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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Planning and Economic Development Committee  
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2024-EDT-14  
Date: November 5, 2024

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**Subject:**

GTAA 2024 Annual Update and Pearson LIFT

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**Recommendation:**

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee that representatives from the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) will be appearing at the November 5<sup>th</sup> Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting to deliver an annual update and to present information regarding a major multi-year capital investment program at Toronto Pearson International Airport termed "Pearson Lift".

**2. Background**

2.1 The GTAA reports annually to the Region of Durham through the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

2.2 Durham Region's current representative on the GTAA Board of Directors is Johan van't Hof. Mr. van't Hof's appointment to the GTAA Board expires on October 17, 2026.

2.3 The GTAA's delegation will consist of the following representatives:

- a. Doug Allingham, GTAA Board Chair
- b. Johan van't Hof, GTAA Board Member
- c. Karen Mazurkewich, Vice President, Stakeholder Relations & Communications
- d. Chris Rickett, Executive Director, Stakeholder Relations & Social Impact
- e. Steven Thomas, Associate Director, Government Relations

### **3. Annual Update and Pearson LIFT**

3.1 The update will include data on the airport's growth and performance, from both an operational and financial perspective.

3.2 The update will also provide a snapshot of the economic contribution of Toronto Pearson to the country, the province, and to Durham, along with pending challenges to growth that result from the changing permission landscape for development around and above airports.

3.3 The delegation will also provide an introduction to and overview of the GTAA's recently announced and significant development plans for Toronto Pearson, known as the *Pearson LIFT* program, outlining the benefits for passengers as well as related opportunities for Durham residents and local businesses.

3.4 *Pearson LIFT* consists of three core components:

- a. **Accelerator:** This component includes upgrades and improvements to critical operational assets, including airfield projects, GHG reduction projects, interim infrastructure and other priority projects.
- b. **Gateway:** This component contemplates delivering new facilities that will enable the airport to provide an exceptional passenger experience for long-term forecasted demand. It proposes creating new terminal space to support a forecasted demand of 65 million passengers per year by the early 2030s.
- c. **Terminals 1&3 Revitalization:** This component entails extensive renovations to both existing terminals to optimize capacity and renew assets. This will include upgrades to the parking garages, groundside and curb infrastructure, building system and envelope upgrades such as mechanical and electrical systems, and other general terminal upgrades such as amenity spaces.

- 3.5 The proposed investment program will support the growing needs of GTAA's surrounding communities and future generations and generate meaningful economic opportunity and job creation, workforce development, reduction of environmental and other community impacts, and programs that champion diversity, equity, and inclusion.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

#### **5. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham region Strategic Plan:
- a. Priority 3.3 – Enhance communication and transportation networks to better connect people and move goods more effectively.

#### **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 Toronto Pearson is a major driver of economic growth and job creation in the GTA, delivering commercial goods rapidly to and from our local economy, and connecting the local economy to international markets.
- 6.2 The *Pearson LIFT* capital investment program is a significant infrastructure plan that will deliver economic benefits throughout the GTA and Durham Region, and which responds to growth forecasts for commercial goods and passenger traffic over the coming decades.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer