

City Hall Transit Debate a Wake-up Call for Metrolinx: Toronto Board of Trade Regional transit agency handed an opportunity to get transit plans back on track

TORONTO – (July 12, 2012) – Reacting to the ongoing transit discussion taking place at Toronto City Hall, Toronto Board of Trade President & CEO Carol Wilding called the mid-summer debate at City Hall a wake-up call to Metrolinx that reflects a growing concern that long-term regional transit expansion plans are stalling.

“The much delayed Metrolinx investment strategy is putting increased pressure on municipalities to develop their own plans and investment strategies at a time when the broader regional community should be working together behind one unified plan and vision,” said Ms. Wilding.

Wilding acknowledged TTC Chair Karen Stintz for connecting proposed infrastructure projects with funding proposals, and reiterated the Toronto Board of Trade’s position that all revenue tools be kept on the table until Metrolinx releases its awaited investment strategy.

“The debate over the OneCity plan must not overlook the important connection that Councillor Stintz has made between proposals and funding. This took significant courage,” said Ms. Wilding.

The Board is also encouraged by the motion that council is poised to adopt, advanced by Councillor Josh Matlow, that would direct City staff to work with Metrolinx to prepare for a regional transportation plan funding strategy.

“With the passage of this motion, the City will be taking an important step toward realizing a coordinated regional transit vision; this is precisely right thing to do,” said Ms. Wilding. “It hands Metrolinx a great opportunity to accelerate long-term solutions to ensure that we continue to build infrastructure into the coming decades.”

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About the Toronto Board of Trade (www.bot.com)

Founded in 1845, the Toronto Board of Trade is Canada's largest local chamber of commerce, connecting more than 200,000 business professionals and influencers throughout the Toronto Region. The Board fuels the economic, social and cultural vitality of the entire Toronto Region by fostering powerful collaborations among business, government thought leaders and community builders. The Board of Trade plays a vital role in elevating the quality of life and global competitiveness of Canada’s largest urban centre.

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