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Ontario Providing More Transit Funding for Durham Region
Enhanced Gas Tax Program Will Support More Travel Options, Improve Local Transit

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NEWS

Ontario is boosting support for Durham Region, providing them with reliable, long-term funding to improve and expand local transit and offer more travel options for commuters and families.

Starting in 2019, Ontario will increase funding for Durham Region and other municipal transit systems across the province through an enhancement to the existing gas tax program, doubling the municipal share from two cents per litre to four cents by 2021. There will be no increase in the tax that people in Ontario pay on gasoline as a result of the enhancement to the program.

Durham Region will receive more than \$8.2 million through the 2016-17 gas tax program, and could see its funding increased to an estimated \$9.8 million in 2019-20, \$11.8 million in 2020-21 and to \$15.8 million in 2021-22.

Durham Region is able to use gas tax funding to make major infrastructure upgrades, buy additional transit vehicles, add more routes, extend hours of service, implement fare strategies and improve accessibility.

Supporting stronger public transit systems is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUOTES

“We’ve heard loud and clear from municipalities that they need more sustainable funding for public transit to keep up with the demand to provide more service. By modernizing Ontario’s gas tax program we are helping municipalities improve their local transit service so people can easily get where they need to be.”

— Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation

“Commuters and families in Pickering – Scarborough East welcome this announcement directing funding to regional public transit. Improving transit is part of our plan to decrease traffic congestion and to enable commuters to travel to their destination with ease and convenience.”

— Tracy MacCharles, MPP for Pickering – Scarborough East

“We are listening to you, our constituents. You told us time and again that investments in transit infrastructure will make life easier. Whether you are commuting to and from work, or visiting friends, we all need to get where we are going as efficiently as possible. I am proud that we are doubling the amount of money available to local governments through the gas tax.”

— MPP Joe Dickson, Ajax-Pickering

“As someone who commutes to Toronto on a regular basis, I know from experience how important it is to have reliable and affordable transportation options. Today’s announcement, in combination with the eastward GO Train extension and the 407 expansion, show the province’s commitment to helping Durham residents better get to where they’re going.”

— Granville Anderson, MPP Durham

“Provincial gas tax funding provides a predictable revenue stream that allows the Region to support and grow our transit system. Frequent, reliable public transit is essential to building complete communities. Whenever we can make more transit available, more often, to more people, we are thrilled.”

— Roger Anderson, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Region of Durham.

QUICK FACTS

- Funding will increase to 2.5 cents per litre in 2019–20, 3 cents in 2020–21 and 4 cents in 2021–22.
- This year the province committed \$334.5 million in gas tax funding to 99 municipalities. This amount is expected to increase to about \$401.3 million in 2019–20, \$481.5 million in 2020–21, \$642 million in 2021–22.
- Ontario made gas tax program funding permanent in 2013 to provide a stable source for municipal transit investments.
- One bus takes up to 40 vehicles off the road, and keeps 25 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions out of the atmosphere each year.
- Research shows that every \$100 million of public infrastructure investment in Ontario boosts GDP by \$114 million, particularly in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

LEARN MORE

[Enhanced Gas Tax Program](#)

[Gas Tax Funding for Municipalities](#)