



Ontario Report

Transport Action Ontario

(Formerly Transport 2000 Ontario)

TRANSPORT ACTION ONTARIO IS THE NEW NAME FOR TRANSPORT 2000 ONTARIO

Following the adoption in December by our national organization Transport 2000 Canada of its new name Transport Action Canada, as its regional affiliate in Ontario, we have changed our name to Transport Action Ontario. For over 30 years Transport 2000 has been widely recognized for its advocacy of sustainable transportation. Transport Action Ontario continues as a volunteer-run, non-profit engaged in public education and consumer advocacy to promote an integrated network of public transportation for Ontario for the movement of both passengers and freight. The name Transport Action was chosen as it was the well-established name of our national newsletter since 1980. Find us at www.transport-action.ca.

METROLINX MOVES FORWARD: POSITIVES AND SOME CHALLENGES AHEAD

Feature story. First the good news, and then a look at some of the challenges facing Metrolinx in the GTHA. Metrolinx is the provincial agency responsible for transit planning and funding for all the transit agencies in its area, including GO Transit which is now part of Metrolinx. We begin this article with the positives for the TTC, and then for GO Transit. (More “backgrounder” information on Metrolinx/GO/TTC on Page. 5.)

Toronto's Transit City LRT plan took a big step forward when, in April 2009, the Province announced funding for three Transit City projects, the Finch West LRT (\$1.2B), Eglinton Cross- ...continued on PAGE 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT - NATALIE LITWIN LET'S FACE REALITY



This column will, in some circles and possibly among my own, place me in the same category as a skunk at a garden party, but I am going to have my say – one of

the perks of being President.

Here are some unpleasant facts that face supporters of sustainable transportation:

➤ We live in an era in which social conservatives holds sway – even the ones who call themselves “liberal” – and social conservatives are reluctant to spend money on rail and public transit. They think cars, trucks and airplanes are just nifty and more effi-

In this Issue

- ✿ Northern Ontario/Ottawa Valley: 586 km of rail lines may be torn up
- ✿ Sarnia-Lambton looking to improve passenger train services
- ✿ No track upgrades in sight for VIA's Guelph-Kitchener route
- ✿ Strong bid from Hamilton for Light Rail Transit
- ✿ Experiencing temporary disability

ANNUAL MEETING AND AFTERNOON PUBLIC PROGRAM SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010, METRO HALL, 55 John St., Toronto

- Transport Action Ontario AGM 10:00 am-12 noon - Room 302.
- Complementary lunch for members and guests attending the AGM (beverages not included; reservations recommended - see details on Page 8).
- Afternoon public program: 1:30p.m. - 4:00 pm; Room 302. Everyone welcome.

DRIC: ROAD-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE. Our panel discussion focuses on the important but underreported issue of the Detroit River International Crossing project (DRIC). A panel of speakers, two from Michigan, will uncover the weaknesses behind this expensive, unsustainable and outdated infrastructure plan. ...speakers and more details on Page 8.

cient than sustainable alternatives, unaware or in denial that gobs of taxpayers' money make them that way.

➤ There is a significant power imbalance between transit riders, bike riders, train ...continued on PAGE 2

TRANSPORT ACTION ONTARIO AGM AND AFTER-NOON PROGRAM MAR. 27

Transport Action Ontario's Annual General Meeting will be held on March 27, 2010 as indicated below. The AGM will include the President's and Treasurer's reports, and the election of officers and directors for 2010-2011.

Saturday 27 March 2010

Location: Metro Hall, 55 John Street, Toronto, Ontario, Room 302 (for the day).

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon: AGM.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch break. Complementary lunch (beverages not included) will be provided to members and guests who attend the AGM. Reservations recommended by telephone or email. Please contact Dan Hammond at 1-888-410-4779 or danielshammond@gmail.com, or Tony Turritti at 416-653-4002 or turritti@yorku.ca.

Afternoon Public Program 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm. DRIC: Road-Based Infrastructure in the Era of Climate

Change. The panel of speakers, two from Michigan, will uncover the weaknesses behind this expensive, unsustainable and outdated infrastructure plan. Speakers: Dr. Dietrich Bergmann, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Albert Koehl, Ecojustice, Toronto Office; Paula Lombardi, Ambassador Bridge Company, Warren, Michigan; Emma Cane, Sierra Club, Ontario; Dan Hammond and Natalie Litwin, Transport Action Ontario. Issues: Do we need it? Does the EA process work? Have rail alternatives been properly explored? Everyone welcome.

Getting to Metro Hall: The St. Andrew subway station is one stop north of Union Station on the University-Spadina subway line. At St. Andrew stay underground and follow the signs to Metro Hall. An alternative is to exit at King/Yonge station and take the King street-car west to John Street. ■

NOMINATIONS CALL FOR THE TRANSPORT ACTION ONTARIO BOARD

Members present at the AGM on Mar. 27 will elect officers and directors for 2010/11. Nominations are invited for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary, and seven directors-at-large. To hold office, a person must be a member in good standing. It is recommended that board members have access to e-mail. Members willing to stand may do so in person at the AGM or by contacting the Nominations Chair, Bruce Budd, at bfb@primus.ca, or by mail to the mailing address given elsewhere on this page. A member may put forward his/her own name or may nominate another member. The Nominations Chair will ascertain the willingness of a nominated person to stand for office. ■

Ontario Report is published by Transport Action Ontario, Box 5418, Sta. A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1X3. ISSN 1923-1040 (Print) ISSN 1923-1069 (Online) Editor: Tony Turritti (turritti@hotmail.com)

Ontario Report is published bi-monthly in Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct. and Dec. Contributions of news and items are welcome. We are looking for correspondents. Submissions, including articles and letters, are subject to acceptance and editing. Statements in this publication are those of the respective authors and are not official policy which is approved by the Board of Transport Action Ontario. Thanks to all who helped out with this issue: Natalie Litwin, Peter Miasek, Karl Junkin, Elizabeth Hill and volunteers at the National Office in Ottawa. News to Feb. 29, 2010.

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board usually meets evenings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Our next meetings are April 21, May 19, and June 16, 2010. We meet at 215 Spadina Ave., Toronto, starting at 5:30 pm. If you wish to attend or participate, please contact Natalie Litwin at 416-498-0612 or by email at n.litwin@sympatico.ca to confirm as date, time and place are subject to change. Our Mar. 27 AGM replaces the March Board meeting. ■

CONTACT AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Transport Action Ontario: Working for environmentally, socially and economically sustainable transportation policies and actions.

Email address: ontario@transport-action.ca. Mailing address: Box 6418, Sta. A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X3. Telephone: 416.504.3934 or toll free long-distance 1.866.542.1067 or contact our President: 416-498-0612.

Join Transport Action to help us advocate for sustainable transportation. By joining Transport Action Ontario, you also become a member of Transport Action Canada. Members receive *Ontario Report* as well as our national newsletter *TransportAction*.

To join, send your name, address, telephone number, email address (if any), and membership fee to our box address above. Our annual membership fees are: introductory (1st year only) \$20; regular \$35; senior \$30; student \$25; low income \$20; family \$50; non-profit affiliate \$75; business \$170. Transport Action Canada is a registered charity and donations to it receive a tax-credit receipt.

Our website is www.transport-action.ca/ontario. A membership form is available at this website. Membership may be paid by credit card using PayPal.