# **Drivers of Ridership** April 2018 to January 2019

Maureen McLeod, Manager, Customer Analytics

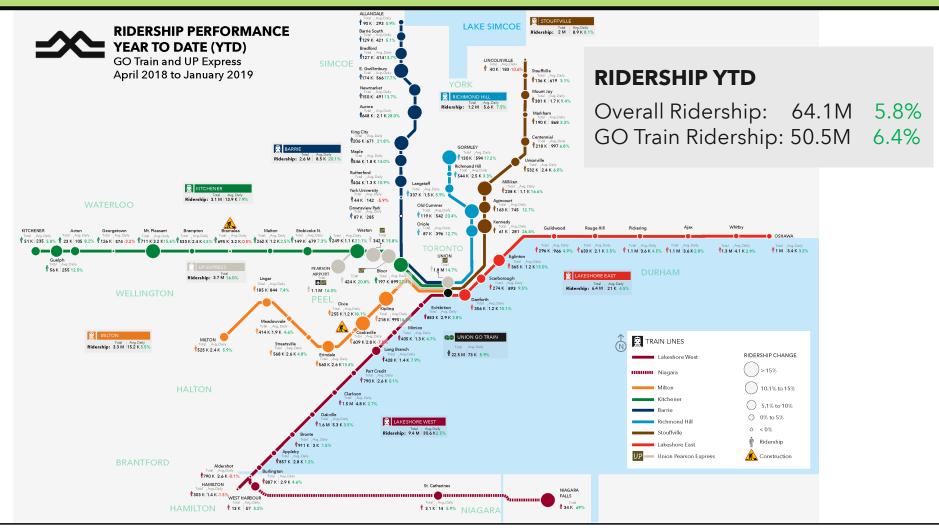
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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Key year-to-date insights (April 2018 to January 2019) include:
  - GO ridership overall growth on track, up 5.8% year over year (3.1% to budget)
  - GO Barrie's service was up 20.1% while UP Express increase by 16.0%
  - Major sporting & entertainment events provide growth opportunities to adjust our service and to drive ridership and revenue
  - Extreme weather events impact ridership, but also highlight opportunities on how we can improve customer communication and services offered
  - Increased midday service on the Lakeshore Corridor is making it easier for even more customers to get to their destinations
  - In addition to restoring the Bramalea express train, we've also introduced an additional service to Bramalea further improving the evening service along the Kitchener Corridor

### **FROM DATA TO INSIGHTS**

Ridership data<sup>1</sup> populates summary maps that, together with analytical tools, validates performance drivers, and highlights key learnings and insights to build future ridership demand.



->>> METROLINX

NX <sup>1</sup>RIDERSHIP DATA INCLUDES PRESTO CARD TAP DATA AND SINGLE FARE TICKETS. THIS DATA HAS BEEN ANONYMIZED AND ANALYZED TO GENERATE INSIGHTS AND | IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW GO AND UP EXPRESS RIDERSHIP.

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# **IMPACT OF EVENTS ON RIDERSHIP**

Service changes, extreme weather, and entertainment events impact network growth. Learning has informed improvement s in customer service plans and communication to optimize ridership.

- Network ridership increases on special event days, such as sporting events, concerts and festivals
  - The Santa Claus Parade on November 18, 2018 increased ridership by approximately 14K<sup>2</sup>
  - A Toronto Maple Leafs weekend home game results in an average increase of approximately 3K additional rides
- The 26.4 cm of snow on January 29, that led to school closures and bus cancellations, resulted in a ridership decrease of 103K, or 36%, as parents and caregivers stayed home to look after their children

#### ACTION:

- Plan services and event partnership and collaboration to provide new reasons for customers to travel with GO
- Leverage analytics from historical events to improve customer service communications and mitigation measures from extreme weather



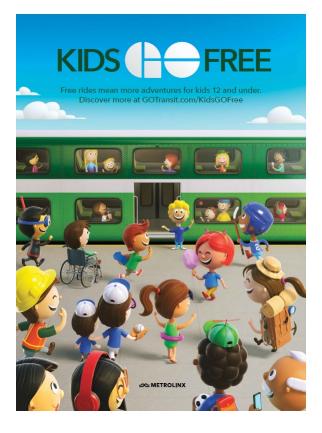
## IMPROVED OFF-PEAK SERVICE ALLOWS MORE PEOPLE TO GET TO THEIR DESTINATION

Increased midday service on the Lakeshore Corridor continues to experience ridership growth with significant potential to build off-peak demand and provide customers more choices.

- 43 midday trips per day added to the Lakeshore Corridor on September 24, 2018, increased ridership by 63,000<sup>3</sup> (approximately 3.5% daily)
- The introduction of 'Kids GO Free' in March and current campaign illustrate the opportunity to build ridership demand for off-peak and midday service
- Increased services provide customers options when disruption occurs. While extreme weather reduced ridership overall, the midday service was resilient with some days showing growth

#### ACTION:

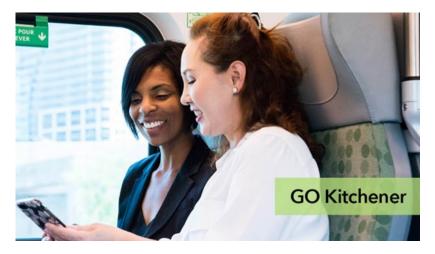
- Opportunity to build demand for off-peak services through targeted marketing communication, promotions, incentives & rewards
- Continued off-peak service expansion to encourage discretionary customer trips on GO and shift peak ridership to help mitigate crowding



# **CUSTOMER READINESS TO GUIDE FUTURE SERVICE CHANGE DECISIONS**

Analytics is now an embedded part of the trip planning, customer communications, and operational readiness processes.

- From January, analytics have informed the service change process including the re-introduction of the Kitchener Corridor express train to Bramalea and additional all stop train to Bramalea in February
- The updated process provided a new perspective to help balance out operational considerations with tracks we share with CN/CP
- Analytics informed adjustments of the Kitchener Corridor service to help mitigate crowding and recognizing the significance of On-Time Performance to get customers home to their families



#### ACTION:

• Continue to use customer analytics to inform of service planning changes and customer readiness input and communication for future changes

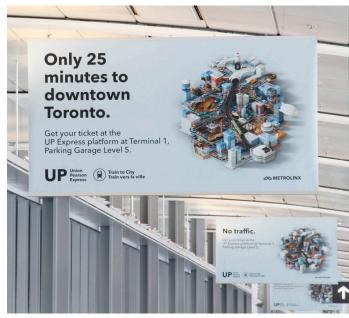
# UP EXPRESS GROWTH CONTINUES WITH THE DELIVERY OF A GREAT SERVICE

UP Express double digit ridership<sup>4</sup> growth can be attributed to providing a differentiated airport service that consistently delivers a 25-minute trip from Union to Pearson.

- UP Express continues to see vibrant ridership growth of +16.0% year-to-date, validating UP Express continues to meet customer's high expectations
- The 86% customer satisfaction score of UP Express is driven by consistent ontime performance (95.4%), amenities that create an enjoyable trip, and consistent delivery on our promise of 25-minute trips from Union to Pearson
- An integrated Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) / UP Express campaign has created demand that includes customer touch points throughout the customer journey; trip planning, terminal & airline messaging, baggage hall, kiosk & platform ticket sales



• Continue to collaborate with our GTAA partnership to enhance the customer experience informed by learning, insight and ongoing monitoring



## WHAT'S NEXT

Continue to identify opportunities to 'Connect our Communities' to drive ridership demand, deliver customer service increases and improved customer satisfaction

- Use data and insights to support the implementation and validation of pilots, events, promotions that target specific customer audiences with services and communication to drive ridership growth
- Focus on speeding up the process of converting data into insights, thus reducing the time to make decisions while shortening the time to positively impact our customers
- Ensure the process of uncovering insights continues to be collaborative, to fully understand the impact of the numbers
- Continue to strengthen our capabilities to strike the right balance of investing in the future while consistently delivering on today's needs



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