Board expressed concern regarding the implied municipal funding obligations noted in the correspondence as it relates specifically to the airport rail link project. A resolution was raised by the Board, referring the correspondence to the Cities of Toronto and Hamilton as well as the GTA Regions for their information.

From GO Transit's perspective, and for information only, it should be noted that most of the infrastructure related to this project is necessary for GO Transit expansion in the Georgetown Rail Corridor as well.

I attach the correspondence for your consideration and any action you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,



Peter R. Smith, C.M.
Chairman

Enc.

cc: GO Transit Board Members

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

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**BOARD
SUBMISSION**

Meeting No. 83

July 8, 2005

Item C-1

JUN - 7 2005

The Honourable Harinder S. Takhar, M.P.P.
Minister of Transportation
Government of Ontario
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister:

I am writing with respect to the proposed air-rail link service between Lester B. Pearson International Airport and Union Station. As you know, an environmental assessment process is presently underway, incorporating both the air-rail link and improvements for GO Transit service along the Canadian National (CN) Weston rail line. I wish to reiterate Transport Canada's commitment to and support for the air-rail link project.

Improving access between Union Station, Canada's busiest passenger transportation hub, and the country's largest airport is an effective demonstration of planning that addresses both current and looming transportation challenges. The increasing pressures on transportation infrastructure, particularly the major road networks, highlight the importance of making smart decisions today to guarantee that the Toronto of tomorrow remains a safe, clean and efficient city. Removing cars from city streets, as the air-rail link would do, contributes to this end.

Through stops at Union Station and the Bloor-Dundas transit station, the air-rail link will provide a seamless connection with commuter trains and buses, the subway network and VIA Rail and Amtrak passenger rail services. The air-rail link will operate in an already developed rail corridor thus maximizing the use of existing infrastructure and preserving additional lands. The air-rail link is expected to create a significant number of direct and indirect permanent jobs. This project will also contribute to the growth of Toronto's tourism industry and offer further incentive for attracting major conventions and special events. Similar benefits have led other major cities, such as London, Hong Kong, Stockholm, and Kuala Lumpur to construct air-rail links.

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As the City of Toronto's *Official Plan* notes, the region's prosperity depends on an integrated transportation system that offers transfer-free transit service to key locations such as Pearson Airport. I applaud the Plan's recognition of the airport as a major hub in the regional economy and its conclusion that improved access for passenger travel to the downtown area is an important objective. Increasing the use of rail transportation alternatives is consistent with the principles of sustainable transportation. Through a transparent environmental assessment process, I am confident that solutions will be identified to address the interests of stakeholders, including the residents in the community of Weston.

As you know, improved transportation access to the airport has been studied many times over the past 15 years by the province, the city, the Toronto Transit Commission and GO Transit, though without tangible progress. We now have an opportunity, through a partnership with the private sector, for all three levels of government to work together to help make this link a reality.

I look forward to your ongoing engagement and support for the project and the important expansion of the GO Transit network.

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
ORIGINAL SIGNÉ PAR
JEAN LAPIERRE

Hon. Jean-C. Lapierre, P.C., M.P.

C.C Mr. Peter Smith, Chairman, GO Transit
Mr. Albert Sweetnam, SNC Lavalin
His Worship David Miller, Mayor