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Mayors and chairs meet premier

By Mark Pavilons

Premier Kathleen?Wynne has opened the lines of communication with her municipal counterparts.

The premier was the special guest at the CivicAction meeting with GTAH?mayors and chairs, held Jan. 27 in Toronto.

Wynne spoke about traffic congestion throughout the GTAH, as well s regional express rail projects. She also addressed priorities for regional collaboration.

King Mayor Steve Pellegrini was on hand with his York colleagues, which included York chair Wayne Emmerson.

Pellegrini said he was impressed by Wynne and her willingness to speak to municipal representatives. She was engaging and stayed long after her speech to meet with her colleagues.

Pellegrini said it was definitely ?good to have the premier's ear.? He had an opportunity to ask about review of the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine legislation, as well as infrastructure funding commitments from the province.

The premier indicated she would like to have ongoing dialogue with GTAH?mayors and chairs.

Wynne followed up with the local politicians after the meeting, sending them a personal note.

?I understand and appreciate the important role that mayors and chairs play individually and collectively in the GTAH. My government has made it a priority to strengthen and support municipalities across the province, including GTAH municipalities.

?As we discussed at the Civic Action forum, it's imperative for us to work together to see beyond local issues and develop broader solutions. I would like to build on that discussion by bringing GTAH mayors and chairs together at a summit on March 24 to discuss opportunities for improved collaboration in the GTAH.

?I look forward to the opportunity to meet with GTHA mayors and chairs at the summit, and to continue to support greater collaboration in the important work we do.?