

## **New research uncovers economic benefits of 'Work From Home' far exceeds benefits GO Expansion.**

New research from the National Bureau of Economic Research <sup>1</sup>across 27 countries determines that Canadians save 65 minutes daily by taking advantage of WFH. Metrolinx, in GO Expansion 2018 business case, calculated a 10-minute reduction in commuting is worth \$35.4 Billion to the public, while WFH has produced over 6x the public benefit. Promoting return to work reduces benefits of working from home while increasing public costs to expand commuting.

**Businesses should resist Government initiatives that support return to work commuting. Employers receive an additional 26.7 minutes of productive work while families receive 28.7 minutes to leisure and caregiving per day.**

Metrolinx's 2018 GO Expansion business case identifies \$42.2 billion worth of public benefit however \$35.4 Billion has already been achieved and surpassed through WFH. The other \$6.2 Billion calculated benefits of GO Expansion are unlikely to be achieved as ridership remains stuck around 50% of 2019 volume. Spending \$16.2 billion to achieve \$3.1 Billion worth of benefit makes no sense. Fare revenue will not support operations and further subsidies will be required.

### **GO Expansion produces no public benefit.**

GO Expansion is heading for financial disaster. The business case assumptions must be recalculated with up to date data and inflation rates.

1. Businesses should continue to support work from home arrangements given the additional productivity and employee benefits.
2. Governments should cease promoting "back to commuting" initiatives and reduce spending on capacity building for long commutes.
3. Government spending should be re-allocated from GO Expansion to downtown office conversion to housing and supporting existing transit operations.

Toronto Board of Trade  
Metrolinx Board of Directors  
Ministry of Transportation  
Auditor General of Ontario

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nber.org/system/files/working\\_papers/w30866/w30866.pdf](https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w30866/w30866.pdf)