

**MANAGEMENT REPORT TO METROLINX**

<b>Report Title:</b>	CEO Monthly Report				
<b>Report Number:</b>	CEO 08-005	<b>Date to Board:</b>	March 28, 2008	<b>Date to Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Report To:</b>	BOARD				
<b>Report Referred From:</b>	N/A				
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<b>Item Class:</b>	In Camera	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*RESOLVED:*

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

**ISSUE:**

1. Communications and Public Affairs Update
2. Developing Stakeholder Relationships
3. Other Business

## **1. Communications and Public Affairs Update**

A complete consultation strategy for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the companion Investment Strategy is under development. Metrolinx has identified a series of traditional and non-traditional events and methods to broaden public engagement and maximize participation. The full series of Green Papers # 1 - 7 are posted on the Metrolinx website for public comment electronically. As of March 2, 2008, there have been 1.54 million visits to our site since we launched in December.

Stakeholder meetings and Town Hall meetings are being organized to support the different stages of RTP development. In addition, Transit Camp will organize a parallel consultation process to draw out recommendations on the rider experience and other related issues. Transit Camp employs a creative combination of events and on-line conversations.

## **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:

- General Manager (GM) Woo presented to the 2nd Annual Ontario Innovation in Infrastructure Financing Forum, held February 12, 2008. Ms. Woo presented information about Metrolinx key deliverables and range of partnerships. Participants were primarily investors and financiers from North America and Europe.
- GM Howe, GM Woo, and General Counsel Mary Martin briefed the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) Infrastructure Panel on February 15, 2008, following on the suggestion of Mayor McCallion. The presentation included an overview of the Metrolinx work program, the “bold scenarios” under consideration in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) green papers, a proposed vision and potential financial empowerment tools to be developed by the companion Investment Strategy, the five initial large-scale projects in the Metrolinx evaluation workplan, and the 14 Quick-Win projects submitted for Province of Ontario funding approval.
- On February 24, 2008, the Chair and GM Howe met with the MPP of York South-Weston to understand her constituents’ concerns about the impact of the proposed Airport Rail Link (ARL) on economic development, mobility and quality of life in the Weston community.
- In support of its university outreach strategy, on February 29, 2008 the Chair, CEO and GM Woo met with Dr. Pavlos Kanaroglou and Nick Marketos of the McMaster Institute for Transportation & Logistics to advance Metrolinx’s support for the activities of the new Institute. Metrolinx has decided to sign an MOU to support the Institute in exchange for specific Metrolinx deliverables, projects, exchanges and donations in kind. The Institute will develop a proposal outlining the kinds of projects on which Metrolinx and the Institute, or graduate students, might collaborate,

including the potential for cooperation with other post-secondary institutions and the railways and trucking industry.

- GM Mauceri attended Smart Card Alliance Transportation Council Summit meetings in Salt Lake City February 27-29, 2008. Metrolinx recently joined the Smart Card Alliance, based in New Jersey, USA; a not-for-profit, multi-industry association working to stimulate the understanding, adoption, use and widespread application of smart card technology. The Alliance is the single industry voice for smart cards, leading industry discussion on the impact and value of smart cards in the USA and Latin America.

A key trend discussed at the Summit related to electronic payments: the issuance and acceptance of “contactless” smart cards from financial institutions, such as banks, Mastercard, VISA and American Express, for fare payment on transit systems. This direction is a major trend in the USA, London and Asia. Speakers emphasized the potential benefits from a co-branded multi-application transit-financial payment card for transit agencies and financial institutions. Benefits include the transit rider seeing improved convenience and ease of use through a single card capable of both transit and retail financial payment. The transit system benefits from this direction by leveraging the advantages from existing infrastructure of banks and credit card companies. Such trends and initiatives are important to consider for the future as the Presto Smart Card Project progresses.

GM Mauceri made excellent contacts with officials from New York City Transit and other regional transit agencies in Philadelphia, San Francisco and Portland, Oregon as well as senior representative of Mastercard, VISA and American Express.

- At the request of TTC Chair, Adam Giambone, a briefing for a delegation of transportation officials from Mexico and the Trade Commissioner from the Canadian Embassy in Mexico was held on March 5, 2008. Metrolinx Chair, CEO and General Managers John Howe, Colleen Bell and Leslie Woo briefed the delegation. The briefing consisted of an overview of Metrolinx including the work program related to the Regional Transportation Plan, the Investment Strategy and the public consultation process.
- The CEO accepted an invitation to brief the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Ministers of Public Infrastructure Renewal (PIR) on Metrolinx’s progress. PIR’s mandate includes responsibility for the Province’s capital plan, federal-provincial infrastructure programs, Provincial infrastructure and growth planning, real estate and land strategy and for overseeing five key Crown Agencies, including Infrastructure Ontario and Ontario Realty Corporation.

A comprehensive briefing was provided on March 5, 2008 and included an overview of the Metrolinx’s work program, the “bold scenarios” under consideration in the RTP green papers, the development of the companion Investment Strategy, MoveOntario 2020 implementation priorities including the five initial large-scale projects in the Metrolinx evaluation workplan and the 14 Quick-Win projects submitted for Province of Ontario funding approval, and other key Metrolinx initiatives.

The briefing provided an opportunity for the CEO to continue to press for the Province to recognize and identify opportunities for hydro and other utility and transportation corridors to be used to meet transit and transportation priorities, and the need to address pricing disincentives. The CEO also outlined real estate issues, including value-capture and development charges, the Toronto inter-regional bus terminal project and the cost and availability of linear real estate, such as hydro corridors and rail corridors.

- The Chair, CEO and staff continue to engage manufacturers and providers of transit vehicles and systems regarding emerging technologies, products and services.
- The CEO accepted an invitation to participate as a panel member at a recent workshop hosted by the Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management at the Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, held March 9 – 11, 2008. The workshop was entitled The Ontario-Quebec Continental Gateway and Trade Corridor: Developing Competitive and Sustainable Transportation Policy Workshop. The Lawrence National Centre brought together seventy representatives from business, government, non-governmental agencies, academia and students. The workshop forms part of a series of meetings and discussions to consider and advise on the implementation of sound and sustainable policy measures to support the development of a modern and efficient transportation system.
- On March 12, 2008, the CEO and GM Woo briefed the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development Trade on Metrolinx's strategic direction, work program and progress.
- The CEO and GM Howe will attend an introductory meeting on March 26, 2008 with representatives of passenger and commuter rail operations for CP to provide an overview of Metrolinx and discuss Metrolinx's work program.
- The Chair, CEO and staff continue to engage infrastructure and finance sectors to discuss the role the private sector can play to further improve the provision of, and the demand for, efficient and sustainable transportation infrastructure and services.
- The Chair, CEO and GM Woo accepted an invitation to a meeting with Woodbine Entertainment, to be briefed on the Woodbine Live! project and how Woodbine Entertainment believes this project could fit into Metrolinx plans for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area. This meeting is scheduled to take place on March 27, 2008.
- On March 3, 2008, GM Howe provided an initial overview briefing on the Investment Strategy to the Multidisciplinary Expert Review Panel (MERP), the group providing strategic advice and technical guidance to staff and consultants responsible for the Investment Strategy.

### **3. Other Business**

#### *Cross-Boundary Fare and Service Integration:*

Metrolinx staff is exploring the feasibility of promoting greater regional integration and improved service to transit riders by reducing duplication, improving service, and integrating fares on cross-boundary routes between the 905 and the City of Toronto.

Small focused working groups, with representatives from GTHA transit service providers, are assisting in Metrolinx's review. These working groups are looking at local best practices because a number of GTHA transit systems already provide for acceptance and exchange of each others transfers without requiring passengers to pay another fare when crossing municipal boundaries. For example: Hamilton-Burlington, Burlington-Oakville, York Region-Brampton, Mississauga-Oakville, and Mississauga-Brampton.

A staff report to provide an update on staff considerations and to explore potential policy options is planned for the June 2008 Board meeting. This report will respond to a proposed resolution from Mayor McCallion that was tabled and directed to staff for consideration at the January 25, 2008 Metrolinx Board meeting.

#### *Transit Procurement Initiative:*

Metrolinx staff has initiated high-level discussions with senior municipal transit system staff in Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) for the purpose of engaging them in Metrolinx's review of the transit procurement issue. A staff report to provide an update on staff considerations and to explore policy options is planned for the June 2008 Board meeting. This report will respond to a proposed resolution from Mayor McCallion that was tabled and directed to staff for consideration on January 25, 2008.

The staff report will explore possible policy options for:

- Advancing the cause of transit integration through the adoption of standards to ensure vehicular design features provide for seamless transit service coordination among various transit systems;
- Opportunities to impose reasonable and common transit vehicle procurement standards of cost efficiency, performance, environmental quality and disability access to leverage available funding through consolidated purchasing; and
- Developing common standards in other transit procurement areas, such as vehicle maintenance facilities, fuel purchases and the adoption of technological devices and systems, for example, transit communications or wide-area network services for regional commuters with laptops and cell phones.

Metrolinx staff and Ministry of Transportation staff continue to meet on the transition plan for the transfer of the transit procurement project into Metrolinx. A more detailed transition plan will come forward to the Board in April.

*Emergency and Security Planning:*

Under the GTTA legislation, Metrolinx has a duty to promote safety and efficiency of transportation corridors and develop a comprehensive emergency and security plan for local transit systems in the regional transportation area. Over the next few weeks, Metrolinx staff will be meeting with staff from Emergency Management Ontario, the Transit Policy and Emergency Planning Branches of the Ministry of Transportation and with the operators of the GTHA transit systems to initiate planning for the development of an emergency and security plan.

*GO Transit Transition*

A Request for Services (RFS) procurement will be issued for a consultant to provide strategic advice to both Metrolinx and GO Transit Boards on the transition of GO Transit to Metrolinx.

**Respectfully submitted to the Board,**



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W. Michael Fenn, Chief Executive Officer

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