



**South Central  
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## **Funding for transit a great start for a greener GTA**

**THORNHILL** – CAA is committed to a greener environment. In fact, climate change is one of its four national priorities. That's why the federal government's announcement to commit over \$ 1 billion to a Greater Toronto Area anti-gridlock green strategy is welcome news.

CAA South Central Ontario represents over 1.7 million members throughout the GTA and surrounding areas. Its members agree on the importance of cutting down on their commute and cleaning the air they breathe.

Motorists need to make a shift towards Eco-Driving. Part of that shift includes an integrated transportation strategy that recognizes the need to support a variety of options for people to commute to and from work and their daily activities. Options that include alternatives to using their vehicles, like public transit.

This new funding should go a long way in creating an integrated transit system that works for all GTA commuters. For years, CAA has supported the long awaited Spadina subway extension to York University and on into Vaughan. This expansion is expected to help ease the congestion that has been plaguing roads north of the city of Toronto. The hope is that motorists will then have a viable option to enable them to make a positive impact on the environment by reducing the harmful emissions left by their vehicles. That, in turn, will reduce the number of smog days Toronto will have to feel in the summer.

CAA SCO has already put its support behind a number of environmental initiatives including the High-Occupancy Vehicle lanes constructed on highways 403 and 404 in the GTA. It has partnered with Smart Commute to encourage employees to carpool and has even begun its own environmental initiative called Autogreen.

Autogreen is a program, supported by Pollution Probe, encouraging drivers to become more eco-friendly.

CAA is especially thrilled to hear the province will receive over \$ 500 million in federal ecoTrust funds to support projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A long-time supporter of eco-friendly fuel alternatives, hybrid vehicles and other advanced vehicle technologies designed to reduce vehicle emissions and mitigate their effects, CAA looks forward to more measures aimed at reducing GHG emissions in the next few years to come.

*CAA Ontario is a not-for-profit auto club offering insurance, travel and emergency road services. There are 1.7 million CAA members in South Central Ontario and 4.8 million members in Canada.*