

Benefits of GO Expansion

February 2020

Info Sheet:

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Our region is growing at an unprecedented pace and will continue to grow. With much of the transportation network already congested, we need a commuter rail service that can move more people.

GO Expansion is the largest transit infrastructure program in Canadian history. It will ensure that the current transportation network meets the needs of our growing region and unlocks the region's potential, realizing significant benefits to transit users, drivers, and the region as a whole.

This Info Sheet provides a snapshot of the information outlined in GO Expansion Full Business Case, including:

- Why expand GO Rail?
- What does GO Expansion entail?
- What are the benefits of GO Expansion?
- What is the GO Expansion investment value?
- Does GO Expansion make financial sense?
- What about implementation risks?

Why expand GO Rail?

Metrolinx is investing into GO Expansion to ensure that the regional transportation network meets the needs of our growing region and unlocks the region's potential.

The GTHA is one of the fastest growing city-regions in North America and is a national centre for business, culture, and education. By 2041:

- Regional population is expected to increase by 42% to more than 10 million people;
- Total regional employment is estimated to grow by 41% to 4.8 million;
- The GO Service Area is projected to reach 12.4 million from the current 8.8 million;
- Toronto will remain the largest employment centre in the region with over 40% of all jobs; and
- Regional travel demand is forecast to increase by 50%.

The existing infrastructure will not be able to accommodate this growth, as much of the network is already congested today:

- Today congestion can increase travel times for drivers by as much as 120%;
- Congestion could cost the region's economy up to \$15 billion annually in lost productivity by 2031; and
- By 2031, demand for travel will exceed the capacity of highway network and the rapid transit network will similarly be crowded.



GO Expansion Full Business Case Executive Summary
November 2018

GO Expansion rests on a comprehensive peer-reviewed GO Expansion Business Case. The Business Case presents findings of rigorous analyses of costs and benefits to decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public as a crucial part of transparent evidence-based decision-making process. The full business case can be found at: www.metrolinx.com or scan the QR code above.

What does GO Expansion entail?

GO Expansion will provide:

- Faster and more efficient trains - over 680 km of electrified track with new trains that are up to 29% faster and up to 50% cheaper to operate
- Two-way, all-day service
- A train every 15 minutes, or better
- More accessible stations - level boarding at 42 stations, which will allow customers to board and alight faster and reduce trip times by 2-5 minutes
- An expanded and improved Union Station to accommodate demand beyond 2055

What are the Benefits of GO Expansion?

The case for the GO Expansion is robust. By leveraging an existing network of over 400 km of railway, GO Expansion will unlock the potential of the region and provide a range of benefits and opportunities including:



Transportation benefits



Economic Prosperity benefits

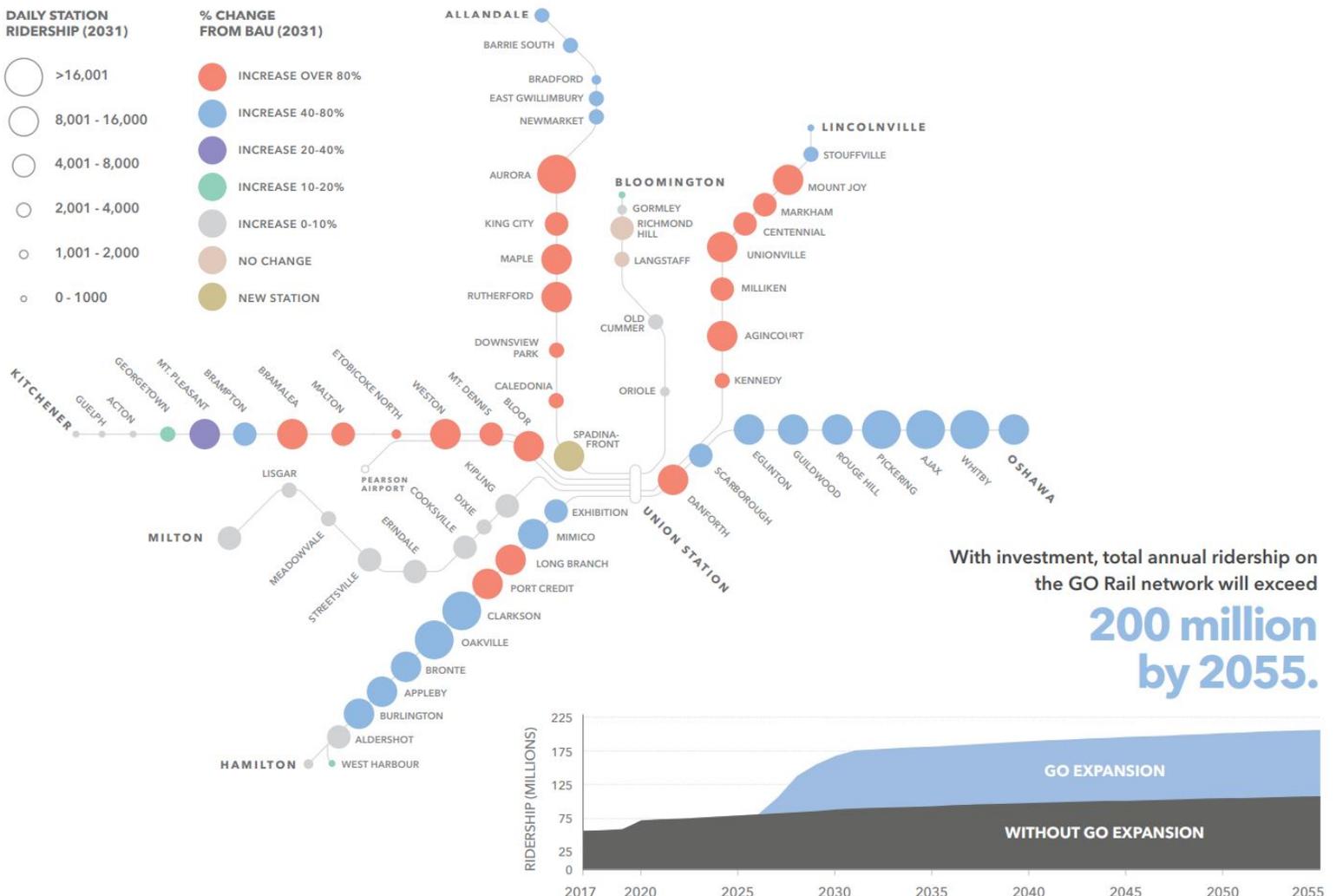


Quality of Life benefits



Protected Environment benefits

GO Expansion will double GO Rail's ridership. By 2055, annual ridership will exceed 200 million (compared to 105 million without GO Expansion). The ridership gain includes nearly 60 million additional off-peak and counter peak trips, a net increase of 210%.





Added capacity for a growing region. GO Rail will be able to add over 1,000 new rail services a day by upgrading rail corridors and Union Station. Once upgraded, GO Rail can increase capacity until the end of the century to meet increased demand as the region's population and employment continue to grow.



Reduced congestion. By offering faster trains and more frequent service, more people will be able to choose transit, reducing congestion across the region, saving drivers 7 million hours and taking close to 14 million cars off the road annually.



More time with family, for everyone. Travelers using GO Rail will get from where they are to where they want to go faster, while drivers will benefit from decongested roads. Electric trains travel faster and can save up to 20 minutes per trip for an average commuter.



More jobs and increased productivity. GO Expansion is a regional project that will generate trades and professional jobs during design, construction, and operations. An estimated 8,300 annual job equivalent for the first 12 years of delivery will be created over the lifecycle of the program. With this investment, 45% of all jobs in the region will be accessible by transit from a GO Rail station with two-way all-day service, compared to 35% in the off-peak.



A railway that meets customer needs. GO Expansion will transform the customer experience. Pivoting from a peak only railway to a two-way all-day service with 15 minute or better frequencies will let customers turn up and GO for their service.



Regional development. GO Expansion will reduce travel times between Urban Growth Centres and Downtown Toronto by 25 minutes in the off-peak and 10 minutes in the peak. This 'shrinking' effect has been seen to unlock investment and urban development in other regions.



New and improved regional connections. After GO Expansion, 41% of the region's people will be able to access a GO Rail station with two-way all-day service by transit (compared to 34% without GO Expansion). In addition, over 4,000 cultural, educational, and social service facilities will be readily accessible with two-way all-day GO Rail service.



A healthier region with a safer transportation network. GO Expansion will generate 15 million new walking and cycling trips to access GO Rail station a year. Active travel options tend to promote improved health. In addition, as more drivers choose GO Rail, there will be less traffic and an estimated 7,000 fewer accidents resulting in death or injury over the project lifecycle in the GTHA.

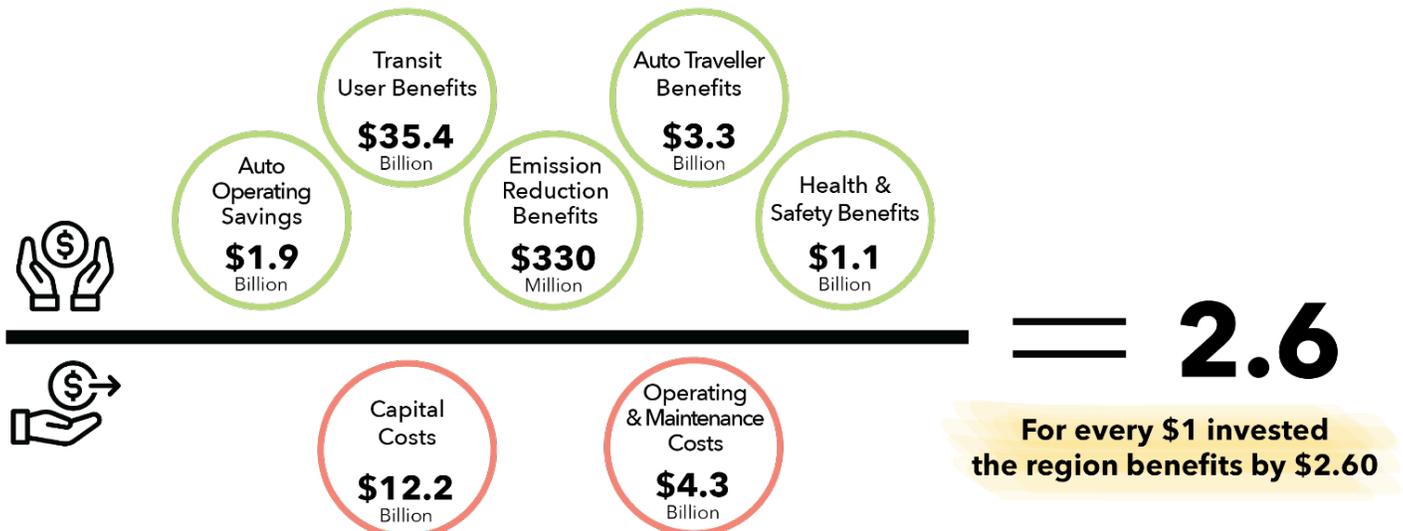


Cleaner air and energy conservation. GO Expansion will reduce criteria air contaminants that impact human health and up to 13.5 megatonnes of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. After the project is delivered, nearly 145,000 cars trips per day will shift to rail and with more efficient trains, rail greenhouse gas emissions will drop from 1.85 kg CO₂e/trip to 0.5 kg CO₂e/trip. GO Rail will provide more service with up to 70% less pollution per passenger trip.

What is the GO Expansion investment value?

GO Expansion benefits significantly exceed its costs, leading to a cost-benefit ratio of 2.6, which means for every \$1.00 invested in GO Expansion, the region will benefit by \$2.60. The net return of \$26 billion dollars distributed across the region equals to \$9,000 per household in the GTHA.

Cost-Benefit Ratio



Does GO Expansion make financial sense for Metrolinx?

Yes, it does! GO Expansion will reduce the costs of operating trains and increase ridership. The incremental revenue generated by GO Expansion could allow GO Rail to run without subsidy beyond 2031 and achieve a revenue/operating ratio of 130% by 2055.

What about implementation risks?

Metrolinx uses a new project delivery model, known as the Public-Private Partnership (P3) model. This new model transfers design and delivery risks to private sector partners ("Project Co"). While a private partner will operate GO Rail under the GO Expansion program, Metrolinx will remain the owner of the system and publicly accountable for its performance, including revenue risks, customer service experience, coordination with other public agencies, and decisions on service planning and fares.

Our new approach brings certainty and clarity to communities across the GO Rail network; helps Metrolinx ensure that our project delivery partners meet the new standards and expectations; and allows us to harness worldwide expertise to transform GO Rail into a world class transit system.

Partnerships with development community are also being made to leverage their expertise in building new stations through Transit Oriented Development.

This Info Sheet is part of a package of Info Sheets and a Discussion Guide provided by Metrolinx to share updates on system-wide studies and policies. The current set of Info Sheets cover a number of different topics, including: heritage conservation, vegetation removal and compensation program, electromagnetic fields and electromagnetic interference, grade separations, and new approach to construction management.

For more information

For more information about GO Expansion and to download other materials, check out our website MetrolinxEngage.com