



To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Vice President, Policy, Planning and Innovation
Date: September 5, 2014
Re: **Policy, Planning and Innovation Q2 Board Report – Jun 2014 to Jul 2014**

Transportation Policy and Planning:

- **Yonge Relief Network Study:**
The Phase 1 evaluation was completed with the evaluation of the long list of ideas, the identification of higher performing ideas and ideas that are not feasible. Work is progressing on the development of scenarios.
- **Urban Freight:** Metrolinx jointly held the GTHA Urban Freight Forum with Peel Region's Goods Movement Task Force, along with the Southern Ontario Gateway Council at York University on June 20th. Participants included approximately 70 industry and government stakeholders from across the GTHA, who identified key issues, opportunities and helped staff identify future trends for urban goods movement. A report and findings from the meeting are currently being finalized.
- First joint meeting of **Metrolinx Transit Leaders Forum** and **Metrolinx Planning Leaders Forum** on May 22nd included discussion of the Regional Transportation Plan Legislated Review, GTHA Fare and Service Integration, and a tour of the VIVA Rapidways under construction.
- **Metrolinx Five Year Strategy:** (see Board agenda item) The Metrolinx Five Year Strategy 2015-2020 has been completed to provide the point of reference for business planning and budgeting for the 2015/16 fiscal year, now getting underway.
- **Project Prioritization:** Progress in developing project definitions as inputs to enable RER and Relief Line to be added to the ongoing prioritization of Next Wave projects.

Hub and Station Planning:

- **Kipling Bus Terminal Feasibility Study:** Two options for the Kipling TTC/GO Station area have been prepared providing a new MiWay/GO Transit inter-regional bus terminal and accessibility upgrades to the GO Station. A public meeting was held to present the options on July 15th and there was general preference for Option 1, which separates TTC bus traffic from the TTC drop-off and parking area.

GO Service Planning:

- Development of the **GO Regional Express Rail (RER)** service plan preliminary concept (see Board agenda item) building on ongoing two way all day network planning. Additional work includes the alignment with the Yonge Relief Network Study and the rolling Five Year Strategy update.

- Planning and coordination for **August 30th service changes** was completed, highlights of which include:
 - adjustments to Lakeshore West and Kitchener line train schedules;
 - provision of Niagara Falls train service on Thanksgiving weekend;
 - bus service improvements to provide hourly service between Niagara Falls and Burlington GO station on weekdays, and between Oshawa, Richmond Hill and York University on weekends; and
 - increased peak direction service connecting the Highway 2 corridor in Ajax and Pickering with Scarborough Centre and North York Centre.

Sustainability:

- In June, Metrolinx was recognized with pledge signatory status, the first key milestone toward achieving full signatory status, of the **UITP** (International Association of Public Transport) sustainability charter. This charter is the international benchmark for public transit sustainability.
- In July the “Metrolinx Journey to Energy Excellence” video was released, highlighting the Metrolinx corporate energy management program and recent successes.

Design Excellence:

- The **Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) Design Excellence Principles and Requirements** are being used as part of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT procurement, which is nearing the end of the Open Bid Period.
- **Transit-Oriented Development Design Guidelines for the ECLRT** are being produced in concert with the release of a third-party developer Request For Proposals which forms part of the larger Crosstown project. While these guidelines have been developed to ensure the application of design excellence principles in responding to third-party proposals for land development in conjunction with the ECLRT, they can also be applied to other capital projects.
- The **Regional Wayfinding Harmonization** initiative, which seeks to develop common regional wayfinding standards in consultation with all GTHA transit agencies, has completed its initial phase of developing guiding principles, and is now entering the concept design phase.
- A corporate **Integrated Art Policy** has been adopted following presentation to the Customer Service Committee in June.
- The permanent **Metrolinx Design Review Panel** has now reviewed five new projects since October 2013. This work improves the overall quality of design through focused, constructive feedback by an external panel of experts.
- **GO Transit Design Excellence Guidelines** are in procurement for consulting services to develop guidelines which will apply to new and renovated stations, bus terminals, and parking garages.

Transit Procurement and New Technologies (TPNT):

- TPNT has completed its fourth procurement for transit buses. The successful supplier is Nova Bus for the 12 and 18-metre bus contracts on behalf of thirteen Ontario municipalities.

Smart Commute and Culture of Innovation:

- As of June 30th, 332 GTHA workplaces with 720,000 GTHA commuters are members of the **Smart Commute Workplace program**.
- A **Marketing and Communications Strategy** and brand refresh for the Smart Commute Program has been completed to inform the new website design and communication materials to roll out starting in September.
- Smart Commute Week will be held September 22-26, and will launch the new **trip matching tool** (to update carpoolzone.ca); new trip diary; and include an official launch event for the **Pan Am Business Engagement Strategy** delivered in partnership with Ministry of Transportation and Toronto 2015.
- A **Commuter Attitudes Survey** will be undertaken across the GTHA in September 2014, to track commuter attitudes and awareness of the Smart Commute program. Data collected will also inform the Legislative Review of The Big Move.
- **Electric vehicle charging equipment** is now available at all 10 pilot GO stations.
- In order to **build a culture of innovation at Metrolinx**, five action clusters have received approval in principle to be further developed for implementation. They are: Governance, Research and Incubation, *Play as a Team* Toolkit, *Think Forward* Capacity-Building, Communications & Branding.

Regional Integration:

- **Regional Transit Traveler Information System (RTTIS):** In close collaboration with the GTHA transit agencies, implementation of RTTIS is underway. It will be introduced for GO Transit in the fall of 2014, the other GTA transit agencies and UP Express in early 2015, and included in Pan/Parapan Am travel information in May 2015.
- **Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Strategy:** A first workshop of senior municipal transit and traffic professionals was held to identify areas where regional collaboration on advanced technologies will benefit travelers. The strategy and workplan will be completed in early 2015.
- **Cross-Boundary Specialised Transit Improvement:** The GTHA Specialized Transit Working Group is facilitated by Policy, Planning and Innovation's Regional Integration group and is working with MTO to prepare a collaborative plan to provide accessible transit to Pan/Parapan Am guests. The group has identified harmonize eligibility for paratransit across the region as their next priority to continue enhancing the region's specialised transit.

Outreach Presentations:

- **National and International:** Global Cities Summit (Toronto), 11th Women & Leadership Conference (Toronto), 22nd Congress for The New Urbanism "CNU22" (Buffalo), Canadian Urban Transit Association (Gatineau).