

January 26, 2018

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Re: Superlinx: An Uploading Strategy for a Modern Provincial Transit Agency

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) would like to offer support for many of the key elements contained within the recently released Superlinx strategy document by the Toronto Region Board of Trade (The Board).

The OCC and the Board align and share many principles regarding transportation planning in the province of Ontario. Chief within this is the recognition that transportation is a vital component in the movement of people and goods and thus plays a critical role in the economic competitiveness and development of Ontario.

Additionally, both the OCC and the Board believe in the creation of a single regional transportation agency to which all responsibility for transit is uploaded to and which has the authority over transit planning, operations and expansions. The common belief is that this agency would operate to implement and develop transportation planning and infrastructure in a cost effective and timely manner. Subsequently, an ancillary benefit of a single transportation authority would be fare integration and network connectivity, making transfers easy and efficiently.

The OCC and the Board also share the belief that part of the current transportation infrastructure problems stem from a lack of proper prioritization of projects and a need for greater evidence-based planning. This type of planning would ensure that investments are targeted based on sound criteria, including return on investment and evidence that the investment will reduce or eliminate existing barriers to service.

These shared principles are reflected in the Superlinx strategy document with the proposal of the creation of single transportation agency. In addition to taking action that will improve transit and transportation in the GTHA, the OCC is aware that communities across the province have similar issues that must be addressed. It is important that these regional considerations are reflected in provincial policy work and development.

The OCC would be pleased to work with the Board and the government as further developments on this strategy document are being made.

Regards,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce