

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO METROLINX

Report Title:	CEO Report				
Report Number:	CEO 09-001	Date to Board:	January 16, 2009	Date to Committee:	N/A
Report To:	BOARD				
Report Referred From:	N/A				
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Item Class:	In Camera	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED:

THAT Report CEO 09-001 be received for information.

ISSUE:

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

1. Communications and Public Affairs Update

Smart Commute held their second annual Awards Night on November 25, 2008. Eleven Employer of the Year Awards and one Champion award were given out in recognition of their outstanding efforts in this area. Colleen, Bell, General Manager of Community Relations and Initiatives also presented an Employer of the Year award to the City of Hamilton before its Public Works Committee on December 1, 2008.

Metrolinx hosted a media launch in partnership with the City of Hamilton to announce the positive results of the Transit Procurement Initiative. The event was very well-attended with representatives from the twelve municipal partners, the successful proponents and nine media outlets. The announcement generated extensive and positive media coverage of the results of the Metrolinx bus-procurement program for 2009.

Metrolinx was a silver sponsor of the International Economic Forum of the Americas held on December 8-9, 2008. It was an excellent forum for discussion on infrastructure investment in a rapidly changing economy, featuring Premier Dalton McGuinty's speech expressing enthusiastic support for the work of the Metrolinx Board.

Jeff Morales, Director, Markets (Americas) with Parsons Brinkerhoff, was one of the key consultants assisting Metrolinx to develop its first Metrolinx Capital Plan and the Capital Programming Process and addressed the Board at its Board Retreat in early November. Since November, Mr. Morales has been part of the Transition Team for President-Elect Barack Obama, focusing on transport issues. As part of the team, Jeff's responsibilities include identifying key areas requiring attention and focus by the incoming Administration, and contributing to the development of the economic recovery plan. Among issues under consideration in the United States are funding for near-ready public transit projects and standardization of public transit and rapid transit vehicle specifications to lower unit cost, emissions and operating costs.

2. 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.

Metrolinx staff met with a senior representative from Waterfront Toronto to discuss best practices in public engagement. Metrolinx will work closely with its Waterfront Toronto partners on collaborative public engagement and communications strategies. Staff also met with representatives of several organizations interested in identifying major infrastructure projects that could act as fiscal stimulus to Ontario economy. Meetings focused on the approved Metrolinx Capital Plan, including the Top 15 Regional Transportation Plan priority projects. Organizations we met with include: Canadian Urban Transit Association, Toronto Board of Trade, Toronto City Summit Alliance and Conference Board of Canada.

Leslie Woo, General Manager, Transportation Policy & Planning presented to the Ontario Public Works Association (Dec 2); the Greenbelt Council (Dec 3); and the Chinese Canadian Political Action Committee of Ontario – Economy Forum 2009 (Jan 4).

Transportation Policy and Planning staff also participated in the recent Freight Demand Forecasts Conference, hosted by Transport Canada and the Ministry of Transportation (Dec 8 – 9.)

The CEO and senior Metrolinx staff will be undertaking a round of direct meetings with municipal and transit staff officials in January and February. The focus will be on the changing role of Metrolinx, now that the Big Move and the proposed Capital Plan have been adopted and forwarded to the Province. For logistical purposes, the meetings will likely involve groups of municipalities, hosted by an individual municipal Chief Administrative Officer / City Manager.

Among the matters to be discussed and on which input will be sought are issues on which Metrolinx staff is expecting to report to the Metrolinx Board during 2009. These include:

- The timetable for decision-making
 - Benefits Case Analysis projects and timing for reports
 - Developing Transit Project Prioritization Principles and Framework
 - Initial Project Recommendations and 2010-11 Capital Plan
- Financing new transit infrastructure
 - Implications of asset ownership
 - Alternative financing and procurement
 - Operating costs of new transit services
 - Land value uplift and development charges for transit
 - Infrastructure and pension funds
 - Advancing the discussion about transit financing
- Transit infrastructure projects cost eligibility
 - Planning, design and engineering costs both prospective and retrospective
 - Eligible capital project costs
- Funding agreements
 - Contribution agreements
 - Performance criteria and reasonable cost parameters
- Mechanisms for regional and cross-boundary transit and traffic control services
 - Alternative service delivery formats
 - Equipment and technology standardization and maintenance
- Fare integration, service-integration and commercialization
- Mobility hubs and transportation corridor development
 - Land-use co-ordination
 - Criteria and categories of mobility hubs
 - Funding considerations

- Reconciling municipal and Metrolinx policies and plans
 - Transportation master plan updates
 - Official plan updates and Growth Plan / Metrolinx Big Move Plan compliance
- Goods movement strategy
- Next steps

3. Other Business

Benefits Case Analysis Work Plan Update

In November 2008, the Board gave direction to staff to expand the 2009 work plan for Benefits Case Analysis (BCA) review of the remainder of the RTP Top 15 priority projects. Staff have finalized and issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure additional consulting resources to execute and complete this assignment in time for the anticipated July 2009 report to the Board on Project Prioritization recommendations for the 2010 Metrolinx capital plan and the next rolling five-year capital plan. We expect to select and engage the consultant advisory teams in late February 2009.

Work has been proceeding expeditiously on the BCA reports carried over from 2008. The anticipated delivery dates for the January Board date could not be met as Metrolinx, City of Toronto and TTC staff all agreed that additional time to verify both the costing and benefits results of the Eglinton and Finch-Sheppard projects. The revised near-term BCA report-back schedule includes: Eglinton and Finch-Sheppard Rapid Transit scheduled for the February 2009 In-Camera Board meeting; GO Lakeshore and Yonge North Subway Extension scheduled for the April 2009 In-Camera Board meeting. As per past practice, BCA reports will be made public following Board approval.

Transit Procurement Initiative

Metrolinx Chair Rob Maclsaac and Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger announced the winning contracts for the 2009 joint Transit Procurement Initiative to build and supply as many as 160 buses valued up to \$70 million for 12 municipalities. The twelve participating municipalities are: Barrie, Burlington, Cobourg, Durham Region, Elliot Lake, Hamilton, London, Milton, North Bay, Sarnia, St. Catharines and York Region. The contracts have been awarded to New Flyer Industries Canada ULC and City View Bus Sales.

The Transit Procurement Initiative was transferred from Ministry of Transportation to Metrolinx in June 2008. Metrolinx facilitated this joint initiative with its partners using common vehicle specifications and consolidating bus orders. This is the first municipal bus purchase to comply with the Province's Canadian content policy, which protects jobs and supports Canada's transportation technology and manufacturing sector.

Kipling Mobility Hub

Metrolinx has been assigned the lead role, in cooperation with GO Transit, for the design and execution of the Kipling Redevelopment Project. Metrolinx has consulted with all of the stakeholders involved in this project including staff from GO Transit, TTC, City of Toronto Planning and Transportation, Mississauga Transit, Ontario Realty Corporation and Hydro One to evaluate the status and progress underway. Metrolinx has retained the planning and design consultants Planning Alliance, to examine the Kipling Redevelopment Project site and recommend strategies to address improved public access, urban design, active transportation, fit within the public realm and mixed-use real estate development opportunities. Our goal is to see this “transportation crossroads” better align with the Regional Transportation Plan's Mobility Hub concept. In consultation with all stakeholders, Metrolinx staff is working to establish a preferred design option. The Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Transportation, has committed funding through GO Transit to the project.

Federal ecoMOBILITY program – Environmentally Friendly Transportation

The Government of Canada has announced it will invest in 14 projects supporting environmentally friendly transportation. Metrolinx is one of the 14 projects chosen and will receive a contribution of up to \$405,000 for a project at elementary schools in the Region of Peel and the City of Hamilton to pilot, test and monitor new concepts and initiatives that encourage students to walk to school. The project will also promote green transportation alternatives for faculty and staff.

Accessibility

Earlier this year, Metrolinx established an Accessibility Advisory Working Group to provide feedback on the Regional Transportation Plan and to explore in more depth accessibility issues associated with cross-boundary travel for persons with disabilities. Part of Metrolinx staff's work was to liaise and share information with non-profit organizations that provide accessible transportation services for persons with disabilities and seniors. As a result, staff participated in workshops organized by two Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) in June and November/December of 2008. Both of these workshops focused on the need for a more coordinated approach to delivering health system-related transportation services for an aging population. Recently, initial meetings have also been held with members of the Red Cross and other non-profit groups that provide transportation for people with disabilities. This work will continue as we move forward in addressing several accessibility issues that are outlined in a separate report provided as part of today's meeting agenda. (Details are available from Metrolinx General Manager Vince Mauceri.)

Environmental Policy and Planning

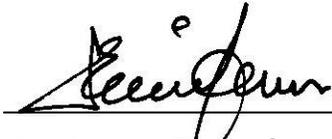
In December 2008, Metrolinx developed and published a guidebook for municipal and transit authorities entitled “Federal Environmental Assessment Guide for Transit Projects in Ontario.” This is the first guidance document which focuses exclusively on the manner in which the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) applies to the development and expansion of transit projects in Ontario.

Given an anticipated potential increase in federal involvement in the transit projects in the GTHA, it was felt that a document which can assist proponents in understanding and successfully meeting CEAA requirements would be timely. The document provides an overview of CEAA and gives guidance on how to address CEAA requirements. It provides direction on how to carry out document preparation, discusses the roles and responsibilities under CEAA of various federal authorities, and it outlines opportunities for coordinating federal and Ontario requirements for assessing transit projects so that duplication and overlap between the two processes can be minimized. (Details are available from Metrolinx Executive Lead, Jim O’Mara.)

Acting CEO February 7 - 21

The Acting CEO for the period February 7 – 21 will be Vince Mauceri, General Manager, Transportation Operations and Technology.

Respectfully submitted to the Board,



W. Michael Fenn, Chief Executive Officer

CONTACT INFORMATION

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