



To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Vice President, Policy Planning and Innovation
Date: September 10, 2013
Re: **Policy, Planning and Innovation Q2 Board Report – June to Sept 2013**

The Big Move Progress Report:

- This report is completed and brought forward under separate cover.

Strategic Policy and Systems Planning:

- **Relief Line Network Study:** Consultant selection underway. A presentation is provided under a separate cover.
- **Transportation Study of the Pearson Airport Area:** Consultants have been retained and study has commenced to develop a plan to address short and long term transportation needs.

Design Excellence:

- **Guidelines:** Relevant design guidelines are being included in project scope and procurement documents for the Toronto Rapid Transit projects (particularly Crosstown) and GO capital projects.
- **Metrolinx Design Review Panel:** Terms of reference for the permanent panel [with a mandate to improve design quality by reviewing projects with a prominent public presence and cost over \$10 million] have been finalized for a fall 2013 start. The Interim Design Review Panel has held 11 bi-weekly meetings, with 14 projects reviewed and four projects in the review process.

Mobility Hub and Station Planning (update provided under a separate cover):

- **Mount Dennis Mobility Hub (Eglinton Crosstown):** additional consultations were held with City Planning, community members and elected officials on the station and maintenance and storage facilities properties
- **Hamilton James Street North:** The GO station and plaza are in detailed design; discussions with the City of Hamilton include potential public art in the plaza.
- **Weston Station:** Weston Eastern Access Study to be completed in fall 2013.

GO Planning:

- Planning and coordination for **June 29th service changes** completed including:
 - New 30 minute off-peak train service on Lakeshore lines which is the largest service expansion in GO's history and another step in the transformation of GO from a commuter service to a regional transit service.
 - Summer weekend train service on the Barrie line, and to/from Niagara Falls

- Major GO Bus service improvement in Durham region in coordination with the Region's Metrolinx-supported Pulse bus rapid transit service along Hwy. 2

Pan/Parapan Am Games:

- PPI continues to coordinate Metrolinx' role in supporting the Ministry of Transportation's development of a Transportation Master Plan for the 2015 Games, on track for completion in October 2013. It will be followed by development of a Transport Delivery Plan in 2014.

GTHA Fare Integration and Service Coordination (FISC)

- Metrolinx is initiating a Fare Integration and Service Coordination (FISC) Strategy for the GTHA to identify ways to improve travel across city and regional boundaries. The two-year work program began this summer with a jurisdictional review of global practices and an assessment of GTHA needs and opportunities. These analyses will provide the foundation for building the policy framework for FISC in 2014 and developing specific implementation approaches by 2015.

Innovation:

- **Sustainability:** Energy Management Teams have been formed by the GO Stations, Bus and Rail divisions. Energy Management Plans have been developed by each group to identify ways to reduce our energy consumption, including electricity, diesel and natural gas. Teams are currently establishing corporate-wide baselines for energy, waste and emissions to better understand our impact and help prioritize our future sustainability initiatives.
- **Rob Maclsaac Fellowship Program:** In honour of Metrolinx's first Chair, Rob Maclsaac, this program allows students to conduct innovative research related to regional transportation during their school term with guidance from their academic supervisor and senior Metrolinx staff. Following their studies, Fellows transition into an internship at Metrolinx. Promotion of year 3 of the program started in late August.
- **Metrolinx Innovation Think Tank (MITTs):** The first event, focusing on innovation in the procurement of large-scale capital projects, will be held on October 11th.
- **Shuttles Study:** a study on the feasibility and optimal design of local shuttles to and from GO stations has been completed. A management summary is being prepared to recommend next steps considering synergies with other ongoing studies on regional service integration.
- **Meeting of the Minds Event:** Metrolinx is supporting the Meeting of the Minds (MOTM), an annual invitation-only summit on connected and sustainable cities attended by influencers and decision-makers from around the world, and hosting two sessions: *Connected Boomers will change Mobility: Are we ready?* and *Open Data: Let our data GO.* Sept 9 -11 Evergreen Brickworks

Transit Procurement Initiative (TPI):

- **Bus Procurements:** A Request for Information for 12m and 18m buses closed in July to help develop Request for Proposals for 12m, 18m and 8m bus types to be released in March 2014.

Smart Commute:

- **Active and Sustainable School Travel:** The Stepping It Up Project has been awarded the Transportation Association (TAC) of Canada's 2013 *Sustainable Urban Transportation Award*, to be presented at the TAC conference, Sept 2013.
- **Events:** Bike Month 2013 and Bike to Work Day (May 27) saw close to 6,500 participants across the region, with 71 events being held at Smart Commute workplaces. A total of 71 Smart Commute workplaces participated in the 2013 Clean Air Commute in June.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging:** a Request for Proposals for Electric Vehicle Charging at select GO Rail Stations closed in May, with the tender currently being awarded to enable launch of the service at the first 5 stations in the fall.
- **Carpool to GO:** Carpool parking was introduced to GO stations at Malton, Rutherford, Stouffville, Cooksville and Langstaff. There are more than 740 registered carpools, and over 280 carpool parking spaces at 24 GO stations.
- **Car Sharing:** Following a competitive process, we are in the process of awarding the tender and expect to launch car sharing spaces in the fall.

Regional Integration (RI):

- **Regional Transit Trip Planner:** All participating transit agencies have signed back letters of intent, and a consultant has been retained to gather requirements. Requirements are being compiled to enable procurement in the fall.
- **Metrolinx Accessibility Planning:** Accessibility public meetings were held at four locations in June and July, and the 2013 Accessibility Status Report has been drafted for September publication, to comply with our responsibilities under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Staff Outreach Presentations:

- *Regional and Provincial:* Federated Press 9th Women & Leadership Conference (Toronto), Panel member: Leslie Woo, Vice President, Policy, Planning and Innovation
- *National & International:* Canadian Institute of Planners Conference (Vancouver), Becky Upfold, Senior Advisor, Strategic Policy and Systems Planning
- American Public Transportation Association Rail Conference (Philadelphia). Lisa Salsberg, Manager of Strategic Policy and Systems Planning