

**To:** Metrolinx Board of Directors  
**From:** Leslie Woo  
*Chief Planning Officer*  
**Date:** June 28, 2017  
**Re:** Planning and Policy Q1 Board Report - February 17, 2017 to June 28, 2017

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## **Regional Planning**

- **The Next Regional Transportation Plan**
  - Work is underway to develop the strategic directions and actions, modelling and key performance indicators, regional network analyses, and planning analyses in consultation with municipal officials. The Residents' Reference Panel had its final meeting in May 2017 and is currently finalizing their recommendations, which will be an input to the draft RTP.

## **Project Planning and Program Development**

- **Rapid Transit**
  - Work on the Relief Line North Project Assessment (between Sheppard Avenue and Danforth Avenue), which consists of further planning for business case analysis, project definition, and environmental approval for north of Line 2 (Bloor- Danforth) is underway, with consultant services being secured. Metrolinx will work with the City of Toronto and the TTC to advance integration with the planning and design of the Relief Line South (between Danforth Ave and downtown Toronto).
  - A Transportation Planning Study and Updated Business Case are underway to advance project development on the Durham-Scarborough Hwy 2 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), in partnership with Durham Region, Durham Region Transit, the City of Toronto and the TTC. This BRT project will provide service between Downtown Oshawa and Scarborough Centre.
- **Regional Express Rail (RER)**
  - Working closely with municipalities, refinements to the conceptual plans for new GO stations, including those associated with the SmartTrack concept, are progressing through to detailed design.

- Several functional plans for existing GO stations are currently underway to support implementation of the GO Rail Station Access Plan and to identify capital requirements, including: Exhibition, Eglinton, Markham, Mount Joy, Appleby, Burlington, Aurora, Pickering, Ajax and Whitby GO stations.

- **Program Design Excellence**

- Design guidelines for electrification infrastructure focused on protective barriers on road over rail bridges, Traction Power Facility (TPF) Enclosures, and the integration of Overhead Catenary Systems (OCS) within Station precincts is underway for RER Package 3 procurement. This preparatory work is proceeding in tandem with a feasibility study on the use of hydrogen fuel cell technology to power electric trains.
- The Harmonized Wayfinding program is nearing completion of the detailed design for the pilot projects at Finch Station, Pickering GO Station and Hamilton GO Centre. The pilots are expected to launch between late August and early September.
- The Integrated Art program now includes 14 capital construction projects representing 24 artwork sites throughout the region.
- The Metrolinx Design Review Panel (MDRP) reviewed two projects: the Rutherford GO Station and Platform Enclosure, and the Maple GO Station Improvements. The projects were conditionally supported with some outstanding issues still to be addressed.

## **Service Planning**

- **Smart Commute/Mobility Management**

- New Smart Commute service delivery contracts with municipal partners were signed in March 2017, enabling the launch of the revised Smart Commute Workplace Program, which now supports customer access to and from GO Transit stations or funded LRT projects.
- Metrolinx participated in the GTHA Bike Month (May 29 - June 30) and all six regional municipalities participated in Bike to Work Day and Bike to School Week. A total of 439 schools across the GTHA participated in the 3rd annual Bike to School week (May 29 - June 2, 2017), up from 301 participating schools in 2016.

## **Research & Planning Analytics**

- Initial testing of the new travel demand model, Greater Golden Horseshoe Model Version 4 is complete. The model, which has been developed under the direction of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), has new features that

enable a broad range of analysis including all-day activity based forecasting and congestion, capacity, and reliability for transit. The model is currently being used to support the next RTP.

## Outreach Presentations

- **Local:**
  - Hamilton Burlington Bay Area Transportation Forum: Smart Commute 2.0
  - Brampton Board of Trade: Imagine 2041 - Transforming the way our Region Moves
  - Counterpoint Engineering Town Hall: Transforming the Region
  - Canadian Urban Institute + Placemaker: The Resilient City
  - Ontario-Wide Transportation Demand Management Meeting
  - Ontario Transportation Expo Conference and Trade Show: Future of Metrolinx: Imagine 2041
  - Ontario Climate Consortium: An Integrated Approach to become Climate Resilient
  - Ontario Bike Summit: The Next Regional Transportation Plan
  - Entuitive CityVision: Metrolinx Connecting the Region
  - Downtown Jewish Community School Grade 1 Class, Community Planning
  
- **National and International:**
  - McGill University: Thinking like a Region - Transforming Mobility
  - National Research Council & CUTA: Climate Resiliency at Metrolinx: Update
  - Jerusalem Delegation (Jerusalem Transportation Master Plan Team): Metrolinx: Transforming the Way We Move
  - Gwinnet County (Georgia, USA) Department of Transportation: Metrolinx: Transforming the Way We Move
  - Harvard Kennedy School - Women's Leadership Board: Metrolinx Connecting the Region

## Awards

- **Canada's Greenest Employers (2017)** - Metrolinx has been recognized as one of Canada's Greenest Employers for 2017, a first for the organization. Some of the reasons for being selected this year include the sustainability goals contained within the regional transportation plan (The Big Move), the promotion of car-pooling and bicycling as part of the Smart Commute program, the use of telecommuting workstations in Metrolinx's offices to reduce commuting, and the locating of Metrolinx's head office at Union Station allowing employees numerous options for commuting into the office via local and regional transit options.

- **2017 Progressive Railroading Magazine Rising Stars** - Joshua Engel-Yan, Director of Research and Planning Analytics, has been recognized as a 'Rising Star' defined as someone under 40 years of age who has made, or is making, a positive impact on his or her company, organization, department or team, and is viewed by others – peers, colleagues, supervisors, clients or associates – as an up-and-coming leader in the rail industry.
- **Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO) Award of Merit** - Metrolinx and Arup received this award for developing the Strategic Accessibility Toolkit. The tool helps estimate the distribution of impacts from a proposed transit project on population's access to destinations, such as employment.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Woo  
Chief Planning Officer