

## Lindsey Park, MPP Durham

May 3, 2019

The Honourable Jeff Yurek Minister of Transportation 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay St. Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8 23 King Street West Bowmanville, ON L1C 1R2 Tel.: 905-697-1501

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BY EMAIL

RE: Bowmanville Expansion Project

Dear Minister Yurek -

We are writing to share our thoughts about the GO Bowmanville Expansion Project following comments made by Metrolinx yesterday and to express our desire to see GO expansion to Bowmanville in a viable, expedited and cost-effective manner.

On December 4, 2018, MPP Park wrote to urge you to press on with negotiations required to use the necessary rail lines and prepare the final design of the Project. We were pleased to learn Metrolinx has been working over the last number of months to prepare new design options for your consideration.

It is shocking to hear that the new leadership at Metrolinx has found that the plan proposed by the last government would take <u>years longer</u> than the stated timelines, result in only four peak trains (<u>not</u> all-day service) and cost twice as much as previously estimated. It is unfortunate that the Liberals recklessly announced their plan before the feasibility, preliminary design and cost estimates were fully completed. That is not how a responsible government would deliver real transit relief to commuters.

The transparency Metrolinx is now offering the people of Durham Region, as it reviews better ways of expanding GO Train service past Oshawa to Courtice and Bowmanville, is very much appreciated. For too long, transit decisions were made behind closed doors with minimal publicly available information on the value being obtained for taxpayers' money. With this new information, we urge you and the team at Metrolinx to evaluate the options and determine which will result in the best use of taxpayers' dollars, deliver the most service and provide that increased service in the most timely manner.

We are hopeful that, together, we can find a solution that meets all three of these criteria. Thank you for all your efforts to offer more transit choices to people in Durham.

Yours truly,

Lindse E Park MPP, Durham

David Piccini

MPP, Northumberland-Peterborough South