

REVISED Feb. 10, 2016

## Key Facts and Project Status

### Niagara's Proposal:

- Daily, year-round GO Train service between Niagara and Hamilton, connecting to the Lakeshore West Line to Toronto, with stops in Grimsby, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls
- Project Cost: Between \$100-\$120 million, including a one-third local contribution
- Economic Impact: \$195 million for Niagara

### Key Achievements in 2015:

- Conducted a public awareness and engagement campaign, putting Niagara's GO Train proposal on the Province's radar
- Comprehensive Business Case, including capital and operating scenarios, completed and submitted to Province in April followed by ongoing and frequent meetings with provincial officials, including the Minister and Deputy Minister of Transportation, Premier's office, Metrolinx and GO Transit

### Resolving Barriers:

- The GO project team worked throughout 2015 to address and resolve 17 perceived barriers or issues with Niagara's business case identified by the Province. Key issues included:
  - **Welland Canal Crossing:** The GO team secured commitment, in writing, for dedicated crossing times from the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation – eliminating the Canal as a barrier to GO
  - **Use of existing CN tracks:** Through months of technical work, the GO team secured agreement from CN there were no showstoppers with the planned track upgrades outlined in our business case
  - **Ridership forecasting and economics:** Extensive work was done with MTO and Metrolinx to determine the cost-benefit ratio of daily GO Train service. Provincial officials agree there is a positive economic benefit, both to Niagara, and to the province

### Project Status:

- The Province now has everything it needs to make a decision on daily GO Train service to Niagara
- The Province is now assembling a list of non-GTA expandable communities for consideration in the next wave of GO train expansions. Our solid business case has given us a leading position in this conversation. Our goal is to have Niagara GO Train expansion included in the next wave of GO train expansion projects

(more)

## Quotes

**Alan Caslin, Regional Chair:**

*"The level of cooperation and hard work by all municipalities and community leaders on this initiative is unprecedented in Niagara. We worked diligently throughout the past year to address all major issues and questions raised by the province about our proposal. The Province now has everything it needs to make a decision on daily GO Train service to Niagara."*

**Walter Sendzik, Mayor of St. Catharines:**

*"Bringing GO Train service to Niagara is critical to our long term prosperity, economic growth and quality of life. We worked hard to develop a business case that demonstrates daily GO service would bring a positive economic benefit, both to Niagara, and to Ontario – and the province agrees."*

**Jim Diodati, Mayor of Niagara Falls:**

*"Last April, the Province told us they heard Niagara's call for GO loud and clear. Since then our focus was to work diligently on a number of outstanding issues and perceived barriers to daily GO service. We rolled up our sleeves and worked with the Seaway, CN and others, securing the necessary commitments to pave the way for daily GO trains. We did our homework and the result is a solid business case that makes us a leading contender for the next wave of GO Train expansion projects."*

**Bob Bentley, Mayor of Grimsby:**

*"Extending full day GO service into the Niagara Region is a critical and affordable investment for the Province of Ontario. The returns on this investment are tremendous, not only as an economic game changer for our Niagara Region but also a vital link to opportunities for people and goods between New York City and Toronto, the two largest markets in the north eastern North America."*

**Sandra Easton, Mayor of Lincoln:**

*"The movement of goods, services and people is very important to Niagara's economy through the associated growth in population and jobs that such important connections will bring. I am very proud as the Mayor of Lincoln to participate with my Regional colleagues in the efforts to bring GO commuter rail service to Niagara."*

**Patrick Darte, Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake:**

*"GO Niagara Service would be a tremendous benefit to residents and businesses in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Millions of additional visitors along the transit hubs from Barrie, Eastern Ontario and the Greater Toronto and Hamilton corridor could experience what we already know - some of the best wineries, restaurants, hotels and spas and theatre in the country."*

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