

**To:** Metrolinx Board of Directors  
**From:** Mathieu Goetzke  
*Chief Planning Officer*  
**Date:** November 22, 2019  
**Re:** **Planning & Design Quarterly Report - September 12 to November 22, 2019**

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## **Recommendation**

That this report be received for information.

## **Executive Summary**

- The implementation phase of the harmonized wayfinding standards has begun.
- Metrolinx published its Business Case Guidance in April 2019.
- *Try Walking & Transit Pilots*: In October 2019, 'Try Walking and Transit' pilots launched at Mount Joy and Weston GO stations.
- The Modelling and Geomatics group is leading the rollout of Enterprise GIS to the organization with a focus on the Planning and Design division.
- The Kitchener and Niagara Falls Rail Service Expansion Initial Business Case (IBC) Update will be tabled at this meeting.

## **Recent Highlights**

### **Design**

- The implementation phase of the harmonized wayfinding standards has begun. A rollout strategy is being developed to prioritize the integration of the new standards within ongoing projects. Beyond the implementation of new signage standards on future projects, a strategy is in development towards the gradual implementation of physical signage, leveraging planned and ongoing capital project works, and state of good repair initiatives and strategic applications.
- An Integrated Design Review process that provides design assurance and compliance for all capital projects is being finalized with Customer Service Delivery and Engineering Asset Management stakeholders at Metrolinx. Compliance refers to capital project design submissions and deliverables in accordance with all relevant Metrolinx standards, regulatory codes, contract requirements and project requirements.

### **Sponsor Office**

- In November 2019, Metrolinx established its Project Evaluation Advisory Panel to obtain expert advice on how to advance project evaluation practices and to update our Business Case Guidance.

- Metrolinx published its [Business Case Guidance](#) in April 2019 to standardize the evidence available for advancing transit projects.
- In 2021, Metrolinx plans to update the Guidance with revised parameters and values as well as new best practice details relevant to transportation investment analysis in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH).
- The Project Evaluation Advisory Panel consists of professionals, academics and members of the public service in transportation, economics and public policy.

## Regional Planning

- The Regional Roundtable, made up of Chief Executive Officers, Chief Administrative Officers and City Managers from municipalities and transit agencies across the region, met on October 11, 2019 to:
  - discuss fare harmonization among GTHA transit agencies and how to advance fare integration.
  - share and receive updates on projects and initiatives with regional transportation implications
  - endorse methodology to involve municipalities in the Metrolinx Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program
  - receive an update on the provincial GGH Transportation Plan
  - receive recommendations on the PRESTO modernization program.
- On September 30, 2019 the Municipal Planning Leaders Forum met to discuss a number of items including status updates on the TOD program and the GGH Transportation Plan, as well as a wrap-up and next steps for the Frequent Rapid Transit Network.
- On September 28, 2019 Metrolinx's Regional Reference Panel held the seventh of eleven meetings scheduled for 2019, where the panel provided insights on the GO Bus Strategy, Ontario Line and the future of parking at GO Stations. The next meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2019.

## Station Planning & Mobility Integration

- *Try Walking & Transit Pilots:* In October 2019, 'Try Walking and Transit' pilots launched at Mount Joy and Weston GO stations. The pilot programs use PRESTO vouchers and travel information to incentivize drive-and-park customers to try new forms of transportation. The pilots will be running for 60 days, ending in early December. Future pilots launch in 2020, following program evaluation.
- *Autonomous Vehicle Shuttle Trial:* Metrolinx is partnering with the City of Toronto and TTC on a project to trial an autonomous shuttle, launching fall 2020, for 6-12 months. The project was announced by Toronto Mayor John Tory in September. The community in the target project service area (West Rouge, near Rouge Hill GO Station) was consulted through a door-to-door

canvas in September and an open house in early October. More information is available here: <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/streets-parking-transportation/automated-vehicles/automated-vehicles-pilot-projects/automated-shuttle-trial/>

- *Mobility Hub Guideline Review & Update*: Phase 2 of the review and update launched in September. Building on stakeholder input received in Phase 1, the focus is now on developing options and key directions for updating the Guidelines, which will inform transit station area design and development. A draft discussion paper was developed in October, and Phase 2 stakeholder consultation is scheduled for December/January, including meetings with MTO, municipal staff, the Municipal Planning Leaders Forum, Regional Reference Panel and Non-governmental organizations.

### **Modelling & Geomatics**

- The Modelling and Geomatics (M&G) group is leading the rollout of Enterprise GIS to the organization with a focus on the Planning and Design division. This web-based application will provide users in P&D with mapping and important spatial data such as future project alignments, land use, socio-economic and demographic data, and station area context that users can access instantly to support planning work. M&G will work with the groups in P&D to provide training in the usage of Enterprise GIS and can help develop specific web-apps for specialized data needs.

### **Rail Corridor Planning**

- The Kitchener Rail Service Expansion Initial Business Case (IBC) Update will be tabled at this meeting as part of agenda item #16. The IBC Update will assess the delivery of two-way all-day service to Kitchener through two infrastructure options.
- The Niagara Falls Rail Service Extension IBC Update will be tabled at this meeting as part of agenda item #16. This IBC Update will examine three investment options for the implementation of year-round GO Rail services between Toronto and Niagara Falls via Hamilton.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathieu Goetzke  
*Chief Planning Officer*