

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO METROLINX

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| Report Title: | Gateway Community Liaison | | | | | |
| Report Number: | P&P 08-009 | Date to Board: | Mar. 28, 2008 | Date to Committee: | | |
| Report To: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOARD | | <input type="checkbox"/> ADVISORY COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> AUDIT COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: | | | |
| Report Referred From: | N/A | | | | | |
| Author(s): | Jason Thorne | | Telephone: | (416) 874-5940 | | |
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| Item Class: | IN CAMERA | <input type="checkbox"/> | DECISION | <input type="checkbox"/> | INFORMATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED:

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

2.0 PURPOSE & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In February 2008, Minister James Bradley requested that Metrolinx include in its consultation process on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), an opportunity for “gateway” municipalities adjacent to the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) to be informed of and provide input to the process. The purpose of this report is to outline the approach for engaging these municipalities.

3.0 BACKGROUND:

While the RTP is focussed on the geographic area of the GTHA, the transportation network does have significant connections beyond the boundaries of the GTHA. In many cases, the municipalities surrounding the GTHA represent “gateways” for both people and goods in to and out of the GTHA. This includes municipalities that share a border with GTHA municipalities, as well as those that have major stations on the GO train network.

For example, the GO Transit train network currently extends into Simcoe County and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe anticipates improved inter-regional transit to Niagara, Brantford, Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo and Peterborough. Existing major highways, including the QEW and Highways 401 and 400, generate significant goods movement between the GTHA and surrounding communities and between the broader region and Quebec, Windsor and the north. The Growth Plan identifies future transportation corridors connecting the GTHA with the U.S. border in Niagara, the Guelph-Waterloo area, and to the east of the region.

To ensure that the RTP is informed by a full and complete understanding of transportation issues in the broader region, and to ensure that these municipalities are kept informed of the RTP’s development, Metrolinx will liaise with the heads of council of the gateway communities of the transportation network. This includes:

- Peter Partington, Chair, Region of Niagara
- Ron Eddy, Mayor, County of Brant
- Mike Hancock, Mayor, City of Brantford
- John Green, Warden, Wellington County
- Ken Seiling, Chair, Region of Waterloo
- Karen Farbridge, Mayor, City of Guelph
- John Oosterhof, Warden, County of Dufferin
- Tony Guergis, Warden, County of Simcoe
- Dave Aspden, Mayor, City of Barrie
- Christine Herrington, Warden, County of Northumberland
- Paul Ayotte, Mayor, City of Peterborough

4.0 DISCUSSION:

The heads of council of the gateway communities will be invited by Metrolinx to attend a meeting in early April to seek input and feedback on the green papers that will inform the development of the white papers. The group will be convened again in June shortly after the release of the Draft RTP. Additional meetings may be convened as required.

Meetings will be chaired by Metrolinx Chair Rob Maclsaac and will include other Metrolinx staff as required.

The Chair will provide the Board with a verbal update on the discussions, and any issues that were raised, at the Board meeting immediately following the group's meeting.

Through liaison with the gateway communities, Metrolinx hopes to explore issues of connectivity in the transportation network with the broader region, identify issues or concerns from gateway communities that may affect the development of the RTP, and understand any implications that the RTP may have on surrounding communities. It also provides a forum to engage and inform the heads of council of the gateway communities about the RTP's development.

5.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

N/A

6.0 HUMAN RESOURCES MATTERS:

N/A

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

N/A

8.0 COMMUNICATION MATTERS:

N/A

9.0 LEGAL MATTERS:

N/A

10.0 CONCLUSION:

The engagement of municipal leaders from the gateway communities outside of the GTHA demonstrates Metrolinx's continued emphasis on ensuring an open, inclusive and comprehensive approach to obtaining input and ensuring the RTP is informed by a full understanding of the issues.

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie Woo
General Manager Policy & Planning

Approved for Submission to the Board



W. Michael Fenn
Chief Executive Officer

Appendices:

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| N/A |
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***Staff & Others
Consulted:***

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|---|--------------|
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| Name | Mailing or E-mail Address |
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Notifications:

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| N/A | |
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Special Instructions:

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