

DATE: May 9, 2023

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Vince Musacchio, DCM, Infrastructure Development

RE: **COMMUNICATION – Committee of the Whole 2, May 9, 2023
Item 6, Report 8 – Metrolinx Initiatives Update – Spring 2023
Business case for proposed Highway 7 Concord GO station released**

Recommendation

The purpose of this Staff Communication is to provide Mayor and Council information regarding the released Initial Business Case (IBC) for the proposed Highway 7 Concord GO station.

Background

On May 4, 2023, Metrolinx issued a communication advising of the release of the Initial Business Case for the proposed Highway 7 Concord GO station, which studies the feasibility of a new GO station to be added to the Barrie GO Line.

An IBC for the proposed station was completed previously in 2016 and updated in 2018 for the station site assumed to be south of Highway 7. The results demonstrated a positive strategic case, but a negative financial and economic case. In 2021, an updated sensitivity test was conducted by Metrolinx for Concord, incorporating enhanced GO Bus service and updated ridership forecasting and modelling, which identified potential positive benefits.

The [newly released IBC](#) is a result of the updated land use plans, new plans for the GO Regional Express Network, updated modelling tools and rail network assumptions, as well as in response to enhanced Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) opportunities.

The release of the IBC is the first step in the planning process for a new GO station.

The delivery of the station is being explored through the Ontario government's Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) program. Metrolinx is seeking opportunities for a third party to fund the design and construction of the GO station at a lower cost to the taxpayer, while supporting vibrant, mixed-use communities that are close to transit.

If built, this GO station would support connections between GO rail and local and regional bus services, providing customers with improved access to jobs, housing, destinations and attractions across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The Highway 7/Concord GO Station is a future planned multi-modal transit hub within Vaughan's Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan.

Staff will continue to work the Metrolinx Project Team, area landowners, public and other stakeholders, as the planning process for the new Concord GO station proceeds to the next steps. Staff will provide updates to Council at key milestones in the process.

For more information, contact Selma Hubjer, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, ext. 8674.

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Musacchio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "V" and a long, sweeping underline.

Vince Musacchio,
DCM, Infrastructure Development