

**To: Chair and Members of the Planning and Development Committee**

**From: Councillor Kelvin Galbraith, Ward 1**

**Date: December 3, 2019**

**Re: Advocacy letter – Metrolinx Aldershot GO Station Parking**

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In the summer of 2016, Metrolinx proposed an additional 900 spots to be created at Burlington's Aldershot GO Station to accommodate the increase in commuters using the station. In the Fall of 2017 they then submitted an application for an expansion of the parking lot and station improvements at Aldershot GO.

City of Burlington staff provided comments regarding the proposed expansion. While, our first choice would be to have more commuters use public transit, walk or cycle to the GO station, we realize that this is not currently a viable option for the many commuters that use this particular station. The understanding is that the Aldershot station is used predominantly by GO riders who do not live in Burlington.

The current parking supply in the GO lot is not able to accommodate the ever-growing needs of this station and as a result, parking is spilling out onto local streets, causing significant issues for residents as well as increasing frustration for commuters wishing to take the eastbound train.

It is now 2019, and no work has started at the station while parking continues to be an issue. An October 2019 email from Metrolinx staff provided the following update: "The project is undergoing an internal approval process and re-design. Once complete we hope to start construction at the start of 2021."

I therefore bring forward the following motion for your consideration:

**Motion:**

**Direct the Mayor and members of council to endorse and sign the attached communication regarding ongoing issues with the parking at the Aldershot Go Station being sent to Metrolinx on behalf of Burlington City Council.**

**Councillor Kelvin Galbraith**

**Attachment:**

**Appendix A – Advocacy Letter – Metrolinx Aldershot GO Station Parking**

December 4, 2019

Mr. Phil Verster, President & CEO  
Metrolinx  
97 Front Street West  
Toronto, Ontario

**RE: Aldershot GO Station – Additional Parking**

Dear Mr. Verster,

I, Kelvin Galbraith, Burlington City Councillor – Ward 1, along with Burlington Mayor Marianne Meed Ward, and Burlington City Council members, write to you today with regards to the many concerns and complaints received from constituents and commuters regarding the significant lack of parking at Burlington's Aldershot GO Station.

In the summer of 2016, Metrolinx proposed an additional 900 spots, and in the Fall of 2017, submitted an application for an expansion of the parking lot and station improvements at Aldershot GO. City staff provided comments regarding the proposed expansion. While, our first choice would be to have more commuters use public transit, walk or cycle to the GO station, we realize that this is not currently a viable option for the many commuters that use this particular station. My understanding is that the Aldershot station is used predominantly by GO riders who do not live in Burlington.

The current parking supply in the GO lot is not able to accommodate the ever growing needs of this station and as a result, parking is spilling out onto local streets, causing significant issues for residents as well as increasing frustration for commuters wishing to take the eastbound train.

The City has reached out to Metrolinx requesting consideration of options to support our on-going transit priority measures for our Plains Road transit route. The request was to include a bus area/layby on the new proposed south side parking lot. However, for various reasons, Metrolinx was not supportive of this request. Burlington's suggestion would have resulted in improved travel times for Burlington Transit and potentially decreased the parking demand at Aldershot GO.

It is now 2019, and no work has started at the station while parking continues to be an issue. An October 2019 email from Metrolinx staff provided the following update: "The project is undergoing an internal approval process and re-design. Once complete we hope to start construction at the start of 2021."

While one could appreciate the idea of parking relief, 2021 is simply too far into the future. An immediate, interim solution is required to alleviate the parking issues experienced by those who arrive at Aldershot GO station. I ask for your assistance in resolving this urgent concern.



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The City of Burlington is committed to creating neighbourhoods that maximize transit ridership, facilitate integration of transit services and prioritize active and sustainable modes of travel such as walking and cycling. We look forward to working with Metrolinx to achieve our shared integrated transportation goals.

Sincerely,

Kelvin Galbraith  
Burlington City and Halton Regional Councillor

Marianne Meed Ward  
Burlington Mayor and Halton Regional Councillor  
On behalf of Burlington City Council