

## Media Release

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### **PRIME MINISTER HARPER DELIVERS FUNDING FOR BRAMPTON'S RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT**

BRAMPTON— Brampton Transit's plan to improve the commute across the GTA and reduce gridlock will soon become reality thanks to the announcement today by Prime Minister Stephen Harper of up to \$95 million for AcceleRide.

The \$280 million Brampton Rapid Transit project, slated to begin in 2010, has now received a total of \$190 million from the federal and provincial governments. In 2006, the province showed its commitment to public transit in the GTA by committing \$95 million to AcceleRide.

"The City of Brampton team has worked extremely hard for the past three years to make today's announcement happen," said Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell. "The commitment of federal funding in this community is an historic first, and means our AcceleRide program will become part of a seamless transportation network benefiting people across the GTA."

As an element of the City's Growth Management Plan and Transportation and Transit Master Plan, AcceleRide is an integral piece to completing a seamless regional rapid transit network. The program addresses the federal government's priorities of promoting public transit and reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as the provincial priorities of reducing traffic congestion and urban sprawl, enhancing air quality and energy conservation.

The initial phase of AcceleRide will introduce uniquely branded, enhanced services on Queen Street and Main Street as the first step in achieving a seamless transportation network that will connect to major destinations and other services in the GTA. Subsequent phases will expand the BRT network and examine opportunities to introduce dedicated lanes for transit.

"Brampton is a high-growth City with a very responsive public transit system," said Transit Director Suzanne Bass. "AcceleRide will benefit not only the City but the entire Greater Toronto Area, providing an essential link in the regional transit network."

According to figures from the Canadian Urban Transit Association, Brampton Transit ridership growth is about four times the national average. Last year, there were 10,139,107 Brampton Transit riders, a 12.4 per cent increase over 2005. The national increase is 3.4 per cent for the first half of 2006. This 12.4 per cent increase in ridership follows a 30-per-cent increase in service hours in 2004 and 2005.

In 2005, Brampton Transit increased service by about 25 per cent through a new grid-based route system. The service change altered 22 of the existing 30 routes with additional routes added to serve riders better. A total of 51 growth buses have been added to the Brampton Transit fleet since 2004 that have been utilized to introduce these service increases and the new low-floor buses has resulted in Brampton Transit being able to increase its accessible service to 58 per

cent of its total trips.

Brampton Transit's customer service focus has been recognized by CUTA through the Association's 2006 National Transit Corporate Recognition Award for the service enhancements that were introduced in 2005.

For more information on Brampton's TTMP and the AcceleRide Program, visit the City's website at [www.brampton.ca](http://www.brampton.ca).

**About Brampton-** Brampton is among Canada's largest cities, third in the Greater Toronto Area. Home to more than 434,000 residents representing 62 distinct cultures, Brampton enjoys an unparalleled diversity of ideas, skills and innovation from its residents and business community. Brampton has earned the name "Flower City" for having the most acres of greenhouse space in Canada. In 2006, Brampton won the Best Blooming Community in Canada Award in the National Communities in Bloom (CIB) Competition. For more information visit [www.brampton.ca](http://www.brampton.ca)

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***Media Contact:***

Donna Kell  
Manager, Communication  
Advisory Services  
City of Brampton  
905-874-2005  
[donna.kell@brampton.ca](mailto:donna.kell@brampton.ca)

***Information Contact:***

Mayor Susan Fennell  
City of Brampton  
905-874-2600  
[susan.fennell@brampton.ca](mailto:susan.fennell@brampton.ca)

Brampton City Hall, 2 Wellington Street West, Brampton, ON L6Y 4R2 Tel: 905-874-2000 Fax: 905-874-2149 [www.brampton.ca](http://www.brampton.ca) TTY 905-874-2130

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