



**To:** Metrolinx Board of Directors  
**From:** Leslie Woo  
*Chief Planning Officer*  
**Date:** February 17, 2017  
**Re:** Planning and Policy Q4 Board Report –December 8, 2016 to February 17, 2017

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### Regional Planning

- **The Next Regional Transportation Plan**
  - Research and analysis continues to advance on the technical and strategic work that will inform the next Regional Transportation Plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.
  - Municipal, non-governmental and public comments on the Discussion Paper for the Next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) were received until December 16, 2016. Comments, although positive in general, included some key feedback on the need to align the vision, content and timelines with related provincial plans, the need for a more regional and integrated approach, and a desire for deeper municipal engagement and public education in 2017. A summary of the feedback received will be available on the RTP page at [Metrolinx.com/theplan](http://Metrolinx.com/theplan) at the end of February.
  - A draft RTP will be assessed against a number of scenarios to ensure a robust plan that has relevance for the future. Municipalities are currently providing input on a “long list” of initiatives that will be considered for the next RTP.
  - Coordination continues with the Ministry of Transportation on its Greater Golden Horseshoe transportation study and with the Ontario Growth Secretariat on the Coordinated Review of four provincial land use plans.
  - A Citizen’s Reference Panel for the next RTP is being established to allow Metrolinx to research and gain insight into transportation issues important to a representative sample of GTHA residents. A final report from the panel is anticipated in Spring 2017.
  - The Municipal Planning Leaders Forum continues to meet to provide strategic direction for the RTP review process. Additionally, the Municipal Technical Advisory Committee continues to provide staff-level technical input into the RTP review process.
- **Sustainability**
  - The Metrolinx Sustainability Strategy (2015 - 2020) has been published on the Sustainability and Innovation page at [metrolinx.com/sustainability](http://metrolinx.com/sustainability)

## Project Planning

### • Rapid Transit

- Planning work continues to advance for the Eglinton West LRT extension, including refining the number of stops, investigating potential grade separations, and traffic analysis. Further public consultation, in collaboration with the City of Toronto, is planned for the first half of 2017.
- Metrolinx, the City of Toronto, and Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) staff have established a joint Relief Line Working Group, which will coordinate governance of Relief Line planning in two segments. This includes Relief Line South, between Danforth Avenue and downtown Toronto, and Relief Line North, between Sheppard Avenue and Danforth Avenue. An RFP for consultant services has been issued for the provision of a planning study and an Environmental Assessment focusing on Relief Line North.

### • Regional Express Rail (RER)

- Progress continues with municipalities to refine the conceptual plans for new GO stations, including those associated with the SmartTrack concept, and to incorporate them into the GO RER 10-year program.
- With Board approval of the GO Rail Station Access Plan on December 8, 2016, work is underway to develop implementation strategies for GO station access and incorporate recommendations into the GO RER program capital works. The Rail Station Access Plan is now available on the Metrolinx website.
- Mobility hub studies have kicked off with the City of Markham for Markham Centre (Unionville GO), and with the Town of Newmarket for Newmarket GO. These studies will support local planning objectives and provide input to station planning for the GO RER program.

## Program Development

### • Program Design Excellence

- The 60% design compliance reviews are almost complete for the underground stations for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT. The first package from the 90% design submissions has also been reviewed. Crosslinx Transit Solutions has also agreed to provide full scale mock-ups of significant parts of the stations buildings at grade by summer 2017.
- The draft RER GO Transit Design Excellence Guidelines and the procurement process for the GO RER Technical Advisors is complete. The next step will be to work with the Technical Advisors to develop:
  - station specific design requirements for each project with information drawn from the GO Transit Design Excellence Guidelines, and
  - The Project Specific Output Specification language for each project
- The Metrolinx Design Review Panel reviewed two projects: the Rutherford GO Station and Platform Enclosure, and the Eglinton Crosstown GO Facilities at Mount Dennis and Kennedy Stations. Both projects were conditionally supported with some outstanding issues still to be addressed.

### Service Planning

- GO Transit ridership to date from April to December 2016 has grown 1.9% from the same time last year at 50.8 million passenger trips. This exceeds our forecast for the same period by 0.9%.
- April to December 2016 rail boardings have increased by 2.6% compared to the same period in 2015. April to December 2016 bus boardings are stable, at the same level compared to the previous year.

### Research & Planning Analytics

- **GTHA Fare Integration**
  - See February 17, 2017 Board Report.

### Outreach Presentations

- ***National and International:***
  - **Transportation Research Board (TRB) - Annual Meeting**
  - **Association Québécoise des Transport - New Mobilities Symposium: Integration and Challenges**