

METROLINX

(GREATER TORONTO TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY)

BOARD MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD NO. 12

DATE OF MEETING: Friday, March 28, 2008

PLACE OF MEETING: Westin Harbour Castle
One Harbour Square, Convention Level
Pier 2 & 3
Toronto, ON
10:00 a.m.

CHAIR: Rob Maclsaac

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roger Anderson
Paul Bedford
Gary Carr
Fred Eisenberger
Bill Fisch
Adam Giambrone
Norm Kelly
David Miller
Peter Smith

REGRETS: Hazel McCallion

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Fenn, CEO
Mary Martin, Corporate Secretary
Metrolinx Staff

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

Regrets were received from Mayor McCallion.

Chair MacIsaac confirmed there was quorum and that the required notice of the meeting as stipulated under the By-Law of the Corporation had been sent.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The Chair requested declarations of potential conflicts of interest and none were declared.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

RESOLVED:

THAT the minutes of the Board meeting of February 22, 2008 be approved.

Carried

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no further additions or changes to the Agenda.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

The Chair was pleased to note the inclusion of the Metrolinx Tranche Two Quick-Win projects in the recent Provincial Budget announcement. In particular, Metrolinx's BikeLinx project received \$5 Million in Provincial funding, which will be allocated to participating municipalities for the purchase and installation of bike racks on buses as well as the establishment of permanent and secure bike parking facilities. Correspondence setting out program requirements and eligibility will be delivered to the regions shortly.

The Chair also noted the completion and publication of the final two green papers, marking a significant milestone for Metrolinx in the development of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Finally, the Chair introduced Minister Gerretsen who had graciously accepted the Board's invitation to speak on the status of a proposed transit environmental assessment (EA) regulation to expedite the transit project EA process.

REMARKS BY HONOURABLE MINISTER JOHN GERRETSEN

Minister Gerretsen announced the publication on the Environmental Bill of Rights of a draft regulation seeking to establish a streamlined approach to the completion of transit project EAs. The proposed regulation sets a six month time frame for the completion of the assessment process through the reduction of duplicated work often previously completed by a proponent during the planning stages of the anticipated transit project. For instance, the requirement to demonstrate the need for a particular project has been removed as it is intended that the proponent will have completed this assessment prior to EA.

The Minister noted that, although the time frame is accelerated, the result is not to reduce the importance of planning but rather to facilitate movement through the post-planning process by removing "red tape". This approach is consistent with that approach adopted under the *Electricity Act*.

The regulation itself is grounded in the Ministry's commitment to invest in and protect the environment. Investment in public transit only serves to fulfill this mandate – as increased options for public transit are good for both the environment and quality of life.

CEO 08-005

CEO's Report

Michael Fenn provided an overview of the CEO's Report, commenting in particular on Metrolinx's ongoing public engagement process and the good cooperation received to date from regional transit authority partners who have assisted in promoting the Metrolinx website by providing hotlinks from their own sites.

CEO Fenn also noted that the development of stakeholder relations continues at a rapid pace with the need to attain sustainable funding for Metrolinx activities and transit being brought to the forefront.

Finally, in addition to other ongoing business arising from Metrolinx Fare and Service Integration, and Transit Procurement Initiatives, CEO Fenn was pleased to advise that the GO Transit Transition process would be moving forward with the issuance of a Request For Services procurement to retain a consultant to provide strategic advice to the Metrolinx Board on the GO Transit transition process.

Following CEO Fenn's summary of the report, the following resolution was moved.

RESOLVED:

THAT CEO 08-005 Monthly Report be received for information.

Carried

DECISION ITEMS

P&P 08-008

Regional Transportation Plan Vision

Leslie Woo, General Manager, Policy & Planning provided a summary of the Regional Transportation Plan vision, goals and objectives as contained in the report. After a Board discussion, the following resolution was moved:

RESOLVED:

THAT the Board direct staff to integrate the Regional Transportation Plan Draft vision, goals and objectives as Appendix A to Report P&P 08-008 into the White Papers to be presented to the Board for approval on April 25, 2008 subject to minor housekeeping changes and final formatting of content and document design.

Carried

CS 08-005

Amendment to By-Law No. 2: Corporate Cards

RESOLVED:

THAT By-Law No. 2 Section 3.1, be amended to remove reference to the Provincial Vendor of Record with respect to obtaining purchasing and travel cards.

THAT in furtherance of such resolution the current section 3.1 be deleted and replaced with the following:

Section 3.1 Purchasing and Travel Cards

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Corporation's By-Laws and subject to this Article 3, the Corporation is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements for purchasing and travel card(s) with such banks, trust companies, credit unions or caisses populaires as may be determined by the Corporation from time to time.

THAT the Board authorize staff to seek the necessary approvals from the Minister of Finance to obtain Metrolinx purchasing and travel cards.

Carried

COM 08-001 RTP & Investment Strategy Consultation Plan

Colleen Bell, General Manager, Service Improvement & Research and Leslie Woo, General Manager, Policy & Planning, provided a summary of the public consultation strategy to support the development of the RTP and Investment Strategy as set out in the report. It was also noted that although scheduling public consultations during the summer months is not ideal, due to the Board's commitment to deliver the RTP this may be unavoidable. The following resolution was moved:

RESOLVED:

THAT Report COM 08-001 RTP & Investment Strategy Consultation Plan be received for information.

Carried

P&P 08-009 Gateway Community Liason

Jason Thorne, Director, Policy & Stakeholder Engagement provided a summary of the approach contained in the report that is to be implemented in order to engage municipalities adjacent to the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area in the RTP public consultation process. In order to expand participation in the initiative and at the request of the Board the Chair has committed to extend an invitation to the Mayor of the City of Kawartha Lakes to participate in this process.

RESOLVED:

THAT Report P&P 08-008 Gateway Community Liaison be received for information.

Carried

SP 08-002

Environmental Assessment for Transit Projects in Other Jurisdictions

RESOLVED:

THAT the Report SP 08-002 on Environmental Assessment process for Transit Projects in Other Jurisdictions be received for information.

Carried

SII 08-004

Alternative Financing and Procurement Status

The Chair noted that the Board had received a request for a public delegation in respect of this item from John Cartwright, President, Toronto and York Region Labour Council. The Chair noted that permitting Mr. Cartwright to address the Board was not intended to establish a precedent. The Board would be asked to consider a more complete procedural by-law at an April board meeting. In the interim, however, a Board resolution would be required in order to permit Mr. Cartwright's delegation.

RESOLVED

THAT Mr. Cartwright be permitted to delegate to the Board for a period limited to five minutes and in relation to the issue of Alternative Financing and Procurement.

Carried

JOHN CARTWRIGHT, PRESIDENT, TORONTO AND YORK REGION LABOUR COUNCIL
COMMENTS

Mr. Cartwright was pleased to be able to speak to the Board in respect of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council's concerns with Metrolinx's adoption of alternative finance and procurement (AFP) as a business model for future projects.

Mr. Cartwright asked that consideration of the actual experience of such public-private partnerships in different economic sectors of Canada and the world be fully considered and evaluated prior to adoption.

Mr. Cartwright provided examples of costs associated with the implementation of AFP projects in London, England, Hamilton, Ontario, and Vancouver, British Columbia. He also drew attention to AFP accountability questions.

Mr. Cartwright requested that, as Metrolinx move forward with its investment strategy and project management function, it consider all implications of the applicable business model adopted, including costs, accountability and transparency.

INFRASTRUCTURE ONTARIO PRESENTATION

Following Mr. Cartwright's delegation, John Howe, General Manager, Strategic Initiatives & Investments, introduced Elisabeth Stroback and George Davies, Infrastructure Ontario (IO), who provided a summary of the status report on alternative financing and procurement matters as well as examples of current AFP experiences including the Canada Line project. Mr. Davies drew attention to the significance of proper project assessment and risk allocation.

A question and answer period followed. The Board asked for particulars of IO's transit AFP project experience. The Board also asked for examples of successful transit AFP projects in North America. The Board queried whether or not there was an effective risk transfer in AFP projects and whether the cost paid by a project proponent for any risk transfer was justified. The Chair assured the Board that the Province would expect a significant level of due diligence on AFP projects as a condition of funding.

After a full discussion of these and other issues relating to AFP projects the following resolution was moved:

RESOLVED:

THAT Report SII 08-004 Alternative Financing and Procurement Status be received for information.

Carried

ROUND TABLE

There were no items discussed at the round table session.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: at 12:30 pm

Carried

Certified to be a true copy of minutes of a meeting of the Corporation's Board of Directors held on March 28, 2008.

Chair

Secretary