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REGION, OSHAWA, CLARINGTON AND WHITBY REAFFIRM NEED FOR GO EAST DURHAM EXPANSION FROM OSHAWA TO BOWMANVILLE

The Regional Chair and Mayors from Oshawa, Clarington and Whitby heard about the future of the GO East Extension with Metrolinx on May 2 prior to a public Metrolinx Town Hall. During the call, Metrolinx CEO Phil Verster advised that the Province is now examining four options to extend GO

Train service east of Oshawa. The Environmental Assessment approved in 2011 for the GO rail expansion to Bowmanville examined several options and selected the route along the CP mainline, north of Highway 401, as the preferred route. This route appears in provincial plans and Metrolinx transportation

plans. The Region and municipalities have planned for this route in good faith for more than a decade. Metrolinx held public information centres in Durham on this route in April 2018. The Region and municipalities reaffirm that extension of GO rail service north of Highway 401 is the best route for the

community based on the potential growth, jobs and connectivity opportunities. The recommended route will have transformational, positive impacts for Oshawa, Clarington, Whitby and overall for the Region of Durham, serving as a catalyst for economic investment and resulting in:

- the construction of 7.8 million square feet of office, retail and industrial buildings, creating over \$1.1 billion in transit-oriented, walkable urban development;
 - up to 21,000 jobs;
 - 6,000 new homes;
 - \$1 billion in economic activity from the construction alone;
 - 5,000 person-years of employment from the construction;
 - 1,000 permanent jobs arising from the operation of the service; and,
 - \$500 million annually in economic activity from the operation of the service.
- Municipal leaders attended the public Metrolinx Town Hall along with an audience of approximately 150 community

members. The Metrolinx leadership team were asked questions about their services and regional transit planning. Questions also focused on the GO East Extension and its commitment to connectivity, active transportation and safe, sustainable transit options for the Durham Region community. For updates on the planned GO Train Lakeshore East Extension, follow #GoEastDurham and visit www.GoEastDurham.ca. We've been through an environmental assessment process and determined the GO East Extension should be where key employment and housing is located," said John Henry, Durham Region Chair and CEO. "The province has already acquired the land for all four approved stations – it is disappointing to hear they want to start over and re-examine the options." "The promised GO Train east extension must move forward for our community," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. "I believe that the best option is

to continue with the originally proposed extension along the CP mainline to ensure Oshawa's economic growth, connectivity and employment." "The GO train extension to Courtice and Bowmanville is critical. Residents have been counting on this extension for years. We will continue to work together with the Province and Metrolinx, in any way that they need, to clarify the timeline and the optimal route for the extension. It is time for us to move this file ahead. We must also consider the massive economic and social benefits of building the extension along the preferred route, north of Highway 401," said Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster. "Reducing local traffic congestion and helping Whitby residents move more easily through our town are priorities for our Council. This project not only helps to address these priorities, but would also have a significant and positive impact on our local and regional economy," said Town of Whitby Mayor Don Mitchell.

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