



October 23, 2013

Bruce McCuaig
President & CEO, Metrolinx
20 Bay Street, Suite 901, Toronto, M5J 2N8

Re: Liberty on the GO

South of King Street West and nestled between two large commuter rail corridors is the booming neighbourhood of Liberty Village. There are 7,500 people working in Liberty Village and in the next 12 months, as more large condominiums are occupied, there will be an estimated 6,000 people living there. This means that close to 15,000 people are attempting to move in and out of Liberty Village each day.

While two large GO Transit corridors run through the neighbourhood, only one has a station and it does little to serve the residents making short trips into the city. This leaves many people to take the 504 King Streetcar, which is well over capacity and is the busiest streetcar route in Toronto. Many wait as 3-4 streetcars pass by in peak periods, as they are already filled by those living further west. A trip of just over 2 kilometres to St Andrew subway station can turn into a 40 minute commute.

I am writing to you today to follow up on our earlier conversations regarding steps that can be taken immediately to alleviate some of the pressure on the King Streetcar line, and improve the commute for those living and working in Liberty Village. I am proposing that the TTC work with Metrolinx to use our existing infrastructure, allowing us to avoid the politics of costly capital investments, and to improve reliability, convenience and travel time for transit riders. There is more information and a petition that can be found at mikelayton.to/LibertyontheGO.

I have attached more information about the pressing need for this infrastructure and outline two recommendations: (1) the creation of a shared or integrated fare with GO Transit, as many other cities across the GTHA already have, so that it is affordable for residents and workers in Liberty Village to take the GO Train from Exhibition Station to Union Station and then hop on the TTC without paying twice as much to travel a shorter distance; and (2) to investigate the land available on the north and south sides of the Kitchener GO Transit line, for the creation of a Liberty Village-King Street West stop, since this is one of the few areas with land available and the City is building an accessible pedestrian and cycling bridge over the corridor that could easily serve the station.

Toronto City Council has already voted to express its strong support for a Liberty Village stop on the Kitchener Line. Today, the Toronto Transit Commission voted to implement a pilot project to integrate GO and TTC fares through Presto at both the Bloor GO Station and the Exhibition GO Station.

Sincerely,

Mike Layton
City Councillor
Ward 19, Trinity-Spadina

CC: Hon. Glen R. Murray - Minister of Transportation

CC: Gary McNeil - President, GO Transit

CC: Leslie Woo, Vice President, Policy Planning and Innovation, Metrolinx

CC: Karen Stintz, Chair, Toronto Transit Commission

CC: Andy Byford, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Transit Commission

CC: Jennifer Keesmat,- Chief Planner, City of Toronto

CC: Stephen Buckley - General Manager Transportation Services, City of Toronto