



**To:** Metrolinx Board of Directors  
**From:** Leslie Woo  
*Chief Planning Officer*  
**Date:** September 22, 2015  
**Re:** Planning and Policy Q2 Board Report – June to September, 2015

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### Regional Planning

- **Legislated Review of the Regional Transportation Plan:**
  - Internal Metrolinx staff engagement on the Legislated Review has begun, with emphasis on the role of the regional transportation plan and opportunities for staff engagement.
  - Public information about the review process is available at [www.metrolinx.com/theplan](http://www.metrolinx.com/theplan); outreach remains focused on raising awareness on the foundational elements of the plan.
- **Five Year Strategy Progress Report:**
  - Work has commenced for the next Five Year Strategy, for the years 2017 through to 2022. It will include progress and phasing of Regional Express Rail; reflect Metrolinx's sustainability goals and incorporate updates emerging from The Legislated Review of the RTP. The Strategy will be presented at the Board of Directors meeting in summer 2016.
- **Urban Freight:**
  - Staff are working with municipal partners on Phase II of the Goods Movement Data Framework and Implementation Plan to advance our understanding of urban freight in the GTHA.
  - Metrolinx supported the Ministry of Transportation's Goods Movement Office during a pilot project for Off Peak Deliveries taking place in July and August 2015. Results and analysis of the pilot will be made available by the end of 2015.
- **Metrolinx Planning Leaders Forum & Transit Leaders Forum**
  - A joint meeting was held with the Planning Leaders and Transit Leaders Forums on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Topics discussed included Regional Express Rail, GTHA Commuter Attitudes Survey, Legislated Review, Triplinx and fare integration.
  - The September meetings are focused on fare integration (Planning Leaders Forum) and Service Disruption Protocols (Transit Leaders Forum).

### Service Planning

- **GO Regional Express Rail (RER):**
  - First draft of prototype schedule analyses required to begin refinement of fleet strategy and infrastructure plans has been completed.
  - Assessment of alternatives to continuously enhance Union Station capacity is ongoing.
  - Development of a work plan for operational simulations needed to support RER has been initiated and will be completed by end of Q2.

- **GO Transit Service Changes:**
  - Two new weekday morning peak train trips were added to the Lakeshore West line on June 27<sup>th</sup>, and on July 9<sup>th</sup> four daily weekday train trips and 10 homebound bus connections from Aldershot GO station were extended to serve the new West Harbour GO Station in Hamilton.
- **GO Transit Pan Am/Parapan Games Services:**
  - Extra trains operated daily throughout the games, mainly on the Lakeshore East & West lines, to serve spectators travelling to venues (e.g., Exhibition GO for Pan Am Park and West Harbour for CIBC Hamilton Soccer Stadium).
  - Extra buses operated daily throughout the games to accommodate increased passenger volumes.
- **GO Transit special events and seasonal service:**
  - Summer weekend train service on the Barrie line ran from Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> through Labour Day weekend.
  - Summer weekend train trips to Niagara, with connecting bus services to Niagara-on-the-Lake, ran from Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> through the Labour Day weekend.
  - For the Caribbean Carnival Parade on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, extra train trips ran on the Milton, Kitchener, and Stouffville lines.
  - For the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), weekdays from August 21<sup>st</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>, the extension of select train trips to/from Exhibition GO Station and Labour Day weekend extra train trips ran on the Milton, Kitchener and Stouffville lines.
- **Smart Commute:**
  - As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, workplace membership includes 733,600 commuters across 335 workplaces (400 fewer employees and one additional workplace than in the previous quarter), reflecting some shifts in membership and an ongoing focus on deeper engagement through high quality programming.
  - **Pan Am/Parapan Am Games:**
    - Business engagement initiatives on Transportation Demand Management (TDM) ramped up before and during the Games. Initiatives included ongoing member support for Games Travel Planning; and broader TDM engagement via Smart Commute and MTO-led media campaigns.
    - In the lead up to the introduction of the temporary network of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, and following a push by MTO and Metrolinx, there were approximately 2,500 new registrants on the **Smart Commute online tool** between June 1 and mid-July. (Since the Sept 2014 launch, more than 10,000 have registered).
    - There was a significant increase in the number of visitors to the Smart Commute website throughout the Games.
    - 200 workplaces beyond Smart Commute's membership applied for 'Games Service' support for Games-time travel planning.
- **Triplinx.ca (Regional Transit Traveler Information System):**
  - Use of the Triplinx.ca for trip planning and service information tripled during the Pan Am games.
  - Future developments will include additional agencies, real-time departure information and service alerts
- **Fare Integration (see report to September Board meeting):**
  - Development of a preferred regional fare structure continues with the evaluation of alternative GTHA fare strategies to provide a shortlist. A Technical Advisory Committee of municipal representatives is meeting regularly to obtain their input to the work.
  - A progress update on Regional Fare and Service Integration is to be presented to the Board at this meeting.

## Project Planning & Development

- **RER Existing and New Station Access:**
  - Municipal and public engagement on the potential new RER stations analysis is planned for fall 2015. An update is underway to the 2013 GO Rail Parking and Station Access Plan to address RER impacts to existing station access, with municipal engagement planned for fall 2015.
- **RER and SmartTrack:**
  - Consistent with the City staff report to Toronto City Council (Feb), the joint City/TTC/MX/MTO Program Committee is continuing to assess and plan RER/SmartTrack integration, identify issues and options, and to facilitate project decision making and delivery.
- **Yonge Relief Network Study (YRNS):**
  - The Yonge Relief Network Study Technical Summary document has been posted publicly to the Metrolinx website. Staff are coordinating with York Region, City of Toronto and TTC on next steps.
- **Next Wave Projects:**
  - Work is underway to advance planning work for the updated Hamilton LRT project scope, to support design work on the Hurontario-Main LRT, and to develop a workplan for further project development for other Next Wave projects.
- **Design Excellence:**
  - The contract for the Eglinton Line has been awarded to the Crosslinx team, whose design lead is Montreal-based architect Daoust Lestage. Design Excellence and the Eglinton Line design team will co-present the project to the City of Toronto Design Review Panel in October for information.
  - Design Excellence Principles & Requirements documents, and Design Review Panels are being developed as part of the Finch West Light Rail Transit procurement documents.
  - Next phase of the **Regional Wayfinding Harmonization** initiative will pilot the nearly complete Interim Design Standards at four GO Stations and adapt recommendations to the Eglinton Line wayfinding manual.
  - Design Excellence has re-awarded the contract for the **GO Design Excellence Guidelines**, with Perkins + Will as the successful consultant. This work will provide consultants and internal stakeholders with a systematic, sustainable approach for achieving excellence in urban, architectural, and landscape design.
  - The **Passages International Design Ideas Competition** was organized by Metrolinx and the University of Toronto's John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. The competition was aimed at young professionals in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and urban planning. The winning team, Delva Landscape Architects & Plusoffice Architects from Belgium, will work with Design Excellence as advisors on Metrolinx's LRT program.

## Outreach Presentations:

- **Regional and Provincial:** Probus Club - Mississauga; Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario and Canada (Toronto); Community MicroSkills Development Centre (Toronto); Transport Futures (Toronto).
- **National and International:** Canadian Urban Transit Association (Winnipeg); Canadian Institute of Planners (Saskatoon).