



To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Chief Planning Officer
Date: June 25, 2015
Re: Planning and Policy Q1 Board Report – February to May 2015

Regional Planning:

- **Legislated Review of the Regional Transportation Plan:**
 - The work plan for the Legislated Review of the RTP has been adapted to strengthen its alignment with the Province's review of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, currently underway as part of the Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review. The revised Legislated Review of the RTP will now be staged in two parts:
 1. **Legislated Review:** Released in Spring 2016 with a published discussion paper which identifies the impacts from transportation investments since 2008, discusses emerging trends shaping the region to 2041 and beyond, and identifies areas that require updating. The RTP web presence - www.metrolinx.com/theplan - was launched in June as Phase One of the outreach plan to educate, raise awareness and engage on the foundational elements of the plan.
 2. **RTP Update:** Updated draft RTP to be released for public consultation in early 2017 which addresses gaps and needs to 2041, including ways to maximize the impact of investments currently underway.
 - Background analysis is underway for emerging policy areas, and the long term demographic and economic outlook for the region in consultation with the region's municipalities within the context of the Province's Coordinated Review of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan; and the Provincial Policy Statement. Staff have attended Coordinated Review regional town hall meetings to hear issues of concern directly from GTHA residents.
- **Five Year Strategy Progress Report:**
 - A status update on the Five Year Strategy 2015-2020 deliverables is contained in the Annual Business Plan (2015-2016).
 - The next Five Year Strategy update will encompass years 2017 through to 2022. It will include progress and phasing of Regional Express Rail; reflect Metrolinx's sustainability goals and, incorporate updates emerging from The Big Move Legislated Review. The next Five Year Strategy (2017-2022) will be presented at the Board of Directors meeting in Summer 2016.
- **Urban Freight:**
 - On April 29th Metrolinx hosted its 7th GTHA Urban Freight Forum. Presentations were given by Hudson's Bay on their supply chain and logistics operations, and from the City of Toronto and Peel Region on their work to advance goods movement initiatives.
 - An update to the GTHA Goods Movement Study (2011) is underway and will be valuable input to the RTP Update.

- **Sustainability**
 - Metrolinx has been awarded the **American Public Transit Association's (APTA) Sustainability Gold** status in April and now joins 12 select transportation organizations in North America who currently hold this status with APTA.
 - The Metrolinx Energy Management program received a national award in the area of "**Corporate Leadership in Environment**" from the **Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA)** in April.
 - The Metrolinx Green Team, a network of over 200 volunteer employees, has received the national "**Education Achievement Award**" from the **Transportation Association of Canada (TAC)** for its activities and campaign to reduce energy consumption and to create a culture of energy conservation.
- **Metrolinx Planning Leaders Forum:** The February 19th meeting featured a presentation on coordinated planning at Midtown Oakville, as well as information on Active and Sustainable School Travel, and updates on transportation and planning for the 2015 PanAm/Para PanAm Games.
- **Metrolinx Transit Leaders Forum:** The May 14th, 2015 meeting included a presentation on GO Regional Express Rail (RER), and discussion of emerging issues tied to the PanAm/ParapanAm Games.

Service Planning:

- **GO Regional Express Rail (RER):**
 - Work has started on prototype schedule analyses required to begin refinement of crewing and fleet strategies and infrastructure plans. Assessment of alternatives to continuously enhance Union Station capacity is ongoing.
- GO Transit special events and seasonal service:
 - On April 13th, GO Transit provided special service for the Toronto Blue Jays season opener with an extra Lakeshore East train departing from Union Station.
 - Seasonal excursion services ran May 15th to 18th with Victoria Day weekend train trips to Niagara, with connecting bus services to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Preparation is underway for further seasonal service to Niagara, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Barrie beginning in July.
- **Smart Commute:** As of March 31st, membership includes more than 734,000 commuters (4000 more than in the 2014-15 Q4 report), across 334 workplaces (a decrease of 6 since the 2014-15 Q4 report). This result reflects a focus on deeper engagement with members through higher quality programming.
- The **GTHA Active and Sustainable School Travel Regional Hub** was formed, including representatives from municipalities, schools and school boards, police boards, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to support collaboration and share best practices. For the first time, a region-wide **Bike to School Week** was celebrated from May 25th-29th, in conjunction with municipal **Bike to Work Day** on May 25th.
- **Carpool Week** was held April 20th-26th; this timing was to increase proximity to implementation of the PanAm/ParaPanAm Games' temporary High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, and to benefit from ongoing improvements to the Smart Commute online tool.
- **PanAm/ParapanAm Games:** Business engagement on Transportation Demand Management (TDM) continues with MTO and TO2015, with delivery of Games Preparedness Workshops, participation at [MTO-led] Regional TDM Workshops, and ongoing member support. As of May 1st, 32 non-member workplaces have applied for 'Games Service' support for Games travel planning.
- **Triplinx.ca (Regional Transit Traveler Information System) :**
 - Phase 1 of the new regional transit traveler information system, developed in close collaboration with the GTHA transit agencies, was launched on May 19th.
 - Includes trip planning and service information, supplemented with information on travel to PanAm /ParapanAm games events.

- Future developments will include additional agencies, real-time departure information and service alerts.
- **Fare Integration:**
 - Evaluation of alternative GTHA fare strategies is underway, refining the list of alternatives previously developed. A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of municipal representatives in June will address the refined options and issues to consider in the evaluation.
 - A progress update on Regional Fare and Service Integration is to be presented to the Board at this meeting.
- **GO-TTC Joint Fare Pilot**
 - This one-year pilot enables TTC Metropass holders to purchase GO Transit stickers which allow for unlimited travel between Exhibition and Danforth Stations. It is designed to test the market for “express” GO service among TTC passengers and inform Fare Integration work in advance of RER and PRESTO rollout on TTC.
 - The pilot program has led to valuable Metrolinx-TTC connections at the staff level for future work.
 - Sales to date are lower than expected (60-75 stickers sold per month). The large majority of sales originate at Danforth GO station.
 - Metrolinx is seeking feedback from customers on the pilot to help to refine models for future Fare Integration work.

Project Planning & Development:

- **RER Existing and New Station Access:** The second phase of analysis is underway to understand the network implications of new RER stations and to identify changes to access for existing stations. A consultant is being selected to create GO Design Guidelines that will bring consistent language and design quality. A consultant Pre-Qualification is also underway to improve station design excellence.
- **RER and SmartTrack:** Consistent with the City staff report to Toronto Executive Committee (Jan 22) and Toronto City Council (Feb), the joint City/TTC/Metrolinx/MTO Program Committee is continuing to assess and plan RER/SmartTrack integration, identify issues and options, and to facilitate project decision making and delivery. Preliminary public engagement on RER/SmartTrack is scheduled for June.
- **Yonge Relief Network Study (YRNS):** The YRNS is concluded and findings are to be reported to the Board at this meeting.
- **Finch LRT:** Design Excellence Principles & Requirements documents, and Design Review Panels are being developed as part of the Finch West Light Rail Transit procurement documents.
- **Regional Wayfinding Harmonization:** Next phase will pilot the nearly complete Wayfinding Guidelines at four GO Stations and adapt recommendations to the Crosstown wayfinding manual.
- **Next Wave Projects:** Work is underway to advance planning work for the updated Hamilton LRT project scope, to support design work on the Hurontario-Main LRT, and to develop timelines and a workplan for investment in further project development for unfunded Next Wave projects.

Outreach Presentations:

- **Regional and Provincial:** University of Toronto Cities of Learning Conference (Toronto); Engineering the Future of GTA Transportation Symposium by the Professional Engineers Ontario York Chapter (Markham); Business opportunities from Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation at the Ontario Environment and Cleantech Business and Policy Forum (Toronto); Hamilton Planning and Economic Development (PED).
- **National and International:** Association québécoise des transports (AQTR) (Montreal).