

To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Karla Avis-Birch, Chief Planning Officer
Date: December 2, 2021
Re: Planning & Development Quarterly Report

Metrolinx launched pilots of self-driving electric shuttles to serve Rouge Hill and Whitby GO stations from November 2021 through to March 2022, in partnership with municipal stakeholders. The shuttles selected for the projects are partially autonomous, and capable of managing most safety-critical driving functions although an on-board safety operator is ready to take control of the vehicle. They will operate as first/last mile connections to the GO stations and form part of Metrolinx's future-proofing for emerging mobility solutions. The pilots will explore customers' willingness to adopt a new mode of transportation to access GO stations, inform infrastructure requirements for future compatibility of bus loops and passenger pick up areas, and provide key safety learnings from what will be the first extensive application of automated shuttles in Ontario in a complex mixed-use environment.

Guildwood GO Station is the recipient of the 2021 Toronto Urban Design Award of Merit, Public Buildings in Context. This award is a recognition of Metrolinx's commitment to improving the transit experience, providing station access and connectivity, and delivering on our customer satisfaction promise for rail commuters in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The LEED Silver certified project is the first station in the rail network to feature green roofs. The design acknowledges the value-added contributions of urban placemaking, sustainable architecture, accessibility and a recognizable contemporary design language, while promoting mass public transit, increasing ridership and taking more cars off the road.

The Subway Station Architecture Design Standard is the 2021 recipient of the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) Impact Award. The design standard directly influences the look, feel, function and performance of all new Metrolinx subway projects, benefitting multiple and diverse communities in Toronto and surrounding areas. The standard codifies and prioritizes a human-centric approach considering the many touchpoints such as the fare payment experience, transferring, navigation, platform boarding and disembarking, as well as spatial adjacencies and even potential sensory aspects such as noise and sightlines, which may impact the quality of a customer's experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Avis-Birch
Chief Planning Officer