



To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Vice President, Policy Planning and Innovation
Date: December 5, 2013
Re: **Policy, Planning and Innovation Q3 Board Report – Sept to Dec 2013**

Strategic Policy and Systems Planning:

- **Regional Relief Strategy:** Metrolinx is working in close collaboration with the TTC and the City of Toronto to advance the Regional Relief Strategy which comprises:
 - Metrolinx's Yonge Relief Network Study to enable capacity on the Yonge Subway, while providing congestion relief to the regional transit network;
 - City/ TTC Relief Line Project Assessment, which is undertaking preliminary route evaluation and review of station opportunities as follow-on to the Downtown Rapid Transit Expansion Study (DRTES); and
 - Other related studies to progress implementation of The Big Move and transform transit in the region.
- Steer Davies Gleave have been retained as the primary consultant for the Yonge Relief Network study. The first meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Group was held on October 23rd to introduce the study and the workplan. The first public consultation, a joint session with the City of Toronto and TTC's Relief Line Project Assessment, will be held early in the new year.
- **Transportation Study of the Pearson Airport Area:** The first meeting of the Strategic Advisory Committee, including executives from TTC, City of Toronto, Mississauga and GTAA, was held on Oct. 29th.
- **GTHA Urban Freight Forum:** The fourth multi-stakeholder forum with industry government stakeholders was held on Oct. 2nd, with a focus on urban freight data and off-peak deliveries pilot for the Pan-Am games period.

Design Excellence:

- **Guidelines:** Relevant design guidelines, principles and requirements are in final form for inclusion in the procurement specification documents for Eglinton Crosstown (to be issued to Proponents Dec. 16th).
- **Metrolinx Design Review Panel:** Oct. 24th marked the launch date of two new permanent design review panels, each comprising external architects, landscape architects, and urban designers, as well as ad hoc panelists for specialized consultation. In addition, a distinct Design Excellence Compliance Team has been convened for Eglinton Crosstown.
- **Additional Design Excellence Initiatives:**
 - Spearheading a regional signage and wayfinding harmonization initiative catalyzed by Eglinton Crosstown
 - Ongoing design compliance input on East Rail Maintenance Facility

- Collaborating on changes to internal procurement
- Providing support in writing project briefs for new projects

Hubs and Station Planning:

- **Bronte Station:** Master Plan completed in Fall 2013; key recommendations will be coordinated with ongoing station improvements.
- **Kennedy Mobility Hub (Eglinton Crosstown):** reference designs have advanced for the LRT terminus and connection to the GO Train; consultations continue with City Planning and TTC on the conceptual plan for the station area.
- **Mount Dennis Mobility Hub (Eglinton Crosstown):** Final Report has been completed; key recommendations are being incorporated into output specifications for Eglinton Crosstown RFP.
- **Weston Station:** Weston Eastern Access Study was completed in Sept. 2013.

GO Planning:

- Planning and coordination for **August 31 service changes** completed including:
 - Thanksgiving weekend train service to Niagara Falls; and
 - Additions and refinements of GO Bus services to meet demand and to reflect the start of the school year.

Pan/Parapan Am Games:

- PPI continues to coordinate Metrolinx's role in supporting the Ministry of Transportation's development of a Transportation Master Plan for the 2015 Games, currently being finalized. Next step is to develop a more specific Transport Delivery Plan in 2014.

Innovation:

- **Sustainability:** A workplan to guide the development of the Corporate Sustainability Framework has been created. The Framework will become the visionary document for sustainability efforts across the organization and support the Metrolinx commitment to achieve APTA Gold sustainability status.
- **Rob MacIsaac Fellowship Program:** The 2014 program attracted applications from 45+ students to conduct innovative research related to Metrolinx objectives. With guidance from academic supervisors and senior Metrolinx staff, fellows will conduct research January to April and work on site May to August.
- **Metrolinx Innovation Think Tank (MITTs):** The first event, focused on innovation in DBFOM procurement projects, was held Oct. 11th at the Toronto Board of Trade and featured Martin Buck of the UK's Crossrail project as the keynote speaker.
- **ideas@work:** Staff are collaborating with the HR team to bring a cloud-based ideas management and crowdsourcing software to augment the ideas@work program.

Transit Procurement Initiative (TPI):

- **Bus Procurements:** TPI is working with fourteen Ontario transit agencies to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for 12m and 18m buses to be released in Nov 2013.
- **TPI Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC):** The SAC, made up of TPI participants and industry stakeholders, provides strategic advice to TPI, facilitates connections

and builds awareness of TPI throughout Ontario's transit sector. The SAC met for the first time on Oct. 17th and will provide input to TPI's upcoming KPI and reporting exercise.

Smart Commute:

- **School Travel:** In Sept. 2013, Metrolinx Smart Commute staff launched a campaign to reach parents featuring school travel infographics on social media. The campaign will run throughout the school year. It generated 115,047 views in Sept.-Oct. From Aug. to Oct. Metrolinx staff held consultations to develop a strategic roadmap for school travel in coordination with provincial ministries, School Boards, municipalities, and NGOs. A written report will be complete by end of Nov. 2013.
- **Events:** The almost 1500 participants in Smart Commute Week, September 2013 reduced their single occupancy vehicle trips by 13%. The 2013 Smart Commute Awards are scheduled for Nov. 21st at St. Lawrence Hall.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging:** The contract has been awarded and Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure will launch at the first 5 GO Rail Stations (Aurora, Centennial, Whitby, Oakville, Lincolnville) in Nov. 2013. The remaining 5 stations in the pilot (Erindale, Ajax, Burlington, Pickering and Clarkson) will be equipped in late Winter 2014.
- **Car Sharing:** Following a competitive process, we are in the process of awarding the tender and expect to launch car sharing spaces at GO stations in Winter 2014.

Regional Integration (RI):

- **Regional Transit Trip Planner:** Requirements have been completed with input from participating transit agencies, and procurement has started, with the RFP to be released by year end. The regional trip planner will be introduced in the fall of 2014.
- **Metrolinx Accessibility Planning:** The 2013 Accessibility Status Report was published in September to comply with our responsibilities under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The revised Accessibility Policy has been approved and a corporate engagement process is starting.

Staff Outreach Presentations:

- **Regional and Provincial:** Urban Land Institute Toronto (Markham), 2013 Toronto Student Active Transportation Summit (Toronto), Planning and Development Forum (Toronto), Municipal Urban Designers Roundtable (Toronto), University of Toronto (Toronto)
- **National & International:** Transportation Association of Canada Conference (Winnipeg), Green Building Festival (Toronto), METRANS Urban Goods Movement Conference (Long Beach, California), Association of Commuter Transportation Conference (Calgary)