

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO METROLINX

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| Report Title: | CEO Monthly Report | | | | |
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| Report To: | BOARD | | | | |
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RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED:

THAT CEO 08-006 Monthly Report be received for information.

ISSUE:

1. Communications and Public Affairs Update
2. Strategic Initiatives and Investments
3. Developing Stakeholder Relationships
4. Environmental Assessment
5. Other Business

1. Communications and Public Affairs Update

A complete consultation strategy for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the companion Investment Strategy is under development. Metrolinx has identified a series of traditional and non-traditional events and methods to broaden public engagement and maximize participation. The full series of Green Papers # 1 - 7 are posted on the Metrolinx website for public comment electronically (www.metrolinx.com).

A new mapping function will be launched shortly as part of the on-line consultation site. This new function will allow members of the public to draw their own transportation improvement ideas directly onto maps electronically and post their explanation and comments associated with the proposal.

Stakeholder meetings and Town Hall meetings are being organized to support the different stages of RTP development. In addition, TransitCamp is organizing a parallel consultation process to draw out recommendations on the rider experience and other related issues.

Metronauts, powered by TransitCamp, employs a creative combination of events and on-line conversations. The first event, held on April 5, 2008 at the MaRS Innovation Centre in Toronto, was extremely well attended and highly successful in engaging different community advocates in the process. It also generated positive response from the media and on-line bloggers. Future event dates and locations for Metronauts are posted on the Metrolinx website.

2. Developing Stakeholder Relationships

Metrolinx staff continues to participate in a growing range of discussions with stakeholders who share our goal of a seamless, integrated metropolitan transportation system. Highlights from our recent activities include:

- In mid-March the CEO participated as one of two guests on a live City-TV call-in program about GTHA transit issues, subsequently re-broadcast on CP24. The CEO emphasized Metrolinx's consumer-focus and encouraged the public to participate actively in the consultations now underway for the RTP and companion investment strategy.
- Metrolinx Board Director Paul Bedford, GM Leslie Woo and Lee Sims from the IBI Group met with and made presentations to a delegation from Philadelphia on March 13, 2008. The delegation of thirty included municipal representatives, staff and elected students from the University of Philadelphia and local media.
- GM Woo met with staff of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) on March 17, 2008 to provide an update on the development of the RTP.

- At their invitation, GM Woo made a presentation on March 31, 2008 at Queen's Park to a cross-section of MPPs from the GTHA to provide an update and overview of the Regional Transportation Plan and the accompanying Investment Strategy.
- Metrolinx continues ongoing input to the Toronto City Summit Alliance, with expanded participation to the Government Policies and Practices work group of the Green Committee.
- Metrolinx officials met with the RTP Advisory Committee twice in April to seek their input on the green papers and to brief them on other aspects of Metrolinx work program. Metrolinx officials also met with the Multi-Disciplinary Expert Review Panel (MERP) in April to discuss the directions outlined in the draft documents.
- Metrolinx has begun the process for actively and regularly engaging with the Premier's Climate Change Secretariat. Metrolinx and the Secretariat recognise the critical importance of working collaboratively as strategic partners, given the importance of the MoveOntario 2020 initiative to the Ontario Government's Climate Change Agenda.

The Chair, CEO and Executive Team met on April 4, 2008 with Hugh MacLeod, the Associate Deputy Minister for the Secretariat. The briefing was an opportunity to hear about early thinking for moving forward on the Climate Change agenda and to share information about Metrolinx plans and progress, as well as identifying an opportunity to brief the Premier on the Board's work and timetable for action.

The Climate Change Secretariat provides comprehensive corporate leadership and supports government-wide collaboration to ensure results for the Ontario Government's Go Green climate change Action Plan.

The CEO's comprehensive briefing for the Climate Change Secretariat included an overview of the Metrolinx work program, Metrolinx's focus on the three pillars: People, Environment and Economy, the "bold scenarios" under consideration in the RTP Green papers, the development of the companion Investment Strategy, MoveOntario 2020 implementation priorities including the five initial large-scale projects in the Metrolinx evaluation workplan and the 14 Quick-Win projects and other key Metrolinx initiatives.

- On April 9, 2008 the CEO, senior staff and a small number of public sector leaders met to advance the concept of an innovative real-time multi-modal GPS traveller assistance program for the GTHA. The aim is to give travellers easy and immediate access to current information to help them make effective travel choices wherever they are in the region, regardless of their mode of travel. The public interest of advancing innovative technology for Ontario's benefit is also an important strategic consideration.
- The Chair and CEO met with Regional Chair Gary Carr and CAO Patrick Moyle, Region of Halton on April 10, 2008 to discuss Halton Region's transit needs and plans.

- Metrolinx continues to participate as a member of the Municipal Executive Advisory Group (MEAG) for the Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and EA study through the involvement of GMs Howe and Woo.
- The CEO and members of the Metrolinx Executive Group accepted an invitation for an introductory meeting to discuss Metrolinx plans and progress on April 14, 2008 with Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, Commissioner of Transportation at York Region.
- The CEO accepted an invitation to be the keynote speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Professional Engineers Ontario – Oakville Chapter (PEO) on April 16, 2008. The PEO are interested in understanding the challenges and learning about how they can be involved with the technical issues as a professional body. The AGM provided an excellent forum to share information about Metrolinx plans and progress and to encourage active participation in the public consultations for the RTP and investment strategy.
- Smart Commute Metrolinx arranged a meeting for all staff on April 16, 2008 with Jacky Kennedy from the non-profit Green Communities Canada to learn about its program for school travel planning and Active and Safe Routes to School. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the benefits of encouraging walking school buses, cycling programs and other means of getting children to school safely without driving them. School travel is a key opportunity area identified in the Active Transportation Green Paper (Paper #3.)
- Metrolinx staff met with planning and economic development senior staff from the City of Hamilton on April 17, 2008 to discuss the RTP. A similar meeting was held on April 16, 2008 with York Region.
- In a continuing effort to reach out to major transportation industry stakeholders in the GTHA, the CEO and GM Howe met separately with senior officials of VIA Rail Canada and CP Rail, to identify opportunities for potential collaboration and coordination between Metrolinx and the current and long-term plans for intercity passenger rail network.
- The CEO and Metrolinx staff accepted an invitation to brief a delegation from Sweden on Metrolinx plans and progress on April 22, 2008. The delegation wants to learn about Metrolinx perspectives on regional transportation best practices. Metrolinx took the opportunity to learn more about Stockholm’s experience with “congestion pricing.”
- The CEO and GM Howe met in April with senior executives of JC Deceaux North America to understand the possible application of a transformational bicycle-share system in the GTHA, patterned after the widely-publicized Velib program in Paris, France and other JC Deceaux variants in cities across Europe.

- The Chair, CEO and staff continue to engage manufacturers and providers of transit vehicles and systems regarding emerging technologies, products and services; and, the infrastructure and finance sectors to discuss the role the private sector can play to further improve the provision of, and the demand for, efficient and sustainable transportation infrastructure and services.

3. Strategic Initiatives and Investments

Investment Strategy and AFP Work Plans

The Investment Strategy Request for Proposals (RFP) is publicly posted and our work plan is tracking towards consultant evaluation and selection in early May.

The Project Benefits Case RFP process is in its advanced stages, and expected to yield a consultant selection/recommendation on or about May 1. The Benefits Case work will supply the broader economic, environmental and social rationale and justification for the Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) evaluation process. This work is proceeding with the ongoing and generous participation by municipalities, transit authorities and others.

The project-by-project AFP evaluations, led by Infrastructure Ontario, are tracking for a report-back to the Board with preliminary analytical results in June 2008. The evaluation team is aiming to report back on the head-start "breakout" projects that appear to have the strongest potential for early implementation in 2009. The current four breakout projects are anticipated to include: Scarborough Rapid Transit upgrade and extension, Transit City Finch West LRT, Yonge North subway extension to Richmond Hill, and York-VIVA Highway 7 and Yonge Street BRT (north of Richmond Hill).

4. Environmental Assessment

At its February 8, 2008 meeting, the Board gave direction:

- To identify opportunities for expediting federal environmental assessment (EA) processes for transit and transportation projects and undertakings in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), and
- To determine options for harmonizing federal and provincial environmental assessment.

Work has begun in this area. Metrolinx staff has begun the process for developing a Code of Practice. It will give proponents two important tools:

- The information they need to conduct a due diligence on the requirements which a project will need to satisfy under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA); and
- An ability to give federal Responsible Authorities early notification of an upcoming EA.

With these tools, a proponent will be able to determine:

- Whether or not their proposed project falls under CEAA;
- The information which federal officials will need to scope the EA study;
- The potential need for any additional studies; and
- Federal EA consultation requirements.

The Code of Practice is a first step toward greater harmonization in federal and provincial EA. Knowing federal EA expectations for a particular project, a proponent will be able to tailor their work to meet simultaneously the requirements of CEAA and the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Code of Practice begins to lay the groundwork for advancing the concept of one EA for one project by making federal and provincial processes more efficient and effective by minimizing duplication and overlap. Full harmonization would require federal and provincial legislative changes.

5. Other Business

Regional Trip Planner

A major short-term objective of Metrolinx is to implement a region-wide trip planner for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. A regional trip planner would be accessed by regional travellers through the internet and initially provide consumers with specific transit route, schedule and fare information from their origin to their final destination. This approach is similar to trip planners already on the internet, such as Google Maps, Mapquest, etcetera, which are available for travel primarily by vehicles.

Subsequent enhancements include:

- Providing real-time transit information accessible from desktop and wireless computers and mobile devices, such as cell phones, Blackberries, and other personal digital devices;
- Adding a multi-modal component, such as cycling (e.g., indicating on and off-street routes, availability of bike lockers);
- Carpooling and ridesharing;
- Road and HOV information, and
- Possible future 511 phone service.

Many of the GTHA transit systems currently have individual trip planners. While these serve their particular markets, taken as a whole, the trip planning system cannot be seen as seamless and integrated to the traveller seeking to cross several municipal boundaries.

Some local transit systems, such as the TTC, are actively developing trip planners. This is an opportunity for Metrolinx to work collaboratively with the municipal transit systems on a region-wide trip planner.

Metrolinx staff is organizing a workshop for all GTHA transit operators to discuss the potential for a region-wide trip planner. The purpose of the April 29, 2008 workshop is to discuss the status of existing trip planners and scope the opportunities for, and approaches to, a region-wide trip planner. The agenda will include:

- Overview of goals and objectives for a region-wide multi-modal trip planner;
- Current status of trip planning applications in each of the jurisdictions (providing participants to talk about their specific issues and needs);
- Development of options for a go-forward strategy to implement a regional trip planner;
- Presentation of important features required in region-wide multi-modal trip planner; and
- Preferred recommendations and next steps (forming a planning team as an example), frequency of meetings, etc.

University Partnerships Strategy

Metrolinx has established a partnership with the McMaster Institute for Transportation & Logistics (MITL) and The Centre for Spatial Analysis (CSpA) at the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, to begin to establish an urban Commercial Vehicle Movements database. Utilizing a pilot project in Hamilton the research will explore and analyse goods and service vehicle movement patterns and their impact on infrastructure utilization, and transport system efficiency and sustainability. GM Woo has begun to work with the university to generate linkages with the ongoing policy development.

GO Transit Transition

In early April the GO Transit Executive Team presented their Strategic Plan to Metrolinx Executives.

The GO Transit Transition Working Committee met on April 1, 2008 and agreed to commence regular liaison meetings between key staff at Metrolinx and GO Transit to share information and seek out opportunities for cooperation in the following areas:

(a) Strategic Issues

- Regional Transportation Plan
- Capital planning
- Financial and budgetary process
- Agreements, contracts and strategic decisions

(b) Other Issues

- Communications liaison
- Fare regime (including Presto)
- Ongoing general liaison
- Regularly scheduled meetings for the Metrolinx and GO-Transit Steering Committee
- Establishing an Executive Committee

Respectfully submitted to the Board,

W. Michael Fenn, Chief Executive Officer

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