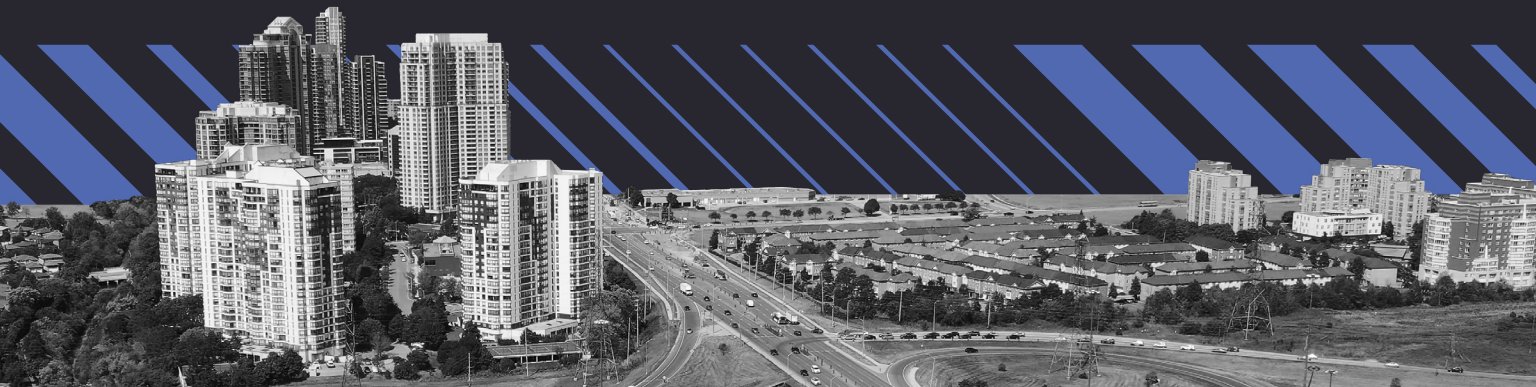




**BUSINESS  
COUNCIL OF  
TORONTO**

# The GTA West Economic Gateway Council



## **Over 400,000 jobs**

located in a 162-square kilometre area  
and a vital driver of our regional economy.



## **58% of jobs**

are not within walking distance of  
frequent transit, making it harder  
to attract workers.



## **\$53.4 billion**

contributed to our provincial economy  
and six times the size of downtown  
Toronto.

## **The Challenge**

The GTA West Economic Gateway (the Gateway) is Canada's second-largest concentration of employment after downtown Toronto. Home to a significant concentration of firms in advanced manufacturing, life sciences, logistics and warehousing, it straddles Mississauga, Toronto, Brampton, and Vaughan. It's strategically located at the intersection of a network of highways, rail lines, and international goods movement, making its success vital to our regional economy and global competitiveness. However, without a coherent, coordinated approach to this area, our Region's productivity will continue hanging in the balance.

## **The Opportunity**

The GTA Economic Gateway Council will drive place-based demonstration projects and advocacy to leverage the Gateway as a 'living lab' for addressing critical challenges faced across the region - from transit and congestion to land use planning and goods distribution. These initiatives will provide evidence-based recommendations and prioritized solutions to government and industry demonstrating our ability to unlock our economic and productive potential.

## The Approach

Below are examples of the types of projects the Council may take on. Council priorities will be developed in collaboration with its members.

### POTENTIAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT: ON-DEMAND AND FLEXIBLE TRANSIT SERVICE

The Gateway is a sprawling low-density employment district served by five different transit agencies, and only 42 per cent of workers have access to frequent, reliable transit, making it difficult for businesses to attract and retain talent.

#### Sample projects may include:

- Developing a coordinated public-private sector approach to transit in this area to solve first- and last-mile challenges to better connect employees to their place of work.
- A project leveraging the power of mobile apps and employer-provided information about the travel patterns of employees for a cross-jurisdictional initiative providing on-demand, flexible transportation.

### POTENTIAL ADVOCACY INITIATIVE: HARMONIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT CHARGES EXEMPTIONS AND TAX RATIOS

Businesses looking to locate or expand in the Toronto region face regulatory burdens related to approvals, municipal planning, and licensing. There are also tax ratios among municipalities in the region requiring better harmonization, so businesses are not unfairly sharing the tax burden.

#### To help reduce business costs and regulatory burdens, our advocacy framework could include:

- Addressing the lack of harmonization of municipal rules across the Gateway as businesses and supply chains do not operate according to municipal boundaries.
- Ensure the industrial-commercial tax to residential tax ratios do not put an unfair burden on businesses.

## Council Workplans

Throughout the year, each council will meet four times to drive their initiatives forward. At the end of each year, we will host the annual Legacy Leaders' Dinner where council members will highlight their key takeaways from Year One and next steps moving into Year Two.

Here's what a high-level Year One workplan could entail:

### Meeting One

#### MEETING FOCUS: LEVEL-SETTING

- Consensus on council mandate toward reducing the productivity gap.
- Identify what success looks like and crosswalks with other Councils.

### Meeting Two

#### MEETING FOCUS: PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

- Prioritization of proposed projects and impact.
- Activation of projects.

### Meeting Three

#### MEETING FOCUS: ADVOCACY AMPLIFICATION

- Prioritization of advocacy items.
- Council to set advocacy campaign strategy.

### Meeting Four

#### MEETING FOCUS: PROGRESS EVALUATION

- Working session to evaluate progress on projects and advocacy items.
- Steer initiatives.

