

To: Metrolinx Board of Directors
From: Karla Avis-Birch, Chief Planning Officer
Date: November 30, 2023
Re: Planning & Development (P&D) Quarterly Report

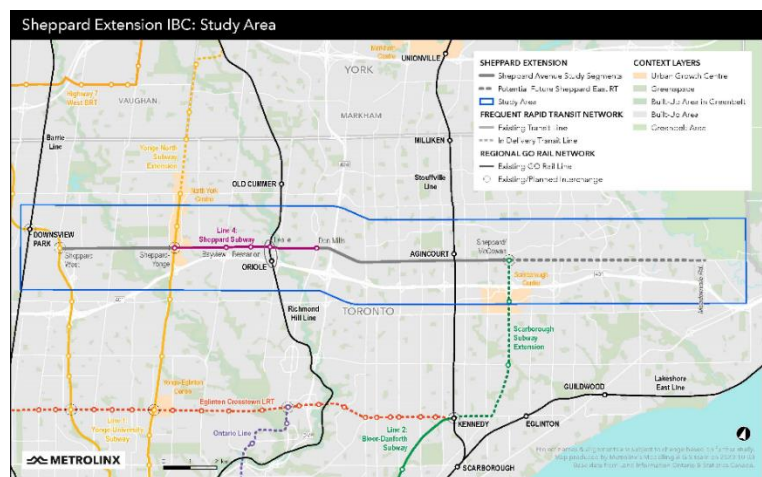
This report provides an update on recent activities and key milestones over the past quarter:

Sheppard Extension Initial Business Case Kicks Off

Metrolinx has officially begun public engagement on the Sheppard Extension with the first Public Information Centre (PIC) held on November 7. The Sheppard Extension is being explored through an Initial Business Case (IBC) examining a rapid transit connection along the Sheppard Corridor, with potential connections to multiple existing and planned rapid transit lines. The IBC will examine extending Line 4 east and west as well as other routes, alignments, station locations, and technologies.

The first PIC for this project was held at the Chinese Cultural Centre at Markham Road and Sheppard Avenue. The PIC had a good turnout with an estimated attendance of 90-110 people who provided valuable feedback that will help to shape the Problem and Opportunity statement around the Sheppard Extension. This feedback will help to guide the development of concepts that will be presented in the final IBC.

Metrolinx will be holding two more PICs in this round of consultation, currently planned for November 15 and 16. These PICs are seeking public input on how a rapid transit project for Sheppard could support and improve the community in and around the Study Area. The next round of public consultation is scheduled for the Spring, where preliminary options will be presented to be analyzed in the IBC for public feedback. The IBC is scheduled to be complete in Fall 2024.

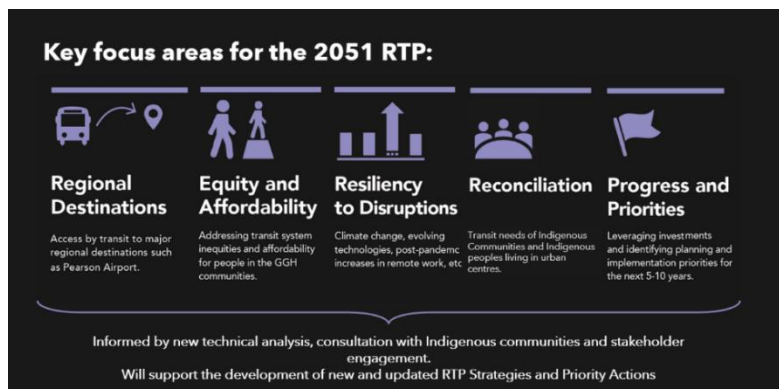


Regional Transportation Plan Update Underway

Work to update the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is well underway. Working in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Indigenous communities, and external stakeholders, updates to the RTP will set out a long-term plan to 2051 for the region's integrated transit network. The updates will bring the RTP into conformity with *Connecting the GGH: A Transportation Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*, the multimodal plan for the region released by the province in 2022. The updated RTP will also reflect our new transit-focused mandate and expanded service area, as well as changes in the region's planning context since 2018. This will include updated government direction on housing and growth, and changes in travel behaviour that were brought about by the pandemic. We are targeting the submission of a draft RTP to the Ministry of Transportation at the end of the first quarter in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Our expanded service area extends across numerous traditional territories and treaty areas and includes nine First Nation reserves. This month, in coordination with our Indigenous Relations Office (IRO), we kicked off engagement with First Nations through introduction letters to Indigenous communities. We also met with three First Nations at IRO's monthly meetings to better understand their unique transit service needs and perspectives. Our new mandate area also includes fifteen upper and single tier municipalities covering urban centres like Niagara, Brantford, Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Barrie, and Peterborough. Metrolinx has met directly with municipalities through one-on-one meetings and our established municipal collaboration forums, such as the Regional Roundtable, Municipal Planning Leaders Forum, and the Municipal Technical Advisory Committee.

The extension of the RTP to 2051 provides an opportunity to identify key priorities over the next 5-10 years, with a focus on connecting communities to the key regional destinations where people live, work, access services, study, and play. The technical work and engagement underway will help to ensure that the RTP update results in an integrated, effective, and sustainable regional transit network for all.



Metrolinx Recognized with Value Management Award

On October 3, representatives from the Planning and Development department were invited to a virtual event symposium held by Value Analysis Canada to receive a recognition award for our Value Management Program.

Value Analysis Canada is a national non-profit society that promotes the application of value methodologies in Canada. This recognition helps to bring attention to the significant progress being made through the Capital Projects Group and Principal Sponsor Office at Metrolinx in establishing a program to improve value-for-money and project controls and outcomes.

The Value Management program is still early in its roll out. To date, the Value Management process has been applied to five capital projects, with up to \$27M in potential cost savings identified to date. As cost savings are validated and subsequently applied to projects, more will be shared on the achievements of Value Management as the program is rolled out.



Respectfully submitted,

Karla Avis-Birch
Chief Planning Officer