

To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Mathieu Goetzke
Chief Planning Officer
Date: June 27, 2019
Re: **Planning Quarterly Report - February 7 to June 27, 2019**

Recommendation

That this report be received for information.

Recent Highlights

Business Case Guidance

- In April, the updated Business Case Guidance document was published. It was produced in consultation with an external panel of experts and responds to recommendations in the Auditor General's 2018 report to further detail Metrolinx's business case process. The Guidance documents our commitment to a culture of standardized, evidence-informed planning for transport projects, and continues to position Metrolinx as a leader in the transportation field.

Design

- In late June, four (4) Design Standards were published on Metrolinx's website, to guide rail and rapid transit projects. The standards include the Universal Design Standard; Joint Development Design Standard; GO Station Architecture Design Standard; and Wayfinding Design Standard.
- In May, a report on the results of the first GO Transit Accessibility Survey was completed, providing a deeper understanding of the needs, preferences and travel behaviours of GO Transit customers who require accessible services. Findings will guide actionable recommendations to increase the quality of the customer experience, safety and ridership. Survey highlights include:
 - 75% indicated they experienced a mobility disability; of those who have a mobility issue 44% require a mobility aid or assistive device, 32% do not.
 - 27% are also users of local specialized public transit services (ie: Wheel-Trans).
 - Key areas identified for improvement include elevator availability and reliability, improvements to signage/wayfinding and improved automatic door buttons/operators.

- The Universal Design Standard seeks to bring continuity in the offering of important amenities such as improved power door operators and sliding doors; and the Regional Wayfinding Harmonization Standard addresses numerous concerns around the visibility, legibility and accessibility of wayfinding information.

Fare Integration

- As of April 20, Metrolinx launched reduced fares for short-distance trips of approximately 10 kilometres or less to \$3.70.
- Metrolinx convened a Fare Integration Forum composed of senior-level municipal and transit agency officials from across the region, to advance fare and service integration. The first meeting of this Forum took place in May and the second will take place in early July.

GO Bus Strategy

- In June, Metrolinx completed the evaluation of two alternative long-term (10-year) strategies aimed at improving operational efficiencies and enhancing regional bus service through increased ridership and optimized service. The preferred option will advance through the preliminary design business case process over the Summer and early Fall.

Rail Corridor Planning

- In May, Metrolinx launched a study of level crossings across the GO network that will provide a risk and safety assessment for each crossing and recommend different measures to mitigate risk and make rail crossings safer. The study is expected to be completed by November 2019.

Rapid Transit Planning

- In mid-February, Metrolinx initiated the Preliminary Design Business Case and the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) for the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Regional Planning

- As part of the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan, Metrolinx has continued work with municipal partners to advance assessment of the Frequent Transit Network (FRTN) (Priority Action 2.1) through five (5) monthly meetings with the Municipal Technical Advisory Committee and two (2) meetings with the Municipal Planning Leaders Forum (in late February and mid-June).
- In late February, the Regional Roundtable of Chief Executive Officers, Chief Administrative Officers and City Managers from municipalities and transit agencies across the region met to discuss advancing the FRTN, fare and service integration, and other transit-related priorities.

- In April, Metrolinx's Regional Reference Panel held the second of five meetings scheduled for 2019, where the panel provided insights on station connectivity as well as fare products and concessions.

Station Access

- In April, Metrolinx introduced the new Connectivity Assessment Tool (CAT) to measure the ease of access to each GO rail station for all modes of transportation. It provides a basis for improving connectivity within and around GO rail stations.
- As part of construction mitigation during the morning rush hour at Weston GO Station a comprehensive travel support plan was developed and on-site commute counselling provided to GO Transit customers who faced access impacts in late May and early June.
- In June, the Bike Infrastructure Standard was updated to provide for safe and secure bikeways on GO Rail Station property and covered and secure bike parking facility specifications.
- In June, a Walk-to GO Pilot campaign was launched. The pilot uses behavioral economic theory to drive new commute decisions for the 36% of GO Transit customers that live within walking distance (within one (1) kilometer) and drive and park at their GO Station.
- In June, the 2016 GO Rail Station Access Plan was updated to reflect increased ridership numbers predicted in the GO Expansion Full Business Case.
- The final workshop for the Autonomous Vehicle Regional Readiness program was held in June. The program, funded by Transport Canada's program to Advance Connectivity and Automation in the Transportation System (ACATS), involved a series of four workshops with municipalities and transit agencies across the region to identify pilot projects that help prepare for increased automation in the transport sector, including GO station access.

Stations Planning

- In mid-February, the Mobility Hub Guidelines Review and Update was launched. Stakeholder and public engagement began in June. This is a multi-year planning process that will update the original 2011 Guidelines and reflect current planning tools available to municipalities to implement Mobility Hubs. Mobility Hubs consist of major transit stations and surrounding areas. They are places of connectivity where different modes of transportation come together seamlessly and where there is an intensive concentration of working, living, shopping and/or playing.

Sustainability and Climate Resilience

- In February, third-party assurance of Metrolinx's 2017-2018 energy use and Greenhouse Gas emissions was started. Third-party assurance is done to ensure Metrolinx's 2017-8 Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions data is accounted in accordance with globally accepted frameworks. Emissions and Energy Assurance allows for the provision of certainty on the integrity and validity of the data to evaluate performance and set credible targets for their reduction.
- For the third consecutive year, Metrolinx was designated in April as one of Canada's Greenest Employers for 2019 as part of Mediacorp's Canada's Top 100 awards.
- In April, a performance evaluation of Metrolinx's 2015-2020 Sustainability Strategy was started. This evaluation will inform the development of Metrolinx's 2021-2026 Sustainability Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathieu Goetzke
Chief Planning Officer