

To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Chief Planning and Development Officer
Date: February 7, 2019
Re: **Planning and Development Quarterly Report
December 7, 2018 to February 7, 2019**

Recommendation

That this report be received for information.

Recent Highlights

- **Benefits Management and Sponsor Office**
 - The GO Expansion program passed a major checkpoint in the benefits management process with the Full Business Case for GO Expansion submitted to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) in December 2018 and will be submitted to the Treasury Board in early February 2019. The Business Case is being used by the province along with other inputs to inform decisions regarding advancement of the GO Expansion program.
- **Corporate Real Estate**
 - Metrolinx is on track to implement the Board-approved Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Market Driven Strategy. Work has begun to develop principles, policies and a governance framework to implement a strategy to fund and construct stations, and an intake process for assessing third-party opportunities has been initiated. An assessment and prioritization of station renovations is underway.
- **Planning**
 - Metrolinx and the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) have established a formal partnership to study and develop transit connections to the planned Regional Transit Centre at Pearson Airport. A study was launched in January to define design constraints and opportunities related to the new facility. Work program performance will be measured by schedule adherence and partnership success, to be based on regular surveys of Metrolinx and GTAA leadership.
 - Metrolinx hosted a workshop in December 2018 with GTHA municipal transit service providers to help advance transit integration across the region.

- Metrolinx facilitated a workshop with the Municipal Technical Advisory Committee in January to support the advancement of the Frequent Rapid Transit Network (FRTN) identified in the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan.
 - Metrolinx hosted a workshop on increasing transit ridership at the Canadian Urban Transit Association Annual Conference in November 2018 in Toronto, and hosted a Metrolinx booth at the Canadian Transit Show as part of the same event. Both were attended by transit industry professionals from across Canada, local transit partners and post-secondary students, and generated ideas for how we can collectively increase transit ridership.
 - In January, Metrolinx’s Regional Reference Panel held its first of five meetings scheduled for 2019. The panel is a representative group of 36 residents from across the GTHA, Barrie, Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Niagara, who will meet 11 times over two years to provide input and advice on Metrolinx projects and programs. To date, the panel has provided insights on parking programs and the future of GO Bus services.
- **Design Excellence**
 - Progress has been made on the development of two design standards:
 - The Draft Harmonized Wayfinding Standards have been completed, with several transit agencies expressing interest in adopting them. As part of this work, the installation of the Regional Transit Wayfinding Harmonization pilot project at Pickering GO Station has reached substantial completion, with close to 150 new signs and maps installed, and customer and accessibility research initiated in late January 2019. Installation at Hamilton GO Station will follow shortly thereafter, with work at the Finch Bus Terminal and four Union Pearson Express Stations expected to be complete by March 2019.
 - The Universal Design Standards, incorporating lessons learned from Union Station and across our network, are progressing through the development phase and will support safe, convenient and independent transit use by all of our customers. The Universal Design team has also identified opportunities to improve wayfinding and accessibility in Metrolinx-controlled areas at Union Station to improve the customer experience, with particular attention to accessible routes and elevator and platform identification.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Woo
Chief Planning and Development Officer