



To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Chief Planning Officer
Date: December 8, 2016
Re: Planning and Policy Q3 Board Report –September 9 to December 8, 2016

Regional Planning

- **The Next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**
 - Comments on the *Discussion Paper for the Next Regional Transportation Plan* are being received through November 30, 2016.
 - Engagement with the public and stakeholders occurred on-line, through social media, Metrolinx Engage (Metrolinxengage.com) and at 12 Metrolinx regional open houses held in November. Supporting materials developed for engagement included a brochure and video. A series of webinars on the RTP Discussion Paper were held with non-governmental stakeholders through November.
 - Consultation is underway with GTHA municipalities on the 2041 land use forecasts distribution, which is a key input to the RTP travel demand modelling and scenario planning.
 - Monthly meetings are being 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. Additionally, the Municipal Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) continues to provide staff-level input into the RTP update and liaise with MPLF members.
- **Sustainability**
 - Work has begun to implement Metrolinx's first Sustainability Strategy (2015-2020), which was approved by the Metrolinx Board of Directors on September 9, 2016.
 - A shared mobility workshop was held on November 2, 2016, attended by 80 representatives from 24 GTHA municipalities and 4 transit agencies. Shared mobility includes ridesourcing services (such as Uber), ridesharing services, microtransit and accessible and paratransit services. The implications of emerging shared mobility services for the transportation system in the GTHA are discussed in the RTP background paper - *The Next Generation of Mobility*. The goal of the workshop was to engage with municipal staff on issues related to the emergence of these services in the region, create a common understanding of the challenges and opportunities, to inform the next regional transportation plan and support station access.

Project Planning & Program Development

• Rapid Transit Project Planning

- Planning work continues to advance for the Eglinton West LRT extension, including refining the number of stops, planning on the potential grade separations, and traffic analysis. Further public consultation is planned for early 2017.
- Metrolinx, the City of Toronto, and the TTC have established a joint Relief Line Working Group which will coordinate governance of Relief Line planning, including the southern segment between Danforth Avenue and downtown Toronto and the northern segment between Sheppard Avenue and Danforth Avenue.
- Metrolinx, the City of Toronto, the TTC, and the Region of York are working together to establish a project management approach to advance planning work for the Yonge North Subway Extension.
- A Durham-Scarborough BRT Working Group has been established to advance project development work including representatives from the Region of Durham, Durham Region Transit, the City of Toronto, the TTC, and Metrolinx.

• Regional Express Rail (RER) Project Planning

- After an intensive series of working group meetings with municipal staff, the twelve new GO RER and SmartTrack stations have been accepted by the respective municipal councils. All the conditions identified by the Board have also been agreed to with the exception of a proposal by the City of Toronto for a staged funding arrangement, whereby the City will decide at two points in the future whether they will continue funding the project. Please refer to the RER New Stations Update report on the December 8, 2016 Board meeting agenda.
- Stakeholders have been engaged regarding updates to the 2013 GO Rail Parking and Station Access Plan. The plan is being presented to the Board of Directors in the RER Station Access Plan report at the December 8, 2016 Board meeting.

• Program Development

- Program Co-ordination staff have been involved with Capital Planning Group (CPG) staff regarding the development of a stage-gate process to facilitate early input of design and other Planning & Policy considerations.
- Program Co-ordination staff are providing input into developing a protocol for further involving our municipal partners in the project planning and procurement process for Metrolinx projects.

• Program Design Excellence

- Program Design Excellence staff and CPG staff are jointly mapping out the process for integrating the Design Excellence Program within the RER Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) process.
- The 60% design compliance reviews are continuing for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT, with 9 out of 15 underground stations now completed and feedback returned for incorporation into the designs. Significant progress has been made on the design of the elevated guideway, east portals and

decorative fencing, which has helped to alleviate several of the key concerns of the City of Toronto staff.

- The Metrolinx Design Review Panel (MDRP) reviewed six projects: Port Credit GO Station, Long Branch GO Station Redevelopment, Lakeshore East Rail Corridor Rouge River Bridge and Waterfront Park Retaining Walls, Confederation GO Station, Union Station Trainshed Enhancement Project, and Rutherford GO Station and Parking Structure. The Port Credit scheme was supported while the Rutherford design is under review for further work. The other four projects were supported with conditions.

Service Planning

• GO Regional Express Rail (RER) Service

- The RER service concept is progressing into a more detailed service plan, through refining corridor infrastructure and fleet requirements, incorporating technical assessments from operational simulations and further analysis on Union Station longer-term capacity.
- Detailed project and service planning is underway for the Kitchener corridor expansion, and service extension to Niagara and Bowmanville.

• Smart Commute

- The Smart Commute Awards ceremony was held on November 24, 2016 to recognize GTHA employer members and partners who have put forth exceptional effort in implementing transportation demand management solutions at their workplaces. This year the awards also recognized regional municipalities for their participation in Bike to School Week (held in Spring 2016) which saw over 21,000 students from 300 schools participate across the GTHA. Cycling mode share during Bike to School Week was 7.1% at reporting schools.
- As part of the Metrolinx partnership with the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA), Bike Share Toronto has expanded by 1000 bikes and 120 stations. A PRESTO discount (50% off first year of membership) was launched in September 2016 and a customer survey to track satisfaction was open from the end of October 2016 to end of November 2016. Metrolinx is undertaking a feasibility study to determine opportunities to pilot the program in another GTHA location (outside of Toronto).

• GO Transit Service Planning

- GO rail service changes this winter (2016/17) include the extension of five morning peak and five afternoon peak Richmond Hill line trips from Richmond Hill to Gormley Station. The Stouffville line will see one new morning and one new evening peak trip with adjustments to other existing services. The Barrie line will see the introduction of weekend service between Aurora and Union Station, with some trips to/from Allendale GO Station, operating 19 all-stop trips each day.
- GO bus service changes will include realigning local Route 25 (Square One – Kitchener/Waterloo) and Route 29 (Square One - Guelph) trips to serve the new Mississauga Transitway west segment and the new Winston Churchill Transitway station. On the Barrie line, train-meet and train-bus services will be adjusted to support the new weekend rail service. Finally, on the Stouffville line, train-meet buses will be adjusted to connect with morning and afternoon peak train trips.

- **Accessibility**

- Four accessibility public meetings were conducted through November and early December 2016 in Toronto, Hamilton and Whitby, as well as through teleconference.
- Metrolinx Accessibility Advisory Committee and TTC's Advisory Committee for Accessible Transit continued 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.
- Metrolinx is continuing to work with our regional specialized transit partners to improve the cross-boundary travel experience for customers with disabilities.

Research & Planning Analytics

- **Triplinx.ca**

- A beta version of a revised Triplinx website and app will be available through December 2016 for customer comment. The new version will provide real-time service information and will increase the flexibility and usefulness of Triplinx.ca.

- **GTHA Fare Integration**

- Analysis for the business case and evaluation of alternative GTHA Fare Structures is continuing. Work has progressed on analysis for alternative concepts and these will be the basis for engaging with municipalities, transit agencies, stakeholders and the public in 2017.

- **Business Case Policy and Roll-out**

- 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:**

- **ICF Canada - Think Smarter Economic Development Forum; Urban Land Institute Breakfast with Metrolinx - Creating Connections: Working Towards a Connected and Integrated Regional Transportation System; Ontario Expropriation Association Fall Conference – The Speed of Change - Keynote; Ryerson City Building Institute - From Grand Paris to the GTHA: Regional Transit and City Building; Region of Peel Transportation Summit - Moving Goods and People: Healthy, Safe and Connected Communities; Ryerson University – Who Owns the Streets? Automated Vehicles Implications for Active Transport in Urban Centres; Urban and Regional Information Systems Association- The Next 50 Years of Sticky Issues; Peel Goods Movement Task Force – The Next Regional Transportation Plan; Toronto Youth Cabinet – The Next Regional Transportation Plan**

- **National and International:**

- **University of Manitoba** – Utopia or Dystopia? Automated Vehicles and the Future of Urban Mobility; **CD Howe 2016 Housing Summit** -What to do about Toronto and Vancouver? **Association of Energy Services Professionals Fall Event** – Mobility And Energy: Changing the way we work and the way we get to work; **Urban Sustainability Directors Network Fall Conference** – Toronto Transportation Planning and Infrastructure Seminar (with City of Toronto) and a Tour of the Union Station; **CityAge** – Transportation’s Impact on City Building; **Transportation Association of Canada 2016 Conference & Exhibition** – Planning for Extreme Weather and Climate Change and Metrolinx Program (Rapid Transit Projects in the GTHA, Emerging Issues for the Next Regional Transportation Plan – New Mobility); **International Conference on Transportation Innovation** – Automated Vehicles and the Future of Urban Mobility (Edmonton); **Association du transport urbain du Québec : Colloque annuel** – la mobilité sur demande : premières expériences et réflexions (Montréal); **Shared Use Mobility Summit** – The Promise of Integrated Mobility Hubs: Sharing and Urban Development (Chicago)