



Statement on Transit Investment Panel Report

December 18, 2013

On December 12, 2013, the Ontario Transit Investment Strategy Advisory Panel, chaired by Anne Golden, issued its final report. It made 20 recommendations for how new transportation projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) should be funded.

Move the GTHA compliments the Panel for its excellent work under a short timeline, and for recommending a combination of funding sources that will raise a much needed \$1.7 to \$1.8 billion annually when fully implemented. We applaud both the use of debt instruments to allow construction to proceed faster, and for incorporating our recommendation of a “Kick-Start” program to immediately improve transit services.

We are supportive of a dedicated, stand-alone “Transportation Fund,” established by legislation. We also support the Panel’s comments on making transit decisions based on solid business case analyses.

We also support the call for the Government of Canada to support the Province’s investments with its own ongoing, predictable funding for transportation.

With the reports by Metrolinx and the Panel now in hand, Move the GTHA calls upon the Ontario Government and the opposition parties to work constructively to arrive at a resolution on transportation funding sources. We urge the Government to introduce new funding measures in the Spring 2014 budget, and for opposition parties to be ready to say what measures they will support or would bring in to deliver ongoing, predictable funding.

Move the GTHA is continuing its program of reaching out to residents with information on *The Big Move* and building public appreciation and will for more investment. In December, we contacted nearly 500,000 residents, and will continue with further large-scale communications and telephone-town halls reaching approximately 1,000,000 residents in advance of the 2014 budget.

The time for action on transportation funding is now. We are calling on all of our public representatives to show leadership on this issue that is critical to the prosperity of the Toronto region.