

**From:** Antonia Hammer [Antonia.Hammer@metrolinx.com]  
**Sent:** March-24-15 2:51 PM  
**To:** Leduc, Lauri  
**Subject:** Hamilton AAC Presentation Follow Up and Thank you

**Categories:** ACPD

Hi Lauri,

On behalf of Silvan and myself I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity to come out to your March AAC meeting. We have taken the items from our rich discussion back to our internal stakeholders and I wanted to provide you with responses on a few outstanding questions about service planning for the Hamilton area.

Metrolinx currently provides daily GO bus service along the Niagara Peninsula with stops in St. Catharines, Grimsby, and Stoney Creek before connecting with the Lakeshore West GO Train at Burlington Station. Since 2009, Metrolinx has also provided seasonal GO Train service between Niagara Falls and Toronto on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from June to September (and Victoria Day long weekend). An extension of regular rail service to Niagara Region is contingent on a number of factors, including a developed market that would provide an adequate level of ridership to support train service, and the availability of capital and operating funding.

We have completed an Environmental Project Report that assessed the potential expansion of train service to the Niagara Peninsula, including various station locations. The Environmental Project Report concluded that the proposed extension of GO Train service to the Niagara Peninsula could be possible along the CN corridor, and presented various options for implementation that could involve regular train service extended as far as East Hamilton/Stoney Creek, Grimsby, St. Catharines or Niagara Falls. These options would involve different configurations of stations and train layover facilities. The latter option, with extended regular service to Niagara Falls, would require either a new tunnel or bridge at the Welland Canal.

At this time, we do not expect to implement a Niagara expansion in the immediate term: funding for the project has not been identified, and Metrolinx's current focus is on improving the quality and quantity of GO Train options in its core service area.

Metrolinx is currently reviewing opportunities to increase service levels across the region through improved GO Bus service, and the introduction of Regional Express Rail. As part of this planning, current and projected ridership demand across the region is evaluated based on population, travel patterns, operational and infrastructure requirements, and the availability of resources to deliver the services.

With respect to bus service to the broader Hamilton area we are aware of the demands for new and expanded GO Transit service across the entire service area, including the Region of Niagara. GO Transit's existing Niagara Bus Route 12 meets ridership demand for this area with several daily trips that stop in Stoney Creek, Grimsby, St. Catharines, and Niagara.

As always, Metrolinx is committed to communicating with stakeholders regarding any upcoming initiatives relating to their Operating Divisions (GO Transit, PRESTO, UP Express) or programs, and

will keep you updated about any future GO service improvements in the Niagara region. We very much appreciated the opportunity to speak with your AAC this year and look forward to future engagement.

Thank you,

Antonia Hammer and Silvan Bruno

**Antonia Hammer**

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