From: MJ Kokeshi

To: Chair of Metrolinx; CEO Correspondence

Subject: Comments on a matter before the Board meeting June 27, 2024

Date: June 26, 2024 6:29:33 PM

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Metrolinx Chair

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Greetings and Comments from

M J McInnis Political Advocacy Representative

RTOERO - Retired Teachers of Ontario – Les enseignantes et enseignants retraites de l'Ontario District 18 of 51

City of Kawartha Lakes (Lindsay)

In lieu of 'Making a Deputation' I have chosen to follow your recommendations and submit the following <u>written</u> comments and a few extracts from a recent DEPUTATION made on June 4, 2024 to City of Kawartha Lakes Council of the Whole Meeting.

These comments are intended to EMPHASIZE the dire need for members of our SENIORS / RETIREES community to

access GO services that meet our inter-regional travel needs from the City of Kawartha Lakes (and surrounding communities) to The GTA and beyond.

Our RTOERO organization is deeply committed to advancing major policies that promote:

HEALTHY AGING IN THE RETIREMENT JOURNEY for All Seniors:

Long Term Care Policies

Environmental Stewardship Policies

Seniors Advocacy Issues and Policies

It is THE SENIORS ADVOCACY ISSUES as they relate to SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

that I wish to address.

It is imperative that METROLINX take this life-altering need into immediate consideration and make a serious commitment to expand GO BUS SERVICES beyond the burgeoning boundaries of Durham Region.

We are currently isolated geographically by the restricted development policies of the Oak Ridges Moraine. These policies of restricted development ought not ISOLATE nor MARGINALIZE those who reside in The CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES and surrounding communities by essentially severing all transit ties with THE GTA.

We and hundreds of others want to keep GO-ING by continuing to connect LOCALLY with family, colleagues, friends, neighbours and our community but ALSO to the bigger world beyond our town boundaries. (most specifically The GTA)

We... NEED...TRANSPORTATION... OPTIONS

Healthy Aging implies

<u>active connected lifestyles - with opportunities for many</u> and varied social interactions

AND that means

<u>accessible transportation networks where ageism and</u> <u>marginalization have no place.</u>

<u>Linkage and Access to GO TRANSIT</u>

is already referenced on Page 25 of <u>The Municipal Housing Pledge 2023</u> in the paragraph about Aligned Provincial Investment to be made in '<u>Regional Transit Connections</u>' (see bullet #1), developed in response to Ontario's 'More Homes, MoreChoice: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan' (2019).

We are fully aware of the following: Multiple levels of government **Collaboration**

ARE MANDATORY

to ensure

<u>Proper Funding</u> and <u>committed, on-going Provincial</u> <u>Support</u> and <u>Monitoring</u>

RELIABLE GO TRANSIT is integral to the vitality and success of our graciously aging and ...

AN EXPANDING

Retiree community.

METROLINX - it is imperative you as a Board take the appropriate decisions in the coming months to assure transit commitments made to The City of Kawartha Lakes are met.

I look forward to future correspondence that informs us of these assurances.

Respectfully,

M J McInnis