



**To:** Metrolinx Board of Directors

**From:** Leslie Woo  
*Vice President, Policy, Planning and Innovation*

**Date:** June 27, 2013

**Re:** **Policy, Planning and Innovation Q4 Board Report – Feb to June 2013**

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### **The Big Move Progress Report:**

- The multi-stakeholder Project Committee and municipal working group held their last meetings. The Big Move Progress Report and Monitoring Handbook are now completed and can be brought forward to the Board for fall 2013.

### **Strategic Policy and Systems Planning:**

- **GTHA Urban Freight:** Third GTHA Urban Freight Forum in April featured a presentation from CEO Bruce McCuaig on Investment Strategy. Metrolinx received an Award of Recognition for advancing goods movement work in the Region, from Peel Regional Chair, Emil Kolb, on behalf of the Goods Movement Task Force for Metrolinx.
- **Relief Line Network Study:** Meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee took place in March to initiate the study and in May to review a draft terms of reference. The study will examine the feasibility of options including GO Richmond Hill and Stouffville corridors ability to relieve crowding on the Yonge subway. Terms of reference are targeted for release in July 2013.
- **GO Transit Rail Parking and Station Access Plan:** The GO Transit Rail Parking and Station Access Plan, involving extensive analysis and consultation with municipal and transit agency stakeholders, has been finalized and is being made available on the Metrolinx website. The plan guides development of parking and other access modes at each GO station.

### **Design Excellence:**

- **Procurement:** Progress is underway to incorporate Design excellence in various procurement evaluation processes, including AFP. Relevant design guidelines are being included in project scope & procurement documents for both GO and RTI capital projects.
- **Metrolinx Design Review Panel:** Terms of reference for the permanent panel are being finalized for a July 2013 start. In the meantime the Interim Design Review Panel has been meeting every two weeks.

### **Mobility Hub and Station Planning:**

- **Eglinton Crosstown LRT:**
  - Approximately 60 community members attended an April public meeting for the Mt. Dennis Mobility Hub Study and the station design.
  - Stakeholders from local agency, community and resident groups attended a meeting on the Kennedy Mobility Hub study in April.
- Two stakeholder meetings, one in April and one in May, were completed with strong turnout by residents and elected officials on the preliminary design of the **Hamilton James Street North** GO Station and public plaza.

## GO Planning:

- Planning and coordination for **April 6th service changes** completed including:
  - increased rail service on the Richmond Hill, Stouffville, Lakeshore East and West lines.
  - new weekday and weekend bus trips across the network, several bus trip and location adjustments for increased accessibility and train connections, seasonal school service reductions, and start of Canada's Wonderland bus service.
- **June 29th service changes and enhancements** on schedule including:
  - New 30 minute off-peak train service on Lakeshore E. and Lakeshore W. lines
  - Summer weekend train service on the Barrie line, and to/from Niagara Falls (including Victoria Day and Thanksgiving Day long weekends)
  - GO Bus service in coordination with Durham Region Transit's new Pulse bus rapid transit service along Hwy. 2

## Pan/Parapan Am Games:

- Metrolinx is supporting MTO's development of a Transportation Master Plan for the 2015 Games due in October 2013. PPI is coordinating these efforts corporately. Key plan elements will include transit services, accessibility, integrated ticketing, a regional transit trip planner, transportation demand management, incident response/emergency management, and signage & wayfinding. Metrolinx's focus is on spectator travel and a supporting role to Toronto 2015 in the development of a Games Route Network for athletes/officials. A full Board report will be provided in Fall 2013.

## Innovation:

- **Sustainability:** Internal consultations are in progress to identify opportunities to improve energy management practices and for energy savings. A final report is expected by September.
- **Rob MacIsaac Fellowship Program:** Fellows completed their research terms and are applying their learnings at Metrolinx. Planning for Year 3 promotions has begun.
- **Metrolinx Innovation Think Tank (MITTs):** Planning is on target for two MITTs, to be held by the Fall, to address 1) the vision for innovation and 2) innovation in procurement.
- **Shuttles Study:** This study is underway to examine alternative business models to bring riders to GO train stations, and is scheduled for completion in early summer.

## Transit Procurement Initiative (TPI):

- **Bus Procurements:** RFPs for 12m, 18m and 8m bus types on track for March 2014.
- **Electric Cooling System Procurements:** Tender closed in May 2013, with no qualified bids. TPI is working with municipal stakeholders to debrief and determine next steps.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** TPI has commissioned a consultant to develop KPIs to quantify program benefits and performance for reporting to municipal stakeholders.

### **Smart Commute:**

- **Increased participation:** As of the end of 2012-13, there are about 305 active Smart Commute workplaces with 670,000 commuters. This met and exceeded targets.
- Completed 10 Ontario case studies for **Active and Sustainable School Travel**. Stepping It Up project awarded Hamilton Community in Motion Advocate of the Year and was designated as a Landmark Case Study.
- **Carpool to GO:** Carpool parking was introduced to 8 new GO stations: Oshawa, Rouge Hill, Mimico, Agincourt, Erindale, Brampton, Dixie and King City. More than 300 carpools registered in the program access parking spots at 14 stations.

### **Regional Integration (RI):**

- **Regional Transit Trip Planner:** Transit agencies are signing back Letters of Intent. Procurement of a consultant to undertake Phase One is underway.
- **Metrolinx Five Year Strategy:** The Metrolinx Five Year Strategy updated completed for consideration by the Board at its June meeting.
- **Metrolinx Accessibility Planning:** Planning underway for the Accessibility Public Meetings in June and early July as input to the updated Multi-Year Plan, for September publication.
- **Cross-Boundary Specialized Transit Improvement Project:** Phase 2 has been initiated, continuing work on eligibility, preliminary examination of ways of providing through specialized service without transfers, and improving transfer locations at existing locations.

### **Staff Outreach Presentations:**

*Regional and Provincial:* 2013 Hamilton Economic Summit, Toronto Centre for Active Transportation Annual Conference, University of Toronto Scarborough on Smart Commute, University of Toronto Transportation Seminar on Mobility Hubs, Women in Infrastructure,

*National & International:* 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Land & Development Conference, CITE 2013 Conference, Journalists Forum at the Lincoln Institute of Land Use, Organizing Authorities Committee of the UITP, CUTA Annual Conference.