



**CONNECT THE CORRIDOR APPLAUDS FIRST STEP TOWARDS  
TWO-WAY ALL-DAY GO ALONG THE TORONTO-WATERLOO INNOVATION CORRIDOR.**

**TORONTO, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018** – Today members of regional transit advocacy group, Connect the Corridor, applauded the Ontario Government for taking the first step towards establishing fast, frequent, two-way all day GO Train service between Toronto and Waterloo, through the expansion of service on the Kitchener GO line.

“Waterloo-Region is one of Ontario’s top economic engines -- home to a thriving community of innovators and job creators. Cutting commute times between Toronto and Waterloo region creates jobs, breaks down barriers to doing business and will further cement our reputation as a global leader in the innovation economy. Today’s announcement is a welcome first step towards achieving these goals; we look forward to more progress towards establishing fast, frequent, two-way all-day transit across the Toronto-Waterloo innovation corridor.”

**-Berry Urbanovic, Mayor, City of Kitchener.**

“This is an important step forward. The Region of Waterloo has been working closely with Metrolinx for several years to prepare the groundwork for improved two-way rail transit between Toronto and the Waterloo Region. The Province and Metrolinx are also partners in the development of the King Victoria Transit Hub, which will ultimately integrate improved intercity rail with the first phase of the Region’s ION Light Rail Transit and the rest of Grand River Transit. We are delighted that the Province has found a way to expedite the development of two way all day GO rail service to better integrate the communities and labor market across the Corridor. This will help position the Toronto Waterloo Region Corridor as one of the most dynamic innovation economies worldwide.”

**-Karen Redman, Chair, Waterloo Region.**

“Today’s announcement by Minister Yurek is great news for the people and businesses along the Toronto-Waterloo innovation corridor. Faster, more frequent and two way all day GO within the Toronto – Waterloo Innovation corridor is a top issue for businesses, universities, and municipalities across the region. There's more work to be done and we'll continue to work with the government to deliver the transit service we need within the corridor.”

**-Ian McLean, President and CEO, Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, Chair, Connect the Corridor Coalition.**

“As a company deeply rooted in both Toronto and Waterloo region, we know the positive impact this would have for Shopify and the other 15,000 tech companies located along the corridor. It would improve our ability to attract and retain top talent and help businesses reach their full potential and compete globally. There’s still more work to do and we look forward to hearing more from the government about their plans.”

**-Clark Rabbior, Head of Government Relations, Shopify.**

“An airport is never a final destination for travellers. For Toronto Pearson to play its role as a global gateway, we need to be able to get visitors and goods to their final destination, rather than have them sit in gridlock on our highways. Two-way, all-day go service on the Kitchener GO line with a stop at the Pearson transit hub would not only help reduce road congestion and support goods movement, it will make the broader region a more attractive place to live, study, trade and invest.”

**- Howard Eng, President & CEO, GTAA, operator of Toronto Pearson.**



“Whether we meet with our scaling local companies or foreign multinationals looking to invest in Waterloo Region, the consistent message we hear is that convenient transit connectivity to the GTA population base is an expectation, not a nice-to-have. For the benefit of all businesses across Southwestern Ontario, we are indeed pleased that some progress is being made on this important front, but it’s just an incremental step. We need to ensure two-way, all-day and express service between Toronto and Waterloo Region to support our talent value proposition.”

- **Tony LaMantia, President & CEO of Waterloo EDC.**

“Today’s announcement is a positive step forward. Greater connectivity will expand opportunities and boost economic growth – for the University of Guelph it will mean attracting new students and partners and fostering new collaborations among students, researchers and faculty and industry. It will help lead to the commercialization of new ideas and technologies that have the potential to improve life, along the corridor and beyond.”

- **Franco Vaccarino, President, University of Guelph.**

**Connect the Corridor** represents the Toronto-Waterloo innovation corridor’s top business leaders, innovators and job creators. As a group we are committed to connecting people to good jobs and pushing our economy forward through reliable, fast and frequent, rapid transit across the corridor. Earlier this year, Connect the Corridor commissioned an Earnscliffe Strategy Group poll which showed 80% support for fast frequent rail service along the Toronto-Waterloo Innovation corridor, including 77% support in South/West Ontario and 70% in North/East Ontario.

The poll also found that the service would be well used, with approximately 500,000 Ontarians saying they would use a service like this every day and 1,300,000 once a week – more information [here](#).

#### **ABOUT CONNECT THE CORRIDOR:**

Connect the Corridor is made up of the Province’s top business leaders, innovators and job creators. Its members include Manulife, Challenger, Shopify, Sunlife, Gowling LLP, Cowan insurance, Communitech, North, The Greater KW Chamber, The Guelph Chamber of Commerce, The Toronto Region Board of Trade, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority and many others. Area municipalities and post-secondary institutions & public organizations are also research partners of the Coalition.

#### **Quick facts:**

- The Toronto-Waterloo innovation corridor is home to 6 million Ontarians and generates 17% of Canada’s GDP.
- The corridor is home to world-renowned post-secondary institutions graduating top talent.
- The corridor is home to 15,000 tech companies and one of the world’s most sophisticated financial sectors.

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#### **For more information:**

Chris Ball

[Media@connectthecorridor.ca](mailto:Media@connectthecorridor.ca)

416-737-9559