

## **OMCA's voice is heard at Toronto's roundtable on gridlock and traffic congestion**

On February 28, OMCA was one of 21 stakeholder organizations invited by the City of Toronto to participate at a roundtable to discuss gridlock and traffic congestion. Toronto recognizes one of the biggest challenges facing the city is gridlock, and it's essential that elected officials and governments partner with industry stakeholders to develop solutions that will keep people and goods moving efficiently across the city.

The gridlock roundtable, co-chaired by Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly and Councillors Denzil Minnan-Wong and Michael Thompson, was an important step towards the formation of a stronger partnership. The meeting provided a forum where a variety of industry stakeholders including the bus industry could inform decision makers on how this critical issue affects them. Other sectors in attendance included trucking/delivery/shipping, hospitality, entertainment, realty and development, retail, consulting and manufacturing. Each spoke and City staff listened. A report summarizing the findings and recommendations of the meeting is available [by clicking here](#).

Of the six recommendations in the report, OMCA is pleased to see a recommendation for a **Curbside Management Plan**. This recommendation calls for the City's General Manager of Transportation Services, in collaboration with the General Manager of Economic Development & Culture, to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the implementation of a Curbside Management Plan which will focus on strategies to improve traffic circulation and conditions for commercial and service vehicles, taking into consideration measures such as designated pick-up/drop-off areas for goods and service vehicles, loading zones for people with disabilities, courier delivery zones, temporary film trailer parking, and **motor coach parking and loading zones**. These measures will work to minimize the disruption to vehicular flow, while improving the ability for businesses and services to operate on city streets.

OMCA will continue to participate in upcoming meetings with City staff and other stakeholders to push for reasonable accommodation of buses serving Toronto's hotels, venues and attractions. We will report on progress in future editions of *OMCA Report*.