



To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Leslie Woo
Chief Planning Officer
Date: February 10, 2016
Re: Planning and Policy Q4 Board Report – December 2015 to February 10, 2016

Regional Planning

- **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Review:**
 - Initial workshops were completed with all GTHA municipalities, the input from which will inform the RTP Review.
 - Staff set up a RTP Review info booth at six public meetings in December hosted by the City of Hamilton and York Region.
 - The RTP Review website (www.metrolinx.com/theplan) was updated to reflect the recent project plan and current work that has been done since its launch in June 2015.
- **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 GTHA Urban Freight Forum on January 13th with municipal, provincial and federal stakeholders, along with industry representatives. Discussion focused on off-peak deliveries, the RTP Review and a Strategic Goods Movement Network for the GTHA.
- **Sustainability:**
 - A workshop was held with over 35 internal and external stakeholders to assess the vulnerability and risks of six key Metrolinx assets to extreme weather and climate change. Results will inform a Metrolinx Climate Adaptation Plan as committed in the Metrolinx Five-Year Strategy, covering facilities, practices and protocols for existing and future infrastructure.

Service Planning

- **GO Regional Express Rail (RER):**
 - Previously reported work continues:
 - Refinement of corridor infrastructure components using prototype schedules;
 - Detailed analysis on the impact of RER and other long-term growth on Union Station capacity; and
 - Scenarios to integrate Toronto's SmartTrack goals and input/support of the Fleet Strategy working group.
- **GO Transit Service Changes:**

- Route 67 Bus Service (Keswick – North York) realigned to service new 404/Davis Park & Ride lot.
- Additional bus trips were added in January on ten routes to respond to demand.
- **GO Transit special events and seasonal service:**
 - GO Rail seasonal services offered on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve for Early Homebound and New Year's Eve Late Night service. Ridership statistics for these services are still being calculated.
 - Shifted starting time of New Year's Eve Free Ride program from 20:00 to 19:00 to align with TTC and other municipal service providers.
- **Smart Commute:**
 - The ninth annual Smart Commute Awards were held in November 2015 to celebrate workplace achievements on a regional basis, including special recognition for efforts to support business continuity during the Toronto 2015 PanAm/ParaPan Am Games.
 - Carpool Week ran from February 1-7, with a special focus on Carpool to GO information and options.
 - A two-year initiative for Regional Planning for Active School Travel kicked off in January, working with each regional or single-tier municipality to develop individual action plans within a common framework.
 - In partnership with Crosstown Community Relations, School Travel Planning at individual schools affected by Eglinton Crosstown construction began in January.
- **GTHA Fare Integration:**
 - Three options for a regional fare structure were developed and reviewed with the Technical Advisory Committee of municipal transit representatives. Evaluation and consultation to follow.
 - Discussions are progressing with York Region Transit, Brampton Transit, TTC, and GO Transit, on changes to PRESTO required 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 are being evaluated by PRESTO as a basis for enhancements to the PRESTO system for the 2017 subway opening. Discussions will also address revenue allocation and any fiscal impacts.
- **Accessibility:**
 - 2015 Accessibility Advisory Committee meetings concluded. Topics at the last meeting included the committee's governance, and accessibility around construction sites.

Project Planning & Development

- **RER Existing and New Station Access:**
 - Phase One municipal engagement on the potential new RER stations analysis is now complete and public engagement is planned for winter 2016. An update of the 2013 GO Rail Parking and Station Access Plan is underway to address RER impacts to existing station access. Municipal engagement on the initial background review was completed in Fall 2015.
- **RER and SmartTrack:**
 - Analysis of GO RER-SmartTrack integration options continues to progress, along with the assessment of rapid transit options on Eglinton Avenue West, between Mt. Dennis and the Airport area.

- **Design Excellence:**

- The design for the Davenport Diamond grade separation was modified to improve its value as an asset for the community, and presented publicly on January 18 as part of the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP). New design features include elements that allow light under the Guideway, stainless steel facing to reflect surroundings, and a landscaped greenway connecting local parks.
- Integrated Art: The competitive RFP for Phase 1 of the artist commissioning process on Eglinton Crosstown LRT (ECLRT) resulted in submissions by 184 high caliber artists. Shortlisted artists will be invited to submit proposals under an RFP in February. Artists prequalified through this process may be used on other capital projects.
- The Metrolinx Design Review Panel reviewed two projects: 1) the Lakeshore East Rail Corridor: Rouge River Bridge Expansion; and 2) the Cooksville GO Station & Parking Structure.
- Regional Harmonization of Transit Wayfinding Phase II is currently being tendered. The Eglinton Line Sign Standards Manual was delivered to Crosslinx in January 2016. The recommended names for stations and stops along the Eglinton Line were submitted to the Metrolinx Board of Directors for final approval in January.

Research & Planning Analytics

- **Triplinx.ca:**

- Preparation of a regional marketing and communications program is underway to increase awareness of Triplinx and stimulate traffic to Triplinx across the GTHA.
- Participating agencies have agreed to proceed with adding real-time departure information and service alerts to Triplinx, as they have that information available. This enhancement will significantly increase the flexibility and usefulness of the Triplinx tool, and is expected to drive increased use of the system.

Outreach Presentations:

- **Regional and Provincial:** Region of Peel Learning Event