



To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Chief Planning Officer
Date: September 9, 2016
Re: Planning and Policy Q4 Board Report – June 28 to September 9, 2016

Regional Planning

- **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Review:**
 - The *Discussion Paper for the Next Regional Transportation Plan* was released for online consultation. The website was updated to provide links to academic research papers and technical background papers undertaken in support of the RTP review.
 - Staff continue to work with MTO staff to align the update of the RTP work program with the Ministry's Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) Multimodal Transportation Study which has recently commenced.
 - Staff met with municipalities from across the region to provide an update on the RTP discussion paper and discuss next steps.
 - A workshop was held with chief planners/commissioners as part of the Municipal Planning Leaders Forum (MPLF). Participants indicated their desire to contribute at a strategic level throughout the RTP review process. This will result in strengthened relationships with our municipal partners and a more coordinated approach to planning.
- **Sustainability:**
 - Metrolinx's first Sustainability Strategy (2015-2020) is being brought forward for approval at this meeting of the Board.
 - The 2016 Rob MacIsaac Fellowship Program has concluded. Staff will begin recruiting for the 2018 fellows in summer 2017.

Project Planning & Development

- **Project Planning**
 - Working with the City of Toronto, staff developed a work plan for next steps in the planning of the Eglinton West LRT extension
 - Staff have been working on scoping a project development work plan for the Relief Line, following up on the June 1, 2016 provincial announcement of funding to advance the planning and design work.

- **Regional Express Rail (RER) New Station Analysis and Station Access:**
 - Municipal engagement is underway to advance the 12 new proposed stations approved by the Board of Directors on June 28, 2016 for inclusion in the RER 10-Year Program.
 - Progress on an update of the 2013 GO Rail Parking and Station Access Plan included the completion of the initial business case evaluating three potential scenarios and optimization of the selected scenario of incremental change, which proposes strategic parking expansion and incrementally shifting focus to grow other modes.
- **Design Excellence:**
 - A new Metrolinx integrated art policy, approved by the Senior Management Team, has been expanded to include an implementation framework. Integrated art will be included in the upcoming RER transit procurement packages, as well as other capital projects that meet thresholds set out in the policy.
 - Eglinton Crosstown LRT (ECLRT): 30% design submissions are now complete, and artists and artwork concepts have been selected for six ECLRT interchange stations.
 - The Metrolinx Design Review Panel (MDRP) reviewed three projects since last reporting: Agincourt, Milliken and Unionville GO Stations. All were supported with conditions.

Service Planning

- **GO Regional Express Rail :**
 - RER service concept is progressing into a more detailed Service Plan, refining corridor infrastructure and fleet requirements, incorporating technical assessments from operational simulations and further analysis on Union Station longer-term capacity.
 - Metrolinx is working with railway partners and other stakeholders to expand GO rail service to Kitchener-Waterloo by separating passenger and freight rail traffic on the Kitchener line.
- **Smart Commute:**
 - Review of the Smart Commute workplace program identified opportunities to better align with Metrolinx and Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipal transportation demand management priorities. An updated program is rolling out across the GTHA, focused on workplace opportunities for commuter travel behaviour change.
 - The Smart Commute online tool, supporting ride-matching, exploring transportation options, and logging trips, has experienced significant growth with 20,000 new users since launch in September 2014, reflecting uptake due to outreach and promotion for the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.
 - As part of Metrolinx's support for active and sustainable school transportation, a regional planning for school travel initiative is underway to support strategic planning in the six GTHA municipal regions, focused on region-specific priorities, GTHA-wide methods for monitoring and measuring progress, and supporting existing work underway. Completion is scheduled for Spring 2017.

- **GO Transit Service Planning:**
 - GO rail service changes this fall will include two new morning peak and two evening peak Kitchener line extensions from Georgetown to Kitchener, with adjustments to existing Kitchener bound services. The Milton line will see one new morning peak and one new evening peak trip, with service adjustments to other existing services. Adjustments to the Lakeshore service changes made in June will improve on-time performance.
 - GO bus service changes this fall include new and/or expanded GO bus services to Brantford, Downtown Cambridge and Downtown Kitchener. A new park & ride stop will also be added on the Niagara Falls GO bus service at Ontario Street in Beamsville.
- **Accessibility:**
 - Metrolinx Accessibility Advisory Committee and TTC's Advisory Committee for Accessible Transit continue to work together to provide consolidated feedback on Eglinton Crosstown LRT station and platform designs.
 - Consultation for the Hamilton LRT is underway with the accessibility community.

Research & Planning Analytics

- **Triplinx.ca:**
 - Selected real-time information has been introduced to the Triplinx website for Hamilton Street Railway and York Region. Design and development of a revised Triplinx website and apps will introduce a more comprehensive real-time perspective and will increase the flexibility and usefulness of the Triplinx tool. The revised website and apps are on schedule for launch in October and November/December.
 - The TTC has adopted Triplinx for its service, replacing the former TTC-only planning tool.
- **GTHA Fare Integration:**
 - A fourth concept based on the findings from the evaluation of the previous three concepts, has been developed that offers a long-term transformative objective. The business case and evaluation of this concept will be completed for the December 2016 board meeting.
- **Business Case Policy and Roll-out:**
 - The Metrolinx Business Case Policy was approved by the Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee of the Board on June 27th. The policy will apply to all capital projects over \$50 M. Work is underway to roll-out the business case framework, including guidance documents and training, across the organization to support the development of robust business cases to inform and direct Metrolinx investment decision making.

Outreach Presentations:

- **Regional and Provincial: Move the GTHA – On the Move: Local & Regional Investment in Ontario's Rapid Transit Network; Wayne State Delegation: Wayne State Delegation: Wayne State University Visit**
- **Inter provincial and National: n/a**