



REDEVELOPMENT OF TRANSIT CORRIDORS IN THE 905: MAKING THE VISION A REALITY

SPEAKER BIOS

LESLIE WOO

**Vice President,
Policy, Planning and Innovation
Metrolinx**

Leslie Woo leads transportation planning for Canada’s largest urban region. The key author of The BIG Move, a 25 year transportation plan, resulting in over \$16B in transit expansion and 430,000 new jobs, Leslie champions transit-oriented development, design excellence and the women’s network at Metrolinx. Education in architecture environmental studies and urban planning. Trinidad-born Leslie is a Fellow of the International Women’s Forum, has membership with: Scientific Strategy Council of the Institut pour la ville en mouvement; Urban Land Institute Toronto Advisory Board; TAC’s Urban Transportation Council Executive; and a retired member of the OAA.

MARY-FRANCES TURNER

**Vice President
York Regional Rapid Transit**

Mary-Frances Turner is President of York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, a unique share capital corporation mandated to plan, design and deliver rapid transit and help shape transit-oriented development in York Region. With over 30 years’ experience in urban planning and corporate leadership, Mary-Frances’ role has been central to the implementation and continued development of rapid transit in York Region. With the project since its inception in 2001, Mary-Frances led the public/private partnership team that launched the award winning Viva rapid transit service and is now implementing vivaNext – the next generation of rapid transit in York Region, which includes two subway extensions, two light rail transit lines, and dedicated bus lanes on key corridors. A passionate urbanist, Mary-Frances has injected the vivaNext projects with energy and enthusiasm. Under her leadership, vivaNext has grown from a vision to a reality, generating public interest and support and securing over \$3 billion in funding from all levels of government.

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HESSAM GHADAKI

Corporate Counsel

Times Group Corporation

Hessam Ghadaki is Development Counsel at Times Group Corporation, a leading real estate development company in the GTA. Times Group has recently completed numerous large scale residential and commercial projects in Richmond Hill and Markham with an emphasis on LEED certified developments and mixed-use communities. Since 1985, Times Group has earned a reputation as a leader in real estate development in Ontario with over 10,000 units completed and maintains a large portfolio of commercial and residential projects under construction throughout southern Ontario. Hessam joined Times Group as senior legal counsel in 2010 from private practice at White & Case LLP New York where his practice focused on leveraged finance. He now manages Times Group's land acquisition, planning, development and leasing operations along with overseeing general legal matters.

MARILYN BALL

Chief, Planning and Infrastructure Services

City of Brampton

Marilyn Ball is the Chief of Planning and Infrastructure Services for the City of Brampton, responsible for land use, transportation, parks and infrastructure planning, design, development, operations and maintenance for a rapidly growing city of over 525,00 people. Marilyn recently joined Brampton from the City of Mississauga having held various roles there including 9 years as the City's Director of Development and Design. Marilyn's interests and experience span more than 28 years in planning, development, urban design and local government. Following graduation from the University of Toronto, Marilyn worked at the City of Barrie, Peel Region and Mississauga. Marilyn's focus in recent years has been on the visioning, designing and development of Mississauga's downtown, enabling transformation from large scale suburban block development to an urbanized, highly active, walkable, and transit focused community in conjunction with higher order transit and mobility hub plans. Marilyn has a passion for great urban design and all that is funky and fun about urban places and spaces. At the City of Brampton, Marilyn will be leading her Department through strategic and cultural change to support the City through the next decade of transformational growth and revitalizing an emerging cool downtown.

ANSON KWOK

Vice President, Marketing & Sales

Pinnacle International

Mr. Kwok has been responsible for the project marketing, development and overseeing of all in-house sales team operations at Pinnacle International since 2009. Prior to transitioning to real estate, Mr. Kwok held various management roles at Fairmont Hotels & Resorts. Mr. Kwok graduated from the University of Guelph in 2003 with a Bachelors of Commerce degree specializing in Hotel & Food Administration and obtained an MBA from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management in 2008.

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