

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO METROLINX

Report Title:	CEO Monthly Report				
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Report To:	BOARD				
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RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED:

THAT CEO 08-007 Monthly Report be received for information.

ISSUE:

1. Communications and Public Affairs Update
2. Developing Stakeholder Relationships
3. Regional Transportation Plan
4. Investment Strategy and Projects
5. Project Management and Project Delivery
6. Environmental Assessment
7. Other Business

1. Communications and Public Affairs Update

The consultation strategy for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the companion Investment Strategy has been completed and is included in today's agenda for your approval.

We held another successful and well-attended Metronauts Camp in Hamilton on May 3, where Mayor Eisenberger and Andrae Griffith from our Advisory Committee joined Chair Maclsaac and Metrolinx staff to listen to the input from approximately 75 highly engaged individuals from across Hamilton and GTA-west. More plans for creative stakeholder interactions are in the works.

White Papers 1 and 2 have been posted online for consultation and printed for the stakeholder round tables, which are currently underway. There have been high levels of activity, with more than 500 registered users online, 800 comments received and 714,000 visits to the Metrolinx Web sites and consultation portal.

Our first annual report, entitled "On Our Way", cataloguing our many Year 1 successes, is included in today's agenda for your approval.

2. Developing Stakeholder Relationships

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

- The OECD Metropolitan Review of Toronto held a second mission in Toronto from April 28 – May 2, 2008. CEO Fenn accepted an invitation to return to the OECD Panel to participate in a session on Toronto Region Transportation Planning. The session explored how increased coordination among municipalities in the region can lead to a more efficient and effective transportation network, which allows people, goods and services to move with ease within and across the region. It examined the relationship between economic competitiveness and an efficient, effective and coordinated transportation network.
- GM Woo accepted an invitation to participate as a speaker on May 6 at the Maytree Foundation Annual Leadership Conference in Toronto. Ms Woo provided an update on Metrolinx progress towards a Regional Transportation Plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).
- GM Woo and GM Bell accepted invitations to participate as speakers at the CUTA Conference held in Edmonton at the end of May. GM Woo presented on Metrolinx progress towards a Regional Transportation Plan for the GTHA and GM Bell made a presentation about Metrolinx innovative consultation practices.

- The CEO accepted an invitation to attend the Hamilton Economic Summit held for community leaders, including the Hamilton Civic Coalition and Mayor Eisenberger, on May 12, 2008, hosted by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce. A follow-up event is planned for July, to which CEO Fenn has been invited.
- The CEO, GM Woo and GM Howe accepted invitations to brief two Ontario Deputy Ministers' Committees, each with membership of more than 20 deputies, on Metrolinx's progress towards a Regional Transportation Plan for the GTHA and companion Investment Strategy.
- Metrolinx staff briefed a delegation from Nigeria on Metrolinx plans and progress on May 13, 2008. The delegation wanted to learn about Metrolinx perspectives on regional transportation best practices.
- The CEO, GM Howe and GM Bell met with JC Deceaux North America to explore "lessons learned" from Velib, the transformational bicycle-share system in Paris, France. JC Deceaux operates similar bike rental programs across Europe.
- The CEO participated in a Conference Board of Canada invitation-only executive conference in Montebello, Quebec on May 31 – June 1, 2008 on the topic of private-public partnerships.
- The CEO accepted an invitation to participate as a speaker at the Land and Development Conference held in Toronto on May 27, 2008. CEO Fenn provided an update on Metrolinx progress as part of a panel on growth management across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- The Chair and CEO accepted an invitation to meet with the CAO and senior staff from Waterloo Region on June 9, 2008 to hear their views on opportunities for improved inter-city transit.
- In a continuing effort to reach out to major transportation industry stakeholders in the GTHA, the CEO, GM Howe, GM Bell and GM Mauceri met with several senior officials, including the Chief Strategist, from VIA Rail Canada, to continue to explore opportunities for potential collaboration and coordination between Metrolinx and the current and long-term plans for intercity passenger rail network in the GTHA and Ontario-Quebec corridor.
- GM Woo and GM Howe accepted an invitation to present on the Regional Transportation Plan for the GTHA and the companion Investment Strategy to the Pragma Council Conference in Waterloo held at the end of May.
- Metrolinx staff briefed a delegation from Johannesburg's GMATA, the newly legislated Transport Authority, on May 30. The South African delegation was interested in gaining insight into the organization, governance and operation of a new Transportation Authority.

- The Chair, CEO and staff continue to engage manufacturers and providers of transit vehicles and systems regarding emerging technologies, products and services; and with the 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.

3. Regional Transportation Plan

With the release of White Papers 1 and 2, Metrolinx staff has initiated stakeholder workshops throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area to begin to define the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) going to the Board in July for approval to release for consultations.

In support of this, in May and June, staff met with stakeholders in Durham (Oshawa on May 26), Hamilton (May 29), Halton (Burlington on June 4), Toronto (June 6), Peel (Mississauga on June 10), and York (Markham on June 12) to obtain their input into the draft Regional Transportation Plan.

Metrolinx staff continues to actively engage other key stakeholders, including municipal, transit operator and provincial senior staff, in the development and analysis leading up to the draft Regional Transportation Plan being tabled with the Board in July. In addition, Metrolinx hosted an all-day workshop of the RTP Technical Advisory Group (May 28) with municipal and provincial officials in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Additional meetings with municipal officials are planned before the release of Draft RTP.

4. Investment Strategy and Projects

Metrolinx staff is working collaboratively to harmonize the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Investment Strategy public and stakeholder consultation process this summer and fall.

The Draft Investment Strategy is tracking for the July Board meeting. Following a competitive request for proposals (RFP) process, independent expert advisory services have been procured to support Metrolinx in the development of the Investment Strategy.

The Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) workplan, in collaboration with Infrastructure Ontario, is now tracking for a July 2008 report back to the Metrolinx Board with preliminary evaluation results. Detailed project scoping and technical assessment activity is continuing at the working group level with key participation by municipal and transit agency partners. A team of “benefits case” expert advisors have been hired to support Metrolinx in this important project-by-project assessment and justification work.

5. Environmental Assessment

The April 25, 2008 CEO Report to the Board of Directors outlined a plan to develop a Code of Practice for federal environmental assessment (EA). This plan responds to direction given by the Board to staff at its February meeting: to identify opportunities for streamlining federal EAs for transit projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area and for harmonizing Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) and federal EA requirements. (Funding of projects by the Government of Canada automatically triggers Federal EA requirements.)

Metrolinx has retained an environmental assessment specialist, Laurie Bruce, to assist with the development of the Code of Practice. It will help proponents of transit projects to address requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) in a timely manner. As part of the development of the Code, the consultant is actively engaged in discussions with federal authorities and municipal transit representatives on identifying key issues that will need to be addressed in this guidance document. Key issues identified to date have included the following:

- According to federal officials, proponents need to prepare sufficiently detailed project descriptions to allow them to trigger CEAA requirements. Federal officials have indicated that they are often constrained when it comes to triggering the EA process because the information which they receive is not complete enough. Guidance will be provided in the Code on how to prepare project descriptions, including how to address uncertainty when a preferred design or alignment has not yet been determined. This guidance will also enable proponents to more readily transfer information developed for provincial EAs into the federal process.
- Federal funding decisions in many instances do not coincide with the timing of the preparation of the provincial EAs. As a result, federal officials may not be in a position to trigger CEAA at the same time as the provincial EA and engage in the federal EA process in a timely manner. Guidance will be provided in the Code to help proponents know what they need to address in the provincial EA process in the event that there is the prospect of a federal EA being triggered by a funding decision.
- In some instances, federal EA process requirements are quite different from provincial requirements; consequently, the submission of information to satisfy provincial EAs to the federal government is not satisfactory. Guidance will be provided on preparing documentation for both EA processes so that federal and provincial officials authorities will be satisfied that the documentation meets the expectations under CEAA and the EAA.
- While transit projects clearly enhance air quality on a regional scale, at a local level there can be some potential for adverse impacts particularly during the construction process. Direction from federal agencies on information expectations sometimes is not provided early enough in the process so that EAs can be effectively and efficiently conducted. Federal officials will be asked to identify only the information which is absolutely essential for the purposes of satisfying federal EA requirements.

- Any guidance document cannot replace the need for interactions with federal officials. Open and clear communications is the basis for a mutual understanding of timing requirements and expectations for the submission and review of CEEA materials. The communication expectations for both proponents and federal authorities will be articulated in the Code.

There is a clear willingness on the part of federal authorities to work with Metrolinx on the development of this Code of Practice. In their view, it fills a gap that currently exists in Ontario. The guidance the Code provides will enable proponents to carry out the CEEA process effectively and efficiently, and to fully use information generated to satisfy the requirements of the EAA in the federal process.

As part of the process for developing this document, there may be supplemental recommendations which extend beyond the Code of Practice. These recommendations will be reported to the Board at its next meeting in July.

6. Project Delivery and Project Management

Metrolinx staff will continue to report regularly to the Board on progress towards delivery for Quick Wins 1 and 2 projects. Metrolinx staff work collaboratively with municipal and transit agency partners to maintain and update our status reports. In addition, Metrolinx's website will include information on the status of projects in the near future. In the interim included below is a high-level delivery schedule chart for Quick Wins 1 and 2.

Delivery Schedule - MoveOntario 2020 QuickWins 1

 \$100 Million

Project List

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Rail Fleet Expansion	 Summer (order placed)	 by Dec '09		
Double-Decker Buses	 Summer (order placed)	 by Dec '09		
Track Expansion (Markham-Newmarket)	 Fall	 Spring - Winter  by Dec '09		
Hamilton Upper James Corridor (Buses)	 Summer (order placed)		 Summer	
Cornell Transit Terminal	 Fall (Early work)	 Spring - Winter	 Summer	
BikeLinx	 Spring  Some early roll-out in 2008	 Spring - Winter	 Program complete by Dec 2010	


Starts & Shovels


In-Use



Delivery Schedule - MoveOntario 2020 QuickWins 2

 \$644 Million

Project List

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-15
York-Viva (3 projects)		 Spring - Winter	 Spring - Winter  Fall (Buses)	 Spring - Winter	 2012 - 2015
Durham-Highway 2 BRT Spine		 Early construction	 Summer (Buses)  Spring - Winter	 Spring - Winter	 2012 - →
Toronto (TO-York-Yonge Subway higher capacity/T City)		 Spring - Winter	 Spring - Winter	 Spring - Winter	 2012 - 2015  2013 - Early Auto train
Hamilton Bus Rapid Transit & GO/VIA Station		 Fall (Buses)	 Fall (Buses)  Spring - Winter	 Spring - Winter	 2012 - 2013  2013 (GO/VIA)
Halton Rapid Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)					 2013
Bolton GO Transit Service Improvements			 Begins in 2010	 2011 	
Dundas / Hurontario corridor development			 Summer (Buses)  Spring - Winter	 Spring - Summer  2011	 2012 - 2013
Miss-Transitway HUB: Airport- Renforth Gateway			 Spring - Winter	 Spring - Winter	 2012


Starts & Shovels


In-Use



7. Other Business

Regional Trip Planner

Currently, the transit systems in Hamilton, Mississauga, Brampton and York Region have individual trip planners serving their particular markets. While they serve their ridership well, they do not offer seamless and integrated advice to the traveller seeking to cross several municipal boundaries. The TTC is actively working on its own major initiative in this area, focused on Toronto.

On April 29, 2008 Metrolinx staff organized a workshop attended by all GTHA (Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area) transit operators to discuss the potential for working collaboratively on a region-wide trip planner. A representative from Hamilton International Airport also participated in the workshop.

The workshop consisted of two brief presentations by Metrolinx staff with the majority of time spent on roundtable discussions (break-out groups) that reported on:

- Current status of trip planning applications in each of the jurisdictions, including specific issues and needs, such as available funding and maintenance for the smaller transit systems;
- Important features and business requirements required in a region-wide multi-modal trip planner; and,
- Timelines towards implementation.

The actual implementation of a region-wide trip planner may take 12 or more months, depending on the complexity of the business requirements and available funding and resources. As an interim measure, Metrolinx will be looking at introducing a region-wide electronic map showing all bus routes among the transit systems in the GTHA and posted on the Metrolinx website. Staff examined this further at the following meeting of participants, held on May 21, 2008. The primary objective of the May 21st meeting was to determine a process for the:

- Development of options for a go-forward strategy to implement a regional trip planner; and,
- Preferred recommendations and next steps (i.e. forming a planning team to assist Metrolinx in developing business requirements).

A small working group of the participants will be established and meet in June to further review technical and business requirements of a regional trip planner. A report will be prepared that will be further reviewed by the GTHA transit systems that participated in both meetings organized by Metrolinx.

Kipling Subway Station – Design Charrette

On May 5, 2008, the CEO, GM Woo, GM Mauceri, Metrolinx consultant Karen Pitre and other senior Metrolinx staff participated in a design Charrette, sponsored by GO Transit, for the re-development of the TTC/GO Kipling Station and surrounding area. The Charrette involved staff from the City of Toronto, TTC, GO Transit, City of Mississauga and several volunteers from community groups, consulting architects and planners. Among the Toronto Councillors in attendance was TTC Chair Adam Giambrone. The design and operational principles for the site were reviewed, followed by break-out groups tasked with reviewing existing preliminary plans for the Kipling Station and adjacent sites for the purpose of providing feedback and suggestions to improve the development. These suggestions will be provided to GO Transit for consideration and further evaluation by their team.

Province of Ontario Policy on Canadian Content for Transit Vehicle Procurements – MTO Consultation

Over the past few weeks, MTO has been undertaking consultations with stakeholders (i.e. municipal transit systems and manufacturers) on the policy announced in late March 2008 that transit vehicles bought with provincial funding must now have at least 25% Canadian content. Consultations covered the topics of the current situation, timelines to achieve the 25% content percentage and possible future increases, impact on competitiveness and barriers to increasing Canadian content. MTO staff met with Metrolinx staff on May 7th and 21st to brief them on the consultations of the Canadian content policy now that the process of transitioning the vehicle procurement from the MTO to Metrolinx is underway.

Presto Project Status

The Deputy Minister of Transportation and Project Leads of the Presto Project led by the Ministry of Transportation recently briefed Board members Hazel McCallion and Paul Bedford, Chair Maclsaac and Metrolinx staff on the status of the project. Metrolinx is authorized to proceed with investigating sponsorship opportunities, affinity marketing and other products and services. Efforts continue to engage TTC more fully, supported by a letter dated April 30, 2008 from Mayor Miller to the Premier.

Respectfully submitted to the Board,



W. Michael Fenn, Chief Executive Officer

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