

March 7, 2022

Hon. Caroline Mulroney  
Minister of Transportation  
777 Bay St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Mulroney:

**RE: IMPLEMENTING A CO-FARE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TTC AND GO TRANSIT**

Toronto's Downtown Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) represent neighbourhoods that include Canada's largest employment centre with more than 400,000 employees, its busiest transit hub, and vibrant concentrations of retail, hospitality, arts, culture, and tourism.

We are pleased with the Ontario Government's announcement on March 1, 2022, to eliminate double fares for several local transit agencies with connections to GO Transit. This is an important milestone toward achieving improved transit accessibility for the diverse range of commuters across the region who are returning to our downtown.

Our organizations have been working at the ground level to help Toronto businesses navigate the various challenges of the pandemic. We work diligently to encourage a broad return of Toronto's vibrant downtown and maintain a strong focus on ensuring Toronto's business environment remains competitive regionally and internationally. We are strong proponents of the four provincial priority transit expansion projects in Toronto and recognize that continued investment in transit is essential to economic recovery and long-term competitiveness.

We work closely with regional transit agencies, Metrolinx and TTC, to support a broad return of ridership. An important element of encouraging that return is removing barriers to accessing transit. Double fares between the TTC and GO Transit is a significant barrier to transit accessibility and to encouraging individuals to return downtown via transit. Double fares for Toronto commuters who rely on the TTC and GO Transit seriously impedes the ability of workers to find employment and for employers to attract and retain talent. As the largest local transit agency in the Toronto Region, the failure to include TTC into this fare integration plan, means the plan is far from complete.

**We strongly support a fare integration plan between TTC and GO Transit, knowing the continued success and resilience of our region depends on it. The 2018-2020 TTC-GO Discounted Double Fares program was an important step to establishing fare integration across the region and we highly encourage a re-instatement of this program.**

Best regards,

**Al Smith**  
Executive Director  
St. Lawrence Market  
Neighbourhood BIA

**Briar de Lange**  
Executive Director  
Bloor-Yorkville BIA

**Grant Humes**  
Executive Director  
Toronto Financial District BIA

**Janice Solomon**  
Executive Director  
Toronto Downtown West BIA

**Mark Garner**  
Chief Operating Officer and  
Executive Director  
Downtown Yonge BIA

**Tim Kocur**  
Executive Director  
The Waterfront BIA

cc: Associate Minister of Transportation Stan Cho  
Mayor John Tory  
Rick Leary, CEO, TTC  
Phil Verster, President & CEO, Metrolinx