



To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Chief Planning Officer
Date: March 3, 2015
Re: Planning and Policy Q4 Board Report – Dec 2014 to Jan 2015

Regional Planning:

- **Legislated Review of the Regional Transportation Plan:**
 - On-going collaboration continues to align the work plan of the Legislated Review with the upcoming Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's review of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Areas for collaboration will include growth trends and forecasts, improving the alignment between transit investments and land-use planning, and plan implementation.
 - The Legislated Review webpage is set to launch in the coming weeks, after the Growth Plan review is launched.
 - Draft updated vision, goals, objectives and KPIs for the RTP are in development. The update will consolidate similar and overlapping elements and strengthen objectives for transportation in the GTHA.
- **Urban Freight:** On Dec 3 Metrolinx hosted the 6th GTHA Urban Freight Forum. Presentations included Ministry of Transportation (MTO) on Off-Peak Deliveries, a strategy to shift goods deliveries to off-peak times during the Pan/Parapan Am games; the GTAA on the role of Pearson Airport in the regional economy; and CN Rail on guidelines for development adjacent to freight corridors.
- **Metrolinx Planning Leaders Forum:** The November 19th meeting featured updates on goods movement work underway by Metrolinx and Peel Region, as well as on the Regional Transit Traveller Information System (RTTIS).
- **Metrolinx Transit Leaders Forum:** The December 4th meeting included discussions on radio interoperability, innovative access to GO stations as well as fare integration within the GTHA.

Service Planning:

- **GO Regional Express Rail (RER):**
 - Ongoing optimization of the RER Service Concept and Infrastructure Plan building from the Business Case analysis.
 - Assessment of alternatives to enhance Union Station capacity has begun.
 - Identification of service improvements that can be introduced within the first 3 to 5 years of the RER program.
- **January 3rd and February 2nd GO Transit service changes:** Planning and coordination included:
 - Starting on January 5th, two new weekday train trips were added on the Milton line – one in the morning and one in the evening, replacing 23 peak direction weekday GO Bus trips.
 - In conjunction with the Exhibition to Danforth GO/TTC fare integration pilot, additional Stouffville and Lakeshore line peak trains will stop at Danforth.

- Route 67 Keswick service has been realigned to serve two new Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Park & Ride facilities at Woodbine and Queensville that were opened in conjunction with the Highway 404 extension.
- **Smart Commute:** As of January 1st, membership comprises 340 GTHA workplaces with more than 730,000 commuters. **Smart Commute Awards:** The 8th annual awards were held in November 2014 to celebrate workplace achievements on a regional basis, recognising the City of Mississauga as Employer of the Year. **GO Station Access Options:** Developed by Smart Commute and Innovation in conjunction with GO Station Services, these now include:
 - 439 carpool spaces at 46 GO Stations
 - 20 Electric Vehicle charging spaces at 10 GO Stations
 - 6 Zipcar spaces at 6 GO Stations.
- **Pan/Parapan Am Games (see Board Report):**
- **Regional Transit Traveler Information System (RTTIS):** Phase 1 of the new regional system, being developed in close collaboration with the GTHA transit agencies, will include trip planning and additional service information.

Project Planning & Development:

- **RER and SmartTrack** joint City/TTC/Metrolinx/MTO Program Committee has been initiated to provide a coordinated approach to assess and plan RER/SmartTrack integration, identify issues and options, and to facilitate project decision making and delivery. Committee's first deliverable was the City staff report to Toronto Executive Committee (Jan 22) and Toronto City Council (Feb).
- **Yonge Relief Network Study (YRNS):** The YRNS Phase 2 is being updated to include RER service concept. Timelines for further public engagement are being adjusted to coordinate with RER program engagement.
- **Project Prioritization:** Project Prioritization Framework has been updated with a pre-screen for 'Project Readiness'. The Regional Express Rail and the Relief Line have been added to the ongoing prioritization of Next Wave projects.
- **Crosstown LRT Transit-Oriented Development Design Guidelines** are complete. They will apply to third-party integrated transit development proposals on Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit as well as future rapid transit projects.
- **Design Excellence Principles & Requirements** documents, and Design Review Panels for Finch and Sheppard LRT are being included in specifications as part of the Finch West Light Rail Transit procurement documents. The **Regional Wayfinding Harmonization** initiative is developing common regional wayfinding standards in consultation with all GTHA transit agencies, and is soliciting customer feedback on two shortlisted information structure directions. The standards will be applied to Crosstown LRT starting with interchange stations.
- **Kipling Bus Terminal Feasibility Study:** The Feasibility Study for 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 -- is being finalized.

Transit Procurement Initiative completed purchase agreements with 2 Ontario vendors for 8 metre low and high floor para-transit buses on behalf of thirteen Ontario Transit Agencies. The agreement is estimated to provide 86 vehicles over 2 years. The successful Transit Procurement Initiative program accountability has been transferred to the Procurement and Contract Services department within Finance effective January 20.

Outreach Presentations:

- **Regional and Provincial:** University of Toronto Public Health Policy Institute (Toronto); University of Toronto Freight Day (Toronto); University of Toronto Intelligent Transportation Systems Day (Toronto).
- **National and International:** Regional Transit Traveler Information at the Canadian Urban Transit Association's Fall Conference (Niagara Falls), 2015 Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board (Washington, DC), (Montreal).