

**Ministry of Education**

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**2017: B15**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**FROM:** Joshua Paul  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

**DATE:** December 15, 2017

**SUBJECT:** New Vision for Student Transportation – Discussion  
Paper Release

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I am writing to provide you with information about the release of the [Discussion paper on a new vision for student transportation in Ontario](#) to support stakeholder engagements in creating a New Vision for Student Transportation, and provide engagement details and timelines.

As announced in July, the ministry is undertaking a broad engagement over the next year to develop a new vision for student transportation. This new vision will focus on how transportation can support the goals of the education system now and into the future. The new vision will also provide guidance for future policy development such as funding and accountability.

## **REFERENCE GROUPS**

To lead this engagement, the ministry also announced two executive co-leads with extensive school board administration experience in Ontario, Joan Green and Michel Paulin. As part of the engagement, and to support the co-leads as they develop this new vision, two reference groups were established:

- 1) [Innovation Reference Group](#) – members of this group will provide ideas from an external perspective on innovative and transformational opportunities in student transportation, and is comprised of experts in the subjects of public transit, climate change, design thinking, ride-sharing and automation, transportation safety, and education equity.

- 2) Transportation Reference Group – members of this group will provide expert, technical feedback on matters related to student transportation operations and delivery, as well as policy-making and oversight, and is comprised of representatives from the Council of School Business Officials (COSBO), the Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) Transportation Committee, the Independent School Bus Operators Association (ISBOA), the Ontario School Bus Association (OSBA), and the four trustees' associations.

In both reference groups, members have no formal responsibilities and the group will not be providing any formal recommendations to the two co-leads, but will be solicited for their expertise and advice over the course of the engagement. It should also be noted that their membership does not replace their association's participation in the engagement. Both reference groups will have their first meeting in the weeks ahead, and their membership is attached in Appendix A for reference.

## **DISCUSSION PAPER**

To guide the development of a new vision for student transportation, a discussion paper was developed by the executive co-leads to strengthen student transportation in Ontario.

The discussion paper lays out the current state of student transportation, the recognition that challenges and opportunities exist, and is an invitation for stakeholders to provide feedback and concerns, as well as contribute to the renewed vision through innovative ideas, all under the desired outcomes of enhancing readiness for learning, continuous improvement and accountability, and fostering community confidence.

There will also be opportunity to share feedback online through the [Open Consultations Directory](#), where public submissions as a response to the discussion paper will be accepted.

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS**

Using the Discussion Paper as the guide for dialogue, the executive co-leads will be inviting stakeholder groups to meet with them (See Appendix B for the stakeholder list). Ministry staff will begin reaching out to these organizations on behalf of the co-leads to schedule a session date and time, which is expected to begin in the new year. If possible, scheduling will attempt to coincide with existing stakeholder meetings and conferences.

In addition, the ministry intends to organize supplementary sessions in other regions of the province which are intended to provide an opportunity for local school boards, transportation consortia, operators, and parents/student groups to provide their perspectives at the regional level. These sessions are not intended to replace representation at the stakeholder engagement sessions. The ministry will work with the respective provincial organizations in determining participation in these sessions.

At the conclusion of the process, the executive co-leads will produce a summary report in fall 2018, as a product of the feedback received from the stakeholder engagement sessions and responses from the public through the Open Consultations website based on the released discussion paper. It is expected that the summary report will include short and long term recommendations for the ministry to consider to achieve our student transportation goals both now and into the future.

The ministry looks forward to working with school boards and our other stakeholder groups over the course of this engagement. Your collaboration and input has been valuable thus far and will continue to be important as we develop the new vision for student transportation.

For any questions, please contact Cheri Hayward, Director, School Business Support Branch, at [cheri.hayward@ontario.ca](mailto:cheri.hayward@ontario.ca) or (416) 327-7503.

***Original signed by***

Joshua Paul  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

cc: Joan Green, Executive Co-Lead  
Michel Paulin, Executive Co-Lead  
Senior Business Officials  
Transportation consortia managers  
Ontario School Bus Association  
Independent School Bus Operators Association

## Appendix A – Reference Group Membership

### Innovation Reference Group

Name	Title
Alex Milojevic	Chair, Ontario Regional Committee, Canadian Urban Transit Association
Brett Chang	Senior Public Policy Associate, Uber
Brian J. Patterson	President & CEO, Ontario Safety League
Kate Berry	Senior Program Manager, Active & Safe Routes to School
Matthew Adams	Assistant Professor, University of Toronto
Patrick Case	Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Equity Secretariat
Robert Siddall	Chief Financial Officer, Metrolinx
Rosana Salvaterra	Co-Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
Helen Kerr	Professor, Strategic Innovation Lab, OCADU
Raktim Mitra	Associate Professor, Ryerson University

### Transportation Reference Group

Name	Title
Frank Healey	Independent School Bus Operators Association
Brian Denny	Independent School Bus Operators Association
Kevin Langs	Ontario School Bus Association
Kirk Flach	Ontario School Bus Association
David Frier	OASBO Transportation Committee
Wendy Dobson	OASBO Transportation Committee
Julie Cherepacha	Council of School Business Officials
Brian Jeffs	Council of School Business Officials
Jean Lemay	Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
Cathy Abraham	Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Patrick Daly	Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
Simon Fecteau	Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario

## Appendix B

<b>New Vision for Student Transportation - Stakeholder Engagement List</b>
Council of Ontario Directors of Education
Council of Senior Business Officials
OASBO Transportation Committee
Operations, Maintenance and Construction
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
L'Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques
Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario
Ontario School Bus Association
Independent School Bus Operators Association
People for Education
Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education
Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations
Parents partenaires en éducation
Ontario Principals' Council
Catholic Ontario Principal Council
Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes
Ontario Student Trustees' Association — l'Association des élèves conseillères et conseillers de l'Ontario
Minister's Student Advisory Council
Regroupement des élèves conseillers et conseillères francophones de l'Ontario
Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
City of Toronto
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
Minister's Advisory Council on the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework – Working Group (MAC WG)
The Central Planning and Policy Circle of the First Nation Lifelong Learning Table
Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens
Canadian Union of Public Employees - Ontario
Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario - Alliance des travailleuses et travailleurs en éducation de l'Ontario
Ontario Council of Educational Workers - Conseil des Travailleurs de l'Éducation de l'Ontario
Ontario Public Service Employees Union
Unifor
Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario
Vaughan African Canadian Association
Markham African Canadian Caribbean Association