



**To:** Metrolinx Board of Directors  
**From:** Leslie Woo  
*Vice President, Policy, Planning and Innovation*  
**Date:** December 11, 2014  
**Re:** **Policy, Planning and Innovation Q3 Board Report – Aug 2014 to Nov 2014**

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### Transportation Policy and Planning:

- **Yonge Relief Network Study (YRNS):** The YRNS has been re-focused to include Regional Express Rail (RER) as part of the base case along with all committed projects. Phase 2 is underway and is assessing the contribution of RER, specifically Richmond Hill and Stouffville, to relieve congestion on the Yonge Subway. YRNS is being coordinated with the development of the RER program.
- **Urban Freight:** A report from the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GTHA Urban Freight Forum with Peel Region's Goods Movement Task Force and the Southern Ontario Gateway Council is available on the Metrolinx website. Staff are working with key stakeholders to define the goods movement analysis for the Legislated Review of the RTP. Metrolinx participated in the first meeting of a City of Toronto working group on goods movement.
- **Metrolinx Planning Leaders Forum:** On September 18<sup>th</sup> Greg Percy presented and discussed the September Board presentation on RER. This meeting also featured a presentation from Lorna Day of the City of Toronto on the Eglinton Connects project.
- **Metrolinx Transit Leaders Forum:** The September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting included discussions on harmonization of concession fare policies across the GTHA, potential for better alignment of service change dates across different transit agencies, as well as accessibility and contingency planning for Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.
- **Project Prioritization:** The Regional Express Rail and the Relief Line have been added, with preliminary information, to the ongoing prioritization of Next Wave projects.
- **Legislated Review of the Regional Transportation Plan:** Two meetings have been held (in June and October) with the Municipal Technical Advisory Group to discuss the detailed technical and research work plan and begin the review of the Vision, Goals and Objectives. A report to the Board will be made at the meeting in early March 2015.

### Hub and Station Planning:

- **Kipling Bus Terminal Feasibility Study:** The preferred option for the Kipling TTC/GO Station area -- providing a new MiWay/GO Transit bus terminal and accessibility upgrades to the GO Station – was supported with conditions by the City of Toronto Design Review Panel. The Feasibility Study will be completed by the end of 2014.

### GO Service Planning:

- **GO Regional Express Rail (RER):** Development of the service plan preliminary concept (see Board agenda item) is building on ongoing two way all day network

planning. Additional work includes the alignment with the Yonge Relief Network Study, proposed SmartTrack service concept development, and the Metrolinx Five Year Strategy.

- **August 30<sup>th</sup> GO Transit service changes:** Planning and coordination was completed, highlights of which include:
  - adjustments to Lakeshore West and Kitchener line train schedules;
  - Thanksgiving weekend Niagara Falls train service and connecting Bus Service between St. Catharines and Niagara on the Lake;
  - extra trains for Nuit Blanche, Hamilton Supercrawl, and Santa Claus Parade;
  - improved hourly bus service weekdays between Niagara Falls and Burlington GO station, and weekends between Oshawa, Richmond Hill and York U;
  - express service on Fridays and Sundays serving the U of Waterloo, Hurontario/407 P&R, Bramalea GO, and York University in both directions; and
  - increased peak direction service connecting the Highway 2 corridor in Ajax and Pickering with Scarborough Centre and North York Centre.

### **Sustainability:**

- **Green Bonds:** In September, Sustainability represented Metrolinx as the Government of Ontario selected the Eglinton Crosstown LRT for funding by its first green bonds.
- **Sustainability Strategy workshop:** An external workshop held with sustainability experts from the region will inform the development of vision and goals for the Five Year Sustainability Strategy.

### **Design Excellence:**

- **Transit-Oriented Development Design Guidelines:** are being produced to ensure conformance to design excellence principles by third-party development proposals integrated with transit infrastructure along the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (ECLRT) and future rapid transit projects.
- **Sheppard and Finch LRT:** Design excellence elements developed for ECLRT are being adapted to these LRT lines including input to the Request For Qualifications, “Design Excellence Principles & Requirements” guidelines, and Design Review Panels.
- The **Regional Wayfinding Harmonization** initiative is developing common regional wayfinding standards in consultation with all GTHA transit agencies. The initiative is coordinated with the Regional Transit Traveler Information System (RTTIS) visual identity, to ensure that digital customer information is seamlessly integrated.
- Metrolinx’s new corporate **Integrated Art Policy** is being adapted to the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and will apply to future transit projects.

### **Transit Procurement and New Technologies (TPNT):**

- **Bus Procurements:** TPNT, working with thirteen Ontario transit agencies, issued a Request For Proposals for 8m low and high floor buses, closing in October and November respectively. Master Agreements are expected to be executed in December.

### Smart Commute and Innovation:

- As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 340 GTHA workplaces with 720,000 GTHA commuters are members of the **Smart Commute Workplace program**.
- A **brand refresh**, including new websites (SmartCommute.ca and 13 regional TMA sites) and communications materials was launched in September. A new enhanced online Smart Commute tool is being rolled out, building upon the previous tool.
- **Smart Commute Week** was successfully held September 22-28, also serving as the launch of the new tool. More than 4,000 user accounts were registered on the Smart Commute tool in September.
- The **Transportation Demand Management Business Engagement Strategy** for the **Pan/ Parapan Am Games**, in partnership with Ministry of Transportation and Toronto 2015, will follow MTO's communications timelines, with more focussed workplace engagement starting in January 2015.
- Metrolinx leadership role for the **Active and Sustainable School Travel** program has been corporately endorsed and the ASST Implementation Plan is now under development.

### Regional Integration:

- **Regional Transit Traveler Information System (RTTIS):** An "alpha" version of the new regional system, being developed in close collaboration with the GTHA transit agencies, will launch in December 2014. The full regional system, including trip planning and additional service information for all GTHA transit agencies will go live by March, 2015.
- **2014 Accessibility Status Report:** This annual update is being completed for posting online by year-end.

### Outreach Presentations:

- **Regional and Provincial:** Ryerson University Contemporary Urban Design Class (Toronto), Ontario Public Transit Association (Sault Ste-Marie), Sustainability Lecture at McMaster University (Hamilton), Canada Green Building Council (Toronto), International Municipal Signals Association Expo (Toronto).
- **National and International:** The Future of Canada's Infrastructure 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit (Toronto), Perspectives on Regional Growth and Planning: A France – Canada Forum (Toronto), 6<sup>th</sup> Council for Canadian Urbanism National Summit (Toronto/Markham/Mississauga), Sustainability Presentation at the Mobile Sources Working Group under the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (Toronto), Energy Management Presentation at the Canadian Urban Transit Association's Fall Conference (Niagara Falls), Transportation Association of Canada conference (Montreal).