

## MANAGEMENT REPORT TO THE GREATER TORONTO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Date:

Item Class:     Chair's Item  
                   Decision  
                   In Camera  
                   Information  
                   Resolution / By Law

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### RECOMMENDATION(S)

#### BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Board approve the preliminary evaluation criteria framework contained in this report for initial “quick win” projects and initiatives
- 2) The Board direct staff to apply the framework to potential projects and initiatives for early implementation action, and to report back to the August meeting of the Board with a recommended initial quick win project list

#### ISSUE:

The Premier's June 15<sup>th</sup> announcement of the \$17.5 billion MoveOntario 2020 vision requested the GTTA to report back with a detailed project implementation plan in early 2008. This report-back will be integrated with the GTTA-led integrated Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is also tracking for an early 2008 draft report completion date.

The Province also indicated its openness to receiving advice from the GTTA concerning any quick win implementation opportunities -- projects or initiatives that could potentially be started or announced immediately.

Potential quick win projects could include, but are not limited to, initiatives listed in the Move Ontario 2020 announcement.

#### BACKGROUND:

The provincial and municipal governments face continuous public and stakeholder demands for urgent action to solve congestion pressures and service deficiencies in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) transportation system.

At the same time it would be desirable for the GTTA to demonstrate an ability to take early initial steps to address regional transportation challenges and be a champion for the cross-boundary regional transportation customer.

The GTTA, however, is still in the early stages of developing the RTP work plan, which will include a detailed evaluation framework and criteria for prioritizing both early-win and long-term project proposals. The first potential early-win projects to be identified by the RTP development process will likely emerge for Board review in fall 2007, and later submitted to the Province for consideration as part of the government's 2008-09 capital planning process.

In order to maintain the current momentum for even earlier "quick win" projects, GTTA staff is recommending for Board approval a preliminary evaluation framework for projects and initiatives with potential for immediate advancement.

## Proposed Criteria

GTТА staff define a quick win as either the commencement of a new project or the advancement of an existing project to a completion date earlier than its originally scheduled timeframe for completion.

To qualify, a quick win project should meet the following criteria:

1. Estimated completion within two years – assuming project start-date in 2007-08
2. Visible, tangible benefit for the consumer
3. Cross-boundary or regionally significant in terms of benefit
4. Low risk path to implementation
5. Relatively moderate cost
6. Will not prejudice the roll-out of the ultimate RTP

## Rationale

**Completion within two years:** Quick wins by definition should be deliverable in a short time frame to demonstrate the GTТА is achieving implementation progress and leadership. Projects with completion time frames beyond two years will be subject to the more comprehensive evaluative framework being developed for the RTP.

**Visible, tangible benefit for the consumer:** Given the strong customer focus of the GTТА, quick win projects should demonstrate a quantifiable benefit in level or quality of service.

**Regionally significant in terms of benefit:** The GTТА's region-wide mandate and scope suggest that quick win projects should reinforce the objective of seamless, cross-boundary and inter-regional movements.

**Low risk path to implementation:** A quick win should carry a high degree of implementation readiness and certainty. Projects that are highly complex or lack planning approvals and community buy-in will be weak candidates for early implementation.

**Relatively moderate cost:** Quick wins should be affordable to avoid displacing other high-potential priorities identified later in the RTP process. Commitments from cost-share partners, if required, should be in place.

***No prejudice to ultimate plan:*** Finally, quick-win projects should anticipate and be consistent directions in the RTP approach, and associated GTTA five-year capital plan and investment strategy. Quick wins should not preclude future potential opportunities for strategic bundling of like or linked projects.

***Policy Implications:***

Early-win initiatives should be consistent with the strategic directions and action plans in the ultimate RTP.

***Operational Implications:***

Operational impacts of early-win initiatives will be identified in the August 2007 report back to the Board.

***Resources Implications:***

N/A

***Human Resources Impact:***

N/A

***Financial Impact:***

Financial impacts will also be identified in the August 2007 report back.