

Media Release



THE GTA TRANSIT SUMMIT: MOVING TRANSIT SOLUTIONS AHEAD

Living Arts Centre, Mississauga
February 6, 2004

Toronto, January 21, 2004 – Politicians from the provincial, federal and municipal governments have been invited to attend a **GTA Transit Summit** hosted by the *W5 Mayors' Transit Caucus* and the *Canadian Urban Institute*. The session will be held at the Living Arts Centre, Mississauga, on Friday, February 6, 2004.

The full-day session, which is by invitation only, will include keynote addresses from **The Hon. Harinder Takhar**, Minister of Transportation, **The Hon. David Caplan**, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal and **The Hon. Tony Valeri**, Minister of Transport.

The *W5 Mayors' Transit Caucus* was established by Burlington Mayor **Rob Maclsaac**, when he invited the mayors of Hamilton, Oakville, Brampton and Mississauga to address the urgent needs of public transit. The five mayors are committed to fostering increased cooperation in public transit strategic planning and delivery in the GTA and Hamilton area.

Maclsaac, who chairs the group, said, "In my view, we are encouraged by the recent public transit dialogue and announcements regarding public transit. It is our hope that this Summit will not only further broaden the appreciation of transit issues but will enhance a common understanding and commitment to what needs to be done."

This includes the creation of a properly funded GTA transportation authority, said Maclsaac. "A world class transit system is essential to ensure that the GTA remains a vibrant, competitive city-region."

Summit participants will hear from other jurisdictions that operate similar transit authorities. **Pat Jacobsen**, President and CEO of Translink in Vancouver, will speak about the benefits of Vancouver's comprehensive mandate and **James Byrns**, Vice President of Montreal's Metropolitan Area Transit Agency, will discuss how his agency handles challenges associated with the complex geography of Montreal.

David Crombie, President & CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute, believes that "This Summit presents an unprecedented opportunity for officials from federal, provincial and local governments to hear the same messages on matters of critical importance to the competitiveness of the region."

Summit speakers will also address specific issues related to the GTA-Hamilton area. Toronto Mayor **David Miller** will speak about the importance of a healthy hub to a vibrant city-region. Other speakers include Mississauga Mayor **Hazel McCallion**; **Gordon Chong**, Chair of GO Transit; **Brad Graham**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Smart Growth Secretariat; **Richard Soberman**, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto; **Gary McNeil**, Managing Director and CEO of GO Transit; **David**

Canadian Urban Institute
100 Lombard St., Suite 400
Toronto, ON Canada M5C 1M3
☎ 416-365-0816
☎ 416-365-0650/0647
cui@canurb.com
www.canurb.com

for more info please contact

Glenn R. Miller
Vice President, Education and Research
☎ 416-365-0816 x284
gmiller@canurb.com

Media Release



Pecaut, Chair, Toronto City Alliance; **Michael Roschlau**, President and CEO, Canadian Urban Transit Association; and **Elyse Allan**, President and CEO, Toronto Board of Trade.

Full program details at [Click here](#)

WHEN: Friday, February 6, 2004
8:30 am- 4:45 pm

WHERE: Living Arts Centre, Royal Bank Theatre,
4141 Living Arts Drive, Mississauga, Ontario

CONTACTS:
Mayor **Rob MacIsaac**, City of Burlington (905-335-7600 ext 7703)
Glenn Miller, Vice President, Education and Research, CUI (416-365-0816 ext 284)