
Randolph (Randy) Neals



November 25, 2023

Mr. Phil Verster
President & CEO, Metrolinx
97 Front Street West
Toronto, ON M5J 1E6.
Sent via e-mail to ceo@metrolinx.com

RE: Regional Transportation to Lindsay (City of Kawartha Lakes)

Dear Mr Verster:

I am writing to request that Metrolinx / Go Transit establish Regional Transportation service to Lindsay, the largest urban area in City of Kawartha Lakes, and a part of the Greater Golden Horseshoe transportation planning area.

I fully understand that the population and potential ridership from Lindsay (pop. 27,000) and Kawartha Lakes (pop. 75,000) does not likely justify establishing Go Transit operated bus service to Lindsay. I do think that a **Regional Transportation Partnership with Go Transit providing leadership, organization, and planning** would lead local municipalities into operating “Go Connector” service, and that would be a practical first step which provides a minimum viable service and generates ridership data to inform future Metrolinx investment in these important regional routes.

I believe that there are two (2) regional commuting patterns for Lindsay that should be of interest and where Metrolinx’s leadership could result in new regional bus services being established.

Route 1 – Lindsay-Clarington-Bowmanville-GTA Regional Bus

Hwy 35, Hwy 115 - Feeder Route to Bowmanville (or Oshawa) Go Train

Go Transit Route 88 Peterborough to Durham operates on Hwy. 115 through

the southern part of City of Kawartha Lakes. Establishing a “Go Connector” bus service between the Town of Lindsay and the existing “Hwy 115 & 35 P&R” stop would appear to be a low cost and practical first step to test this route for future investment, but with a bus-bus-train service, two transfer may not be attractive.

Alternatively, to reduce transfers, Durham Transit Route 507 travels Hwy 115 between Orono and Bowmanville. Metrolinx could contract with Durham Transit to extend Route 507 to Lindsay, operating DRT 507 as a feeder bus route connecting Lindsay, Orono and Newcastle to the new Bowmanville Go Train Station. Durham could incorporate the North Clarington P&R (aka Go Transit Hwy 115 & 35 P&R) into the expanded route 507. DRT has regional bus experience in North Durham where they replaced Go Bus 81 (Beaverton) service earlier in 2023, and they would have the right fleet and experience to provide “Go Connector” service to Lindsay, but this is beyond their municipal boundary.

Route 1 - Proposed Route: Lindsay-Bowmanville-GTA “Go Connector” Regional Bus

Lindsay Transit Hub – Victoria Avenue

Fleming College/Lindsay Recreation Center – Angeline St. S & Auk Trail

MTO Lindsay Carpool Lot - Highway 35 - South of Highway 7

MTO Bethany Carpool Lot – Highway 35 & Highway 7A E - Elevator Road

Pontypool – Pontypool Rd, former Via Station along CPR Tracks.

MTO Hwy 115 & 35 P&R (Go Bus 88 Ptbo) aka DRT Clarington North P&R

Orono – Existing DRT stops

Newcastle – Existing DRT stops

Go Bowmanville P&R – Go Train Bowmanville

Downtown Oshawa /Oshawa Go Train (Optional)

Route 2 – Lindsay-Peterborough Regional Bus

Hwy 7 – Lindsay-Omemee-Peterborough w/ Fleming College

MTO vehicle traffic data demonstrate that Lindsay-Peterborough is an equally busy regional transportation route. Because there is no public regional transportation between Peterborough and Lindsay, Fleming College operates its own daily Brealey Campus (Peterborough) to Frost Campus (Lindsay) bus service for students. Fleming Peterborough students all receive City of Peterborough transit passes. Fleming College would be a key partner on the Lindsay-Peterborough regional bus route.

Leadership from Metrolinx could bring together Peterborough Transit, Lindsay Transit, and Fleming College to pool resources and operate a “Go Connector” Regional Bus Route between Peterborough and Lindsay, with integrated route scheduling and fare interchange between Peterborough Transit, Go Transit, and Kawartha Lakes/Lindsay Transit. Peterborough Transit has experience operating “The Link” regional bus routes to Selwyn Township (which are funded by the province) and could be a good operator for Lindsay-Peterborough “Go Connector” Regional Bus Service.

Route 2 - Proposed Route: Lindsay-Peterborough “Go Connector” Regional Bus

Lindsay Transit Hub – Victoria Ave

Fleming College (Frost Campus)/Lindsay Recreation Center – Angeline St.

Omeme Post Office (Encourage CKL or MTO to build P&R lot)

Fowler’s Corners – Hwy 7 & Ptbo Rd 26 (Coffee Time or future P&R lot)

Fleming College (Brealy Campus)

Go Transit Bus Stop - Crawford Dr. / Harper Rd. P&R (On Go Route 88)

Peterborough Bus Terminal – Simcoe St

Thank you for receiving and reading this letter and giving consideration to the needs of our communities.

I have enclosed a recent news article where TOK Coachlines has announced that it will end its Toronto-Haliburton line-haul coach service in January 2024. The 4 times weekly service was never useful for commuting, and I hope that both the lack of any regional transportation to Lindsay, and the lack of a commercial regional transportation service might compel Metrolinx to take a new look at Kawartha Lakes and Lindsay.

Sincerely,



Randy Neals
Lindsay / Kawartha Lakes

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News

TOK Coachlines, Formerly Canar, Cancels Haliburton To Toronto Line Run Due To Escalating Costs

By **Pamela Vanmeer** November 8, 2023



KAWARTHA LAKES-Local residents using TOK Coachlines, formerly Canar, will no longer have busing available to get to Durham, Toronto or up to Haliburton.

In a notice sent to customers on Monday, the company says after 34 years of serving the Haliburton, Kawartha, and Durham regions they will be discontinuing the Haliburton to Toronto line run effective January 31st, 2024. The company told Kawartha 411 News the move was necessary for its survival.

"Our operation is not subsidized by any government body and with the increased operating costs, we had to make the hard decision to stop this service as we have been operating at a loss for many years. The decision wasn't taken lightly but unfortunately, we had to make it to ensure our survival," said Junko Skanes TOK Coachlines.

A shortage of drivers also played into the decision according to the company.

For those who have already purchased tickets, you have the option to use them before the aforementioned date, or you can request a full refund by February 29th, 2024.

- Tickets purchased online, please request via email with your ticket number, contact name and phone number to **info@tokcoachlines.com**
- Paper tickets purchased from ticket agents, please send original to TOK Coachlines, 221 Caldari Road, Concord, ON L4K 3Z9
- Valid tickets purchased by November 6th, 2023 will be honoured with a full refund

"Serving the wonderful communities of Haliburton, Kawartha, and Durham has truly been an honour. We deeply appreciate the trust and loyalty you have shown us throughout the years. Your continued patronage has been the backbone of our operations, and for that, we are immensely grateful," said the company in a notice to customers. "Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your journey."

The Southampton Line remains in service. The company also does Casino group tours, charter rentals and bus rentals.