



To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Chief Planning Officer
Date: December 3, 2015
Re: Planning and Policy Q3 Board Report – September to November, 2015

Regional Planning

- **Legislated Review of the Regional Transportation Plan:**
 - Seven full-day workshops were held with staff from GTHA and GO Service Area municipalities (Hamilton, Waterloo, Guelph, Barrie, York, Peel, Halton) to provide status updates on RER and the RTP Review, hear about municipal transportation and land-use plans, and to seek input on the GO Rail Parking & Station Access Plan, as well as economic & demographic trends to support analysis for the RTP Review. The final (eighth) workshop (Durham) will be held in December.
- **Five Year Strategy Progress Report:**
 - Work is underway internally to develop a Five Year Strategy (2017-2022) for spring 2016.
- **Urban Freight:**
 - Staff are finalizing work 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 hosted the Intergovernmental Sub-committee on November 2nd, with municipal, provincial and federal stakeholders. The focus of this meeting was to better coordinate regional urban freight work, in particular, goods movement data.
- **Metrolinx Planning Leaders Forum & Transit Leaders Forum**
 - The MPLF met September 17 (discussion focusing on fare integration) and November 26 (addressing new stations analysis, fare integration and RER). MPLF members and Metrolinx staff are also considering an update to the format of the forums, based on members' current needs.
 - The Transit Leaders Forum met in September with a focus on Service Disruption Protocols.

Service Planning

- **GO Regional Express Rail (RER):**
 - Refinement of corridor infrastructure components has been initiated using prototype schedules
 - Staff are continuing detailed analysis of how RER and further long-term growth will impact capacity of Union Station's passenger facilities including platform widths and track modifications.
 - Scenarios to integrate Toronto's SmartTrack goals and objectives within Kitchener, Lakeshore East and Stouffville corridors are being evaluated.
 - Work has been initiated to provide input to the Fleet Strategy working group.
- **GO Transit Service Changes:**
 - Planning for modifications to Kitchener Corridor weekday midday service between Mount Pleasant GO and Union completed.
 - Rationalized Kitchener Corridor Bus Services to provide more direct non-stop travel options for customers traveling between Brampton and North Toronto.

- Extended Route 12 Niagara Bus Service from Burlington GO station to Dundas & Highway 407 Burlington Carpool Lot.
- All similar planning objectives complete for new GO bus services to Pearson Airport.
- Realigned GO Bus Services to newly opened Erin Mills Transitway Station and Parking Lot.
- **GO Transit special events and seasonal service:**
 - Nuit Blanche services consisting of extra late night homebound trains on the Lakeshore West and East lines and extra inbound and late night homebound trains on the Milton, Kitchener, Barrie and Stouffville lines.
 - Overall, ridership on GO Rail seasonal excursion services increased 3.6% over 2014 figures. Weekend service on the Barrie corridor ran from June 27th to Labour Day and experienced 9% ridership growth compared to 2014. Ridership on the Niagara weekend service with connecting bus services to Niagara-on-the-Lake, was down 4% from last year; Thanksgiving weekend ridership was down 22%.
- **Smart Commute:**
 - **Smart Commute Week** was successfully held September 21-27, focusing on highlighting the transportation options available to commuters across the GTHA. More than 2,500 employees participated in over 85 workplace events across the region; 1,180 entered the Smart Commute week contest; and the social media campaign generated more than 925,000 twitter impressions.
 - **GO station access options:** Since the March Board report, Smart Commute and GO Transit Station Services have further increased options to include:
 - 73 more carpool parking spaces at 2 additional stations (for a new total of 512 carpool parking spaces at 48 GO stations)
 - 11 more Zipcars at six more GO stations (for a new total of 17 Zipcars at 12 GO Stations)
- **Pan Am/Parapan Am Games:**
 - A post-Games travel survey indicated 33% of workplaces made a change to their travel routine during the Pan Am Games, and 25% during the Parapan Am Games. Of those who made changes, 28% have continued to incorporate these habits in their travel routines.
- **Triplinx.ca (Regional Transit Traveler Information System):**
 - Triplinx attained accessibility compliance for Web version (WCAG 2.0 'AA'); added the Toronto Island Ferry Service; and integrated with the Smart Commute website and mobile application.
 - Mobile Apps are now available for iOS, Android, Windows, and Blackberry.
 - Future developments will include additional agencies (e.g. Barrie, Niagara, St. Catharines, etc.), real-time departure information, and service alerts.
- **Fare Integration:**
 - Development of a preferred regional fare structure continues with the refinement and analysis of the Fare Structures reviewed by the Board in September. The Technical Advisory Committee of municipal representatives continues meeting regularly to provide input to the work.
 - Working together with York Region Transit, Brampton Transit, TTC, and GO Transit, plans are being completed for collecting transfer fares for trips using the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension to travel to/from York University and York Region BRT stations. These business requirements will be used by PRESTO to advance the required enhancements to the PRESTO system for the 2017 subway opening. Further discussions will address revenue allocation and any fiscal impacts.

Accessibility

- Conducted four Accessibility Public Meetings in Toronto, Hamilton, Whitby and through teleconference.
- The Hamilton meeting was held for the first time in collaboration with the City of Hamilton.

Project Planning & Development

- **RER Existing and New Station Access:**
 - Municipal engagement on the potential new RER stations analysis was completed in fall 2015 and public engagement is planned for winter 2015-16. 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 occurring in fall 2015.
- **RER and SmartTrack:**
 - The joint City/TTC/MX/MTO Program Committee is continuing to assess and plan RER/SmartTrack integration including analysis of service and stations along the Stouffville and Kitchener corridors.
 - Work is underway to assess and optimize rapid transit options on Eglinton Avenue West, between Mt. Dennis and the Airport area.
- **Next Wave Projects:**
 - Work is continuing to advance planning work for the updated Hamilton LRT project scope, to support design work on the Hurontario LRT, and to develop a workplan for further project development for other Next Wave projects.
- **Design Excellence:**
 - Design Excellence and the Crosslinx design team co-presented the design of the **Eglinton Crosstown LRT** stations and stops to the City of Toronto Design Review Panel in October and to City Staff, to positive response. As well, 10% compliance review design submission is now complete. Proposed names for stations and stops along the Eglinton Line were created using tools and protocols developed as part of the Phase I Signage and Wayfinding harmonization work, with finalization and approvals ongoing.
 - **Art on the ECLRT:** Metrolinx has concluded the procurement of art consultancy services from Planning Partnership with Public Art Management to lead an open invitational call for artist qualifications, soliciting responses from local, national and international artists. Final selection of artworks will be by an independent jury, with opportunities for Crosslinx to provide feedback on technical aspects of the proposed artworks.
 - The **Metrolinx Design Review Panel** has reviewed six projects since last reporting, including GO stations at Richmond Hill, Mimico, Long Branch, Bramalea, Bronte and the Highland Creek Bridge.

Research & Planning Analytics

- **Modelling & Geomatics:**
 - **Regional Express Rail ridership:** ongoing refinement of forecasts of peak period ridership on the Regional Express Rail service are being prepared using the updated Greater Golden Horseshoe model.
 - **Enterprise GIS:** work is underway to improve the data quality and usability of the internal prototype Geographic Information System using ArcOnline.

Outreach Presentations:

- **Regional and Provincial:** StudentMove TO; Toronto Sustainability Speaker Series
- **National and International:** Semaines de la mobilité/Forum URBA 2015 (Montreal); National Shared Mobility Summit (Chicago); Presentation to Chinese delegation on Mobility Hubs and Transit/Land Use integration; Quebec Transportation Association (AQTr) Symposium; Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) Conference; Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Conference