

To: Metrolinx Board of Directors

From: Leslie Woo
Chief Planning Officer

Date: December 7, 2017

Re: **Planning and Policy Q3 Board Report - September 14, 2017 to December 7, 2017**

Regional Planning

- **The Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan**
 - The Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan and was posted online at www.metrolinx.com/theplan and on Ontario's Environmental Registry for public consultation. Comments were invited until November 17th.
 - The Metrolinx Transportation Symposium was held on October 2, 2017. The full-day event was positively received, with representation from municipalities, transit agencies, Non-governmental Organizations, academia and the private sector.
 - Metrolinx hosted a series of public roundtable meetings in each of the six regions of the GTHA throughout the months of October and November.
 - Metrolinx staff delivered several presentations to councils across the region throughout late October and the month of November. Presentations were delivered to the City of Burlington, Town of Milton, Region of York, Town of Richmond Hill, Region of Peel, City of Vaughan, TTC Board, City of Hamilton, City of Mississauga, Town of Oakville and City of Brampton.
 - Metrolinx staff presented on the Draft Plan at the Barrie and Richmond Hill, Stouffville, Lakeshore East, Lakeshore West, Kitchener and Milton Corridor Committee Meetings throughout November.

Project Planning and Program Development

- **Rapid Transit**
 - Metrolinx and its project partners, the City of Toronto and TTC, have finalized a work plan for the Relief Line North project assessment including a timeline for completion of station location, alignment and transit technology analysis, and the associated consultation plan.
 - Work continues on the evaluation of alignment options for the Eglinton West Light Rail Transit Extension to Pearson Airport. The City of Toronto,

with Metrolinx and TTC, held two Public Information Centres on November 13 and 15 to engage members of the public on the project.

- Metrolinx, in partnership with the City of Mississauga, has launched a planning study on creating a transit hub in downtown Mississauga, ensuring seamless connection between the Hurontario LRT, the Mississauga Transitway, MiWay service, and GO Bus service. The planning study will result in an initial business case.

- **Regional Express Rail (RER)**

- Working with local municipalities, public consultation on the new GO and SmartTrack stations has begun, with Stakeholder Advisory Groups and public meetings in Toronto on October 10, 11 and 12.
- Building on the new stations analysis and Initial Business Cases (IBCs), work is underway to progress to new station Preliminary Design Business Cases. This includes a review of methodology and analyses, and new information. Early 2018 deliverables will include Preliminary Design Business Cases for all the stations that were the subject of Initial Business Cases.
- The Newmarket Mobility Hub study is reaching conclusion, following a second public meeting in September 2017, and ongoing collaboration with the Town of Newmarket and York Region. Recommendations include station improvements and public realm enhancements, including pedestrian and cyclist circulation, formal pick-up and drop-off facilities, and establishing a greater visual station presence.

- **Program Design Excellence**

- Metrolinx delivered a collaborative design process with the City of Toronto and Waterfront Toronto for the Union Station Rail Corridor East Enhancement (USRCEE) project. The outcome of this design process is a project that supports significant public realm investments.
- Metrolinx has worked closely with municipal stakeholders to develop design proposals for electrification bridge barriers and the Ordinance Switching Station project.
- The Integrated Art program continues to progress well. Preliminary concept design by four (4) artists have been submitted for review for Davenport/Diamond. Maple GO Station has also had a preliminary submission and review.
- The Design Excellence Protocol Update is being deferred to February 2018. Metrolinx is collaborating across divisions to address the comments and concerns regarding a lack of consistency in high quality architectural design, customer experience and safety. We are working with the directives

received from our Senior Management Team, the Customer Experience and Marketing team and the current changes underway at Metrolinx to prepare a DX charter that aligns with the benefits management program, and provides structure and accountability to the delivery of design excellence.

Service Planning

- **Rail Network Planning**

- Work continues on defining the recommended RER network configuration, including corridor infrastructure, stations, and detailed service planning. Work is progressing on developing a recommendation for the track and platform configuration at Union Station. This includes evaluation and decision making processes to meet 2025 RER objectives, and protect for longer term service volume growth planned for 2041.
- An Initial Business Case is being undertaken to evaluate service and mode scenarios which incorporate the infrastructure requirements and service levels on the Bowmanville extension and at Oshawa GO (existing station). The IBC study will be completed by the end of the year.

- **GO Planning**

- In September, various GO bus routes were realigned to the East Mississauga Transitway, providing new GO service to the Dixie Transitway Station and to a new temporary stop in the Airport Corporate Centre, adjacent to the new Renforth Transitway station. This service change was also supported by additional bus trips on GO bus routes serving Pearson International Airport, which now has 24 hour service, 7-days a week.

- **Accessibility**

- In November and early-December, Metrolinx held a series of Accessibility Public Meetings across the GTHA to learn from members of the public and key stakeholders about how we can make our services easier to use for all customers.

- **Mobility Management**

- Additional enhancements have been made to Triplinx including Interactive Help and Accessibility improvements. Planning is underway to provide fare information in January and Service Alerts in Spring 2018.
- The Smart Commute awards were held on November 23, 2017. The awards celebrate workplaces across the GTHA that have demonstrated exemplary

employee behavior change, as well as recognizing the schools with the highest cycling mode share in each region for Bike to School Week 2017.

- The Bike to School Week 2017 Final Report was posted to the Smart Commute website (www.smartcommute.ca/getting-to-school) in October. The number of schools registered grew by 40% compared to 2016, with over 25,000 students and 421 schools from all six regions participating.

Outreach Presentations

- **Local:**

- EDIT: Expo for Design, Innovation & Technology, The Future of Mobility: Are We Ready?
- Metrolinx Transportation Symposium, Transforming the Region: The Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan
- AARPI (Anglo-American Real Property Institute) 2017 Meeting, Transforming the Region: The Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan
- Medical Officers of Health & Metrolinx, Transforming the Region: The Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan
- University of Toronto Students Union, Transforming the Region: The Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan
- After Suburbia Conference, The Challenge of a Better Tomorrow
- Intelligent Cities Summit, Transportation & Mobility in Intelligent Cities Panel
- Metrolinx Stakeholder Forum, Transforming the Region: The Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan
- Airports Canada 2017, Managing Growth in Canada's Global Cities Panel
- Toronto Region Board of Trade Infrastructure Committee, Transforming the Region: The Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan
- Future Ready Hamilton
- Urban Land Institute, Connecting People: A Draft Transportation Plan for the Region in 2041
- Toronto Region Board of Trade, Accelerating the Movement of People & Goods (Annual Transportation Summit)
- C.D. Howe Institute, Connecting People: A Draft Transportation Plan for the Region in 2041
- Urban Land Institute, Wheels Under the Plan

- **National and International:**

- Gwinnett Chamber Strategic Leadership Visit, Metrolinx: Transforming the Way We Move (Georgia, USA)

Awards

- **Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) Excellence in Planning Award:** Metrolinx and WSP Canada have been recognized for the New Mobility Background Paper for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area developed under the direction of Metrolinx's Systems Planning team. The paper engages in a discussion on New Mobility and its impact on the GTHA, and provides guidance to governments in the region on how to think about their place within the mobility landscape and prepare for disruption.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Woo
Chief Planning Officer