

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO METROLINX

Report Title:	CEO Monthly Report				
Report Number:	CEO 08-004	Date to Board:	February 22, 2008	Date to Committee:	N/A
Report To:	BOARD				
Report Referred From:	N/A				
Author(s):	W. Michael Fenn	Telephone:	416-874-5906		
		E-mail:	michael.fenn@metrolinx.com		
Item Class:	In Camera	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED:

THAT CEO 08-004 Monthly Report be received for information.

ISSUE:

1. Communications and Public Affairs Update
2. Developing Stakeholder Relationships
3. Strategic Initiatives and Investments
4. Environmental Assessment Process for Transit Projects
5. Other Business

1. Communications and Public Affairs Update

Green Papers #2 (Mobility Hubs) and #3 (Active Transportation), and the corresponding videos, are now live for review and public consultation. You can participate by visiting our site at www.metrolinx.com and follow any of the links that refer to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Nearly 1,000 stakeholders have received invitations to participate.

Metrolinx staff is developing a detailed consultation plan for both the RTP and the Investment Strategy. It will come forward for your consideration at an upcoming Board Meeting. In addition to the online consultations currently underway, Metrolinx is pleased to announce we are now working with ReMarkk! Consulting, the public engagement firm that created the Toronto Regional TransitCamp unconference in February 2007, featuring the TTC. As described in a recent article in the Harvard Business Review, Remarkk! will use innovative open source problem-solving tools (including the “unconference”) to bring together an array of stakeholders across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) to begin online dialogues and collaborative face-to-face exchanges about the future of the region’s transportation system. The project is one of the innovative ways Metrolinx is deploying to reach diverse audiences.

2. Developing Stakeholder Relationships

Metrolinx staff continues to participate in a growing range of discussions with stakeholders that share our goal of a seamless, integrated metropolitan transportation system. Highlights from our recent activities include:

- In support of Metrolinx’s university outreach strategy, General Manager (GM) John Howe accepted an invitation to participate as a speaker at the Fields Institute for Research in the Mathematical Sciences’ Traffic and Transportation Symposium, University of Toronto, held on January 23, 2008. The Institute intends to set up a series of workshop sessions over the next few months to increase academic dialogue on the interaction between mathematics and transportation in the areas of modelling processes, network planning, historic and real-time data management, finance and economic development. This series will take place from February through May 2008.
- GM John Howe held a follow-on discussion with senior officials of the Federal Department of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities on January 23, 2008 to continue to explore issues of mutual interest, including: federal participation in the Metrolinx RTP and Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) workplan; the National Transit Strategy; and, potential shared investment priorities in the GTHA.
- On January 23, 2008 the Chair, CEO and senior Metrolinx staff met with Gerald Steuart of Data Management Group to learn more about the 2006 Transportation Tomorrow Survey Data and results focused on the GTHA.

- The CEO, GM John Howe and other senior Metrolinx staff met with Ministry of Transportation (MTO) senior staff to receive a briefing on the work plan developed by the three government departments involved in the Federal-Provincial Continental Gateway and Trade Corridor project which transects the GTHA. MTO provided information on the status of the project's work to date, its research agenda and other key elements of the project.
- The Chair, CEO and GM John Howe met with the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) on January 29, 2008 to discuss Metrolinx's "Quick-Wins" and the RTP, as well as to participate in a tour of the bus terminal facilities below the new Terminal 1 and the Renforth site.
- The CEO and GM John Howe accepted an invitation to meet with Gary Webster, Chief General Manager of the TTC for a site tour visit of the TTC Wilson Complex on January 30, 2008.
- The Chair and GM John Howe met with Larry Frevert, President of the American Public Works Association and Linda Petelka, President of the Ontario Public Works Association, on February 1, 2008 to share information about Metrolinx and to discuss transportation issues in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area.

On a related item, the CEO recently participated in a survey on the role of the Ontario Regional Public Works Commissioners in relation to policy coordination.

- The Chair, CEO and senior Metrolinx staff met with BA Group Transportation Consultants to hear an overview presentation about linkages between parking and traffic demand management strategies.
- On February 11, 2008 Metrolinx met with Canada's two other metropolitan transportation authorities (Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT) in Montreal and TransLink in Greater Vancouver) to share information and discuss opportunities for potential collaboration.
- The Chair and GM John Howe accepted an invitation to attend a CUTA National Transit Forum in Ottawa on February 13, 2008.
- The CEO accepted an invitation to speak to recently appointed Ontario Government Deputy Ministers as part of the 2008 Deputy Ministers' Orientation program.
- The Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal continues to engage with Metrolinx and the wide range of Ontario Government agencies involved in the management of the hydro corridor system throughout the GTHA region and beyond. Metrolinx continues to urge Ontario government agencies and ministries to recognize and identify opportunities, and the need to address pricing disincentives, given the great potential for using hydro corridors and other utility and transportation corridors to meet transit and transportation priorities.

- The Chair, CEO and staff continue to engage public and private entities in the land-development sector regarding the most productive way to reconcile contemporary transportation priorities and land-use development opportunities, including Real Estate Search Corporation and with officials and consultants from the Town of Oakville and GO Transit.
- GM John Howe accepted an invitation to address the 2008 Connected Urban Development Global Conference, part of the Clinton Initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources, in San Francisco on February 20-21, 2008. He is being asked to present the Metrolinx vision for transportation innovation and sustainability, alongside Amsterdam, San Francisco, Seoul and other metropolitan regions committed a global carbon emission reduction strategy.

3. Strategic Initiatives and Investments

Following Board approval of the Investment Strategy workplan at its January 25, 2008 meeting, Metrolinx staff is proceeding with implementing a project governance structure and obtaining multi-disciplinary resources to lead associated research, analytical and report preparation activities. The Metrolinx Board Advisory Committee, Multidisciplinary Expert Review Panel and a new Investment Strategy Technical Advisory Group will perform key roles to provide strategic direction and input to the workplan, and to ensure coordination with the companion Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process.

The five working groups involving Metrolinx, Infrastructure Ontario, municipal and transit agency partners continue to meet biweekly to advance the AFP project evaluation as efficiently as possible. At this early stage, the working groups are engaged in project scope definition, incremental-moderate-bold project scenario development, integration with preliminary RTP network plans, and identification of technical data inputs to the Benefits Case and AFP evaluation models.

Metrolinx staff and consultant Gerry Johnston are preparing a report to the Board for its March 2008 Board meeting on go-forward options and recommendations for an integrated commuter and inter-regional bus terminal in downtown Toronto. In preparation for a future report back, a final round of consultations is taking place with City of Toronto, TTC, GO Transit, Province of Ontario, motor coach operators and federal stakeholders to ascertain consensus for a preferred location option, and a next-step workplan to resolve outstanding engineering, operational, finance and governance and ownership issues.

4. Environmental Assessment Process for Transit Projects

At its February 8 meeting, the Board made a recommendation for streamlining federal Environmental Assessment (EA) and promoting greater coordination between federal and provincial EA processes. The Board recommended the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Transportation negotiate a protocol to enable transit projects in the GTHA to satisfy more quickly the requirements of the Canadian *Environmental Assessment Act* and the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Board further recommended the Metrolinx Chair commence consultations immediately by meeting appropriate federal Ministers and other senior officials in Ottawa.

Jim O'Mara, on behalf of Metrolinx, is working closely with his provincial colleagues on the protocol. He is also providing leadership by initiating discussions with federal officials on identifying opportunities to create greater coordination among federal departments on EAs and to foster greater integration with the provincial EA process. As part of his work, he is also contacting staff at TransLink in Vancouver and AMT – Montreal to determine the level and interest of the two other metropolitan transportation authorities in working together to address the challenges which transit projects across the country face with federal EA.

5. Other Business

Presto Fare Card:

On February 7, 2008, GM Vince Mauceri and Paul Chetcuti, Analyst, Metrolinx attended as observers, two Presto Fare Card meetings: the Executive Committee, comprising the heads of the participating transit systems and fare card project office staff; and, the Steering Committee, consisting of transit managers and fare card project office staff.

David O'Toole, Assistant Deputy Minister for Policy and Planning, MTO chaired the Executive Committee meeting and provided an update on the project. This included information about the complexity of the project, milestones, the City of Ottawa's involvement, positive feedback from the public on the pilot project in Mississauga and some specification and timeline issues to be resolved with Accenture.

The Province and Accenture will be providing additional resources to the project, including a proposal to resolve some gaps between the published technical specifications and actual project deliverables.

The Executive Committee will be meeting monthly to oversee the project and strengthen communications with the fare card project office and Accenture. Accenture managers will be making a presentation to the Steering Committee within the next 2 to 3 weeks to provide an end-to-end overview of the entire project design; together with a presentation on their accomplishments in similar project implementations in Oslo, The Netherlands

and Copenhagen. Metrolinx staff will continue to update the Board on the Presto Fare Card project regularly through the CEO Report.

GO Transit Transition

The first meeting of the GO Transit Transition Steering Committee took place on February 6, 2008, with agreement to develop a work program and to confirm several outstanding issues with the Ministry, following which consultants may be engaged to address key transition issues. Kim Lambert was designated the Metrolinx Project Lead in the Transition Process, with Vasie Papadopoulos, Director Government Relations as the designated point-of-contact for GO Transit.

Smart Commute Transition:

Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk for York Region wrote to the Metrolinx CEO advising of York Regional Council's acceptance on January 24, 2008 of its Planning and Economic Development Committee's recommendations for the transition of the Smart Commute initiative to Metrolinx. Regional Council has authorized staff to convey assets and liabilities. The successful transfer of the Smart Commute program to Metrolinx will be finalized with the signature of the conveyance, which is expected shortly. With this, the transfer of the Smart Commute program to Metrolinx will be concluded.

Transit Procurement Initiative Transition:

Staff from the Ministry and Metrolinx met February 5, 2008 to continue the discussion on a transition plan for the Transit Procurement Initiative. A Transition Plan will be presented to the Board at the April 11, 2008 Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted to the Board,



W. Michael Fenn, Chief Executive Officer

CONTACT INFORMATION

W. Michael Fenn, CEO
416-874-5906 or Michael.Fenn@metrolinx.com