



Toronto City Summit Alliance Releases Report of Transportation / Transit Infrastructure Funding Options

July 5, 2010 – Toronto – The Toronto City Summit Alliance today released *Time to Get Serious: Reliable Funding for GTHA Transit/ Transportation Infrastructure*, a report examining the urgent need to improve regional transportation to resolve congestion, the funding shortfalls threatening improvements, and new funding sources that must be considered if the GTHA is to meet its transportation needs.

The report was prepared on behalf of the Alliance’s Transportation & Other Infrastructure Working Group, 25 leaders on transportation and infrastructure issues, by members Andrew Bevan, Executive Director of Sustainable Prosperity, and Neal Irwin, Chairman Emeritus of IBI Group. It will form the basis for a July 14th Roundtable of 100 regional stakeholders aimed at advancing the *The Big Move*, Metrolinx’s Regional Transportation Plan for the GTHA, and other initiatives to ensure that the GTHA has sustainable and equitable transportation able to better support its residents’ mobility and quality of life.

Roundtable participants will be challenged to agree on which funding sources have the greatest potential for success and how best to engage decision makers and the public in a more productive discussion about the urgent need to deal with the crisis of congestion and how to fund needed transportation and infrastructure in the future. The report and Roundtable will inform the upcoming municipal elections, public engagement campaigns, and the agenda for the Alliance’s February 2011 Summit of 600-700 regional leaders from all sectors.

“We look forward to getting specific and direct feedback on the funding options and possible engagement strategies so that we can work with regional leaders to advance them,” said John Tory, voluntary Chair of the Alliance. “It’s time for our city region and its leadership to take on the challenge of deciding how to pay for the transit and other infrastructure we all know we need. We’re going to help make that happen.”

“The Working Group and Roundtable process leading up to the 2011 Summit is engaging thought leaders, government bodies and community organizations in assessing the options and identifying roadmaps to tackle challenges facing our region,” said Alliance CEO Julia Deans. “We have long used this model of collective leadership and civic action and are excited to be working with our many partners on an issue as vital to our future prosperity and quality of life as transportation.”

The 2011 Summit will highlight challenges and opportunities facing the Toronto region in a period of economic recovery and renewed growth and will recommend actions towards solving those challenges. The 2011 Summit is a unique vehicle for convening leaders from business, labour, the academic, non-profit and voluntary sectors, as well as all three levels of government. The action plans identified at the 2011 Summit will be aimed at all levels of government and civil society, in particular the role the Alliance and its partners can play.

About the Toronto City Summit Alliance:

The Toronto City Summit Alliance is a multi-sectoral coalition of civic leaders who develop and support initiatives addressing issues critical to the future health and wealth of the Toronto region. Since its inception in 2002, over 6000 volunteers have been involved in developing and supporting initiatives aimed at: expanding knowledge-based industry (Toronto Region Research Alliance); better integrating skilled immigrants (Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council, with Maytree); promoting affordable housing (Make Housing Happen); strengthening neighbourhoods (Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force); supporting working-age adults (Modernizing Income Security for Working-Age Adults Task Force); promoting our cultural and tourism assets (Toront03 and Luminato); connecting and supporting emerging city-builders (Emerging Leaders Network, the Social Entrepreneurship Summit); and realizing a regional environmental vision (Greening Greater Toronto). For more information, visit www.torontoalliance.ca

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