

Government Relations Matters

Committee of Council
October 22, 2025



Debt Issuance Committee

Thursday, 23 October 2025 @ 8:30 AM

Peel Housing Corporation Special Meeting

Thursday, 23 October 2025 @ 9:00 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

Regional Council

Thursday, 23 October 2025 @ 9:30 AM | Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

8.3 District Energy and Thermal Network (Recommendation Report)

Summary:

- The report speaks to Peel Region's access to a substantial reserve of thermal energy with the potential to provide heating and cooling services for up to 300,000 dwellings.
- If a thermal network were developed to harness the energy at scale, it could generate a significant and sustained revenue stream for Peel.

City Staff Comments (Planning):

- Staff observe that the Region of Peel proposes changing the approach from having private sector provision to having the Region take on the leading role.
- With the new approach, there will be an increase over time in network and revenue expansion potential.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Support the recommendation.

13.1 2025 Capital Financial Triannual Performance Report as of August 31, 2025 (Recommendation)

Summary:

- The 2025 Capital Budget included approval of \$2.3 billion in capital projects, including \$2.1 billion for Regionally Controlled programs and \$0.2 billion for the Regionally Financed External Organizations.
- In the first eight months of 2025, \$749.3 million was spent, surpassing the previous five years' average of \$418.8 million (79%).
- As of August 31, 2025, Peel has Capital Work in Progress totalling \$8.2 billion (1,833 active capital projects).

City Staff Comments (Finance):

- The Region's unspent capital increased from \$6.6 billion at the end of fiscal 2024 to \$8.2 billion as of August 31, 2025.
- Main contributor to the increase was the approval of the 2025 Capital Budget, totalling \$2.3 billion.
- With a five-year average annual spending of approximately \$700 million, this is equivalent to approximately 12 years of work, assuming a similar average annual spending pattern.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

13.8 Update on Development Charges Deferral and Grant Program (October 2025) (For Information)

Summary:

- The Province has requested Peel temporarily maintain the program while discussions on financial support continue.
- Regional Staff recommend establishing a Development Charges Deferral and Grant Program Incentive Reserve Fund to manage these commitments.
- The reserve would be funded through Federal or Provincial funding (if secured), and if needed, from utility rate and property tax revenues.
- The Province is awaiting federal commitments on development charge funding, expected in the November 4, 2025, federal budget, which will be an important consideration.

City Staff Comments (Planning, Finance):

- Related item 14.2 is correspondence from Hon. Robert J. Flack, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, regarding resolution 2025-495; as amended on July 10, 2025, by Resolution 2025-583, which approved the Region's development charges (DCs) deferral and grant program.
- The letter requested that Peel maintain the DC grant portion of the program beyond October 17, 2025, to enable the Ministry officials to continue their efforts in exploring options to respond to this request for financial support.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

15.1 Vision Zero Road Safety Strategic Plan Update (2018-2024) (For Information)

Summary:

- The report provides an analysis of the Vision Zero Road Safety Strategic Plan (RSSP) and summarizes the road safety trends for the Regional road network.
- For the 2018-2022 RSSP, the average collision trend had declined when compared to 2017.

City Staff Comments (Public Works and Engineering):

- The City of Brampton also implemented a road safety strategy, which, like the Region, adopted the Vision Zero framework, aiming for zero fatal and injury collisions.
- Regional roads can be characterized as more high-speed, high-volume roadways that are more prone to fatal and serious injury collisions, which may impact the City's Vision Zero framework once the regional roads are transferred to lower-tier municipalities.

City Staff Recommendation:

- Receive the report.

October 16, 2025

More Frequent GO Train Service Between Kitchener and Toronto

The province has reached an Agreement-in-Principle with CN Rail to purchase land to construct dedicated GO tracks on the Kitchener Line - a major milestone in the province's plan to build faster transit between Kitchener and Toronto.

This project will add 40 km of new, two-way tracks and includes track realignments and other improvements.

When complete, the new Kitchener Line will enable:

To Bramalea GO:

- Two-way, all-day service, seven days per week

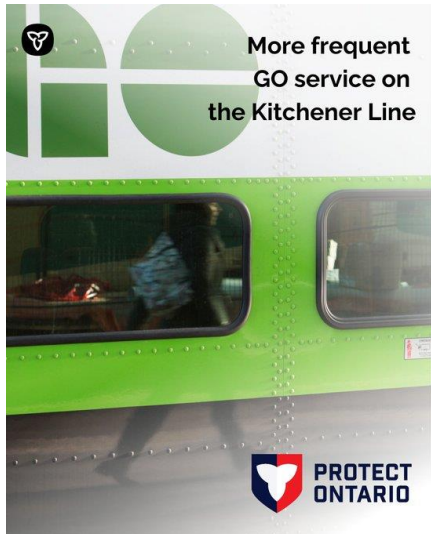
To Mount Pleasant GO

- 30-minute two-way, all-day service, seven days per week
- Additional trains during peak rush hour travel times to provide enhanced service to Union Station in the morning and to Mount Pleasant GO in the evening

Additionally, **starting November 23, 2025, GO Transit train service will be expanded on the Kitchener Line.** The service increases include:

- 18 new weekend trips between Bramalea GO and Union Station, which will enable service every 30 minutes
- Four existing weekend trips will be extended from Mount Pleasant GO to Kitchener GO, enabling weekend service to Kitchener for the first time
- Two new weekday trips between Bramalea GO and Union Station
- Two existing weekday trips will be extended to Bramalea GO

City staff welcome this announcement as a major step forward towards two-way, all-day GO train service on the Kitchener Line which has also been a long-standing advocacy priority for the City of Brampton. The increased service as of November 23, 2025, will provide much needed additional capacity and flexibility for Brampton commuters.



October 20, 2025

Ontario Introduces Bill 56, *Building a More Competitive Economy Act*

The province introduced the *Building a More Competitive Economy Act (Bill 56)* which, if passed, will streamline regulatory processes, support local businesses, advance labour mobility and increase competitiveness.

Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE)

The Bill makes several changes to existing legislation, including the Highway Traffic Act.

The *Building a More Competitive Economy Act* repeals part of the legislation allowing for automated speed cameras to be used on city roads and amends it to say that the Minister of Transportation can direct a municipality to install signs in school zones.

Other legislative amendments include (highlights):

- Reviewing all Ontario government economic development-focused permits by 2028, to eliminate or transform 35 per cent or more to encourage economic growth
- Creating a centralized digital permitting system that streamlines how businesses apply for and monitor permits, reducing approval times, and enhancing transparency
- Supporting worker mobility across Canada by expanding "as of right" provisions for Canadian workers licensed and credentialed in other provinces and territories, particularly health-care workers
- Engaging in consultations on a Made-in-Ontario vehicle policy to strengthen supply chains and support the province's auto industry

As introduced in the House, the bill repeals the ASE enabling legislation effective November 14, 2025, or upon Royal Assent, whichever is later. City staff have been engaged with the Ministry of Transportation, discussing the proposed new signage and aspects of the bill.

The proposed regulations aim to streamline over 300 provincial permits, covering areas like environmental compliance, resource extraction, and development near provincial roads. While the draft under Bill 56 doesn't list specific permits, staff will monitor developments to keep Brampton businesses informed.



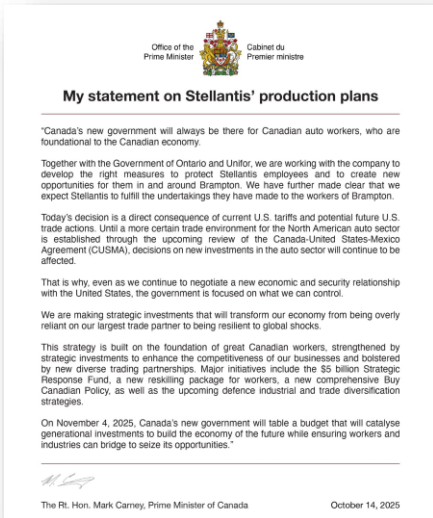
October 14, 2025

Stellantis Moving Jeep Compass Assembly to Belvidere, Illinois

- The company announced production of the Jeep Compass, previously slated to be made at the Brampton Assembly Plant, will move to the Belvidere Assembly Plant in Illinois.
- This move will impact approximately 3,000 jobs in Brampton.
- The move is part of Stellantis' broader plan to invest \$13 billion US over the next four years to expand its manufacturing capacity in the United States.
- It is estimated that the new investments will increase its U.S. vehicle production by 50 per cent and add more than 5,000 jobs to the U.S. economy.
- Stellantis Canada President, Jeff Hines, was reportedly called to meet with the Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, Melanie Joly, on Monday, October 20.

Staff observe that Brampton's automotive sector faces growing uncertainty due to the threat of U.S. tariffs on Canadian vehicle exports. As one of North America's key vehicle supply chain hubs, Brampton faces mounting pressure with the assembly plant idle since December 2023, disrupting not only local employment but also reverberating across regional and continental supply networks.

The City is urging Stellantis, along with both federal and provincial governments, to join forces in securing the future of the Brampton plant, protecting thousands of local jobs and preserving a cornerstone of Canada's automotive industry. The Intergovernmental Affairs team is organizing a Parliament Hill advocacy day, in which this topic will be highlighted to respective federal ministers.



October 16, 2025

New Measures to Combat Crime and Build Safer Communities

The Prime Minister announced new measures today that aim to protect Canadians and keep our communities safe. Canada’s new government will:

- **Strengthen Canada’s *Criminal Code* to keep violent and repeat offenders out of our communities.** This week, the government will table legislation to amend the *Criminal Code* for crimes committed by violent and repeat offenders – those accused of serious crimes like violent auto theft, breaking and entering, human trafficking, violent assault, and sexual assault. The legislation will include the following amendments:
 - Introducing **reverse-onus bail** for major crimes
 - Allowing **consecutive sentencing** so multiple crimes mean a longer time behind bars
 - Imposing **harsher penalties** for organized retail theft
 - **Restricting conditional sentences** for a number of sexual offences
- **Hire 1,000 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) personnel.** In Budget 2025, the government will invest \$1.8 billion over four years to increase federal policing capacity across Canada to combat crime – including online fraud, money laundering, online child sexual exploitation, and organized criminal networks that threaten Canada’s economic and national security.
- The RCMP cadet recruitment allowance will increase \$1,000 per week.



The City has been advocating to the federal government to take action and make to necessary investments to address organized crime, community safety and move forward on bail reform. This announcement is a step in the right direction as we await further details.

October 17, 2025

New Measures to Strengthen Border Security and Keep Canadians Safe

The Prime Minister announced new measures in the upcoming Budget. To secure our border and keep our communities safe, Canada’s new government will:

- **Hire 1,000 new Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers.** The new officers will help crack down on theft, illegal guns, and drugs, enforce import measures, and investigate unfair trade practices.
- **Increase the CBSA’s recruit stipend for the first time since 2005**, raising it from \$125 to \$525 per week, to help attract and retain the next generation of highly trained border officers.
- **Amend the *Public Service Superannuation Act* to ensure CBSA officers and other frontline first responders receive benefits that reflect the weight of their responsibilities.** Steps to support stronger recruitment will include retirement options for such workers after 25 years of service to our country, regardless of age, without pension reductions. This change recognizes their high-stress, high-risk roles and supports their long-term well-being. It would apply to frontline federal workers, including border services officers, parliamentary protection officers, search and rescue personnel, and both federal and territorial firefighters, paramedics, and correctional officers.

Hiring more qualified officers is to help the CBSA expand its presence at key air, land, rail, and marine ports of entry, and strengthen enforcement against organized crime, human smuggling, immigration fraud, and terrorism.

The City looks forward to the new measures having a positive impact, helping to address auto theft, organized crime and gang violence, all of which form the City’s key community safety advocacy issues.

However, sustained investment and collaboration are essential to ensuring Peel Regional Police and police forces in Canada’s high-risk municipalities have the resources and legislative tools necessary to respond to the complex national and transnational organized crime.



October 27, 2025

Parliament Hill Advocacy Day

Mayor Brown and Members of Brampton Council will participate in the Parliament Hill Advocacy Day on Monday, October 27, 2025.

Staff have been working to arrange a series of meetings with federal Cabinet Ministers to facilitate dialog and help advance the City's key federal priorities.

Key issues include:

- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Community Safety

The Advocacy Day is a key part of Brampton's ongoing advocacy efforts ahead of the November 4 federal Budget 2025.

City staff are in the final stages of proportions, including supporting documentation, advocacy materials and scheduling details.

Ontario Big City Mayors

Update



October 17, 2025

Ontario Big City Mayors Meet in Thunder Bay

- Issues discussed included Automated Speed Enforcement, homelessness, and encampments.
- OBCM Mayors passed a motion to send a letter to Premier Ford and the Minister of Transportation, urging them to reconsider the banning of Automated Speed Enforcement Cameras.
- As a result of the motion, OBCM sent out the advocacy letter on Tuesday, October 21.

OBCM's advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement is in line with the City of Brampton's advocacy efforts. City staff will continue to monitor this subject for any updates.

October 28-30, 2025

2025 FCM Advocacy Days

FCM's elected board members from across Canada will converge on Ottawa October 28–30, 2025, for several intensive days of meetings with parliamentarians.

FCM's key recommendations to better tackle Canadians' priorities include:

- **Housing Affordability**
 - Increase the share of non-profit housing stock
 - Prioritize the use of federal public lands for supportive, transitional and non-profit housing
- **Homelessness**
 - Close the \$3.5 billion annual shortfall in federal spending to tackle homelessness
 - Make the Reaching Home program permanent and increase its funding
- **Infrastructure**
 - Reform the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) and commit \$3 billion over the next three years to be delivered through CHIF or a new, dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure fund
 - Immediately top-up the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) program of \$2 billion
- **Public Safety**
 - Work with all levels of government to expand investments in community-based mental health and substance use care
 - Strengthen efforts to ensure optimal RCMP staffing and service levels
- **Municipal Growth Framework**



Regional Councillor Rowena Santos, a FCM Board member, will be participating in the 2025 FCM Advocacy Days.

THANK YOU!

