



August 14, 2014

Dear Chair and Toronto Transit Commissioners,

**Re: Fare Integration on the Lakeshore West GO Line from Exhibition Place to Union Station**

Our transit system is exceeding capacity in many communities across our city. Worse still, is that there is currently no funding available for the priority transit projects and to address the growing number of transit riders.

The 504 King Streetcar, the most heavily travelled surface transit route in Toronto, carries 60,000 people every day. The 504 King Streetcar is so overwhelmed with passengers that the number of transit riders on the line exceeds automobile drivers on the road by a ratio of 3 to 1. Riders are regularly forced to wait as 2 to 3 packed streetcars pass their stop before they can fight their way on, yet there is no funding scheduled for much needed transit projects in Toronto's downtown west like the Lakeshore West LRT.

Despite political disagreements on Toronto's transit future and funding tools to alleviate congestion on the 504 King Streetcar, immediate action could be taken to reduce travel times and improve rider convenience using existing infrastructure. By increasing the ridership on the Lakeshore West GO Train line from Exhibition to Union Station we can therefore alleviate some of the pressure facing the 504 King Streetcar. This idea is not new and in fact, has already been endorsed by the TTC.

As far back as 2011, I wrote to Metrolinx to encourage better integration of the Exhibition Place GO Train into Liberty Village including fare integration, increased service, and making the fare more affordable. In 2012, City Council voted 40 to 2 in support of additional stops along the Kitchener GO Train line to facilitate greater use as a local transit line.

In 2013, the TTC passed a motion based on a petition in support of fare integration and increasing use of the Exhibition-Union GO Train connection. There is widespread support on City Council for the idea and thousands of local residents have realized the potential of increasing service on this line. Like me, they realize the travel time to the subway on the streetcar is 20 to 30 minutes, but it is under ten minutes on the GO Train.

This option is not for everyone, but diverting some of the riders from the King Streetcar to the GO Train will improve the travel experience for riders and free up much needed room on the King Streetcar.

**I urge the TTC, to send another request to the CEO of Metrolinx and the Minister of Transportation, to immediately implement fare integration on the Lakeshore West GO line from Exhibition Place to Union Station in partnership with the TTC.**

Councillor Mike Layton  
Ward 19, Trinity-Spadina

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD  
AUGUST 19, 2014