

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 **WARD(S):** 4 5

TITLE: YONGE NORTH SUBWAY EXTENSION (YNSE) – SPRING 2023
UPDATE

FROM:

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) project, following Metrolinx's May 18, 2023 presentation to York Region Council.

Report Highlights

- An update on recent YNSE project milestones achieved, including an overview of Finch Station Early Works, Advance Tunnel Request for Qualifications (RFQ), Advance Utility Relocations and Transit Corridor Lands (TCL) designation.
- Property Requirements as it relates to acquisition and negotiation.
- A summary of progress made to date and next steps.
- Overview of community engagement and communications.

Recommendation

1. THAT the presentation from Metrolinx staff on the status of the Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) project be received.

Background

The proposed Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) is a cross-jurisdictional transit priority project that will support growth in York Region and City of Toronto.

Metrolinx provided a project update presentation to York Region Council on May 18, 2023. This presentation provided an update on recent project milestones, including the recently released Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Advance Tunnel contract and designation of Transit Corridor Lands (TCLs). Upcoming project milestones include the contract release for the Advance Tunnel Request for Proposal (RFP), ongoing advance utility relocation and the opening of a Community Office.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Item 7, Report No. 6, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on February 15, 2022](#)

Analysis and Options

Early Works at Finch Station Have Begun

Early works are comprised of activities that set the foundation for major construction to commence. The Finch Station early works include:

- Installation of new traction power infrastructure required to energize trains on the subway extension;
- Upgrading equipment/electrical rooms; and
- Modifying the “tail track” area beyond the station platforms.

Advance Tunnel (AT) Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Released

The RFQ for the Advance Tunnel contract was released on April 27, 2023. Once a shortlist of applicants has been selected by both Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario (IO), they will be invited to bid on the contract through a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Utility Relocations are underway

Seven (7) active utility relocations are underway in the City of Toronto and York Region; these relocations will prepare Yonge Street for future construction. In an effort to minimize disruption, Metrolinx continues to work with utility companies to inform the surrounding communities.

Transit Corridor Lands Designation

Through the Building Transit Faster Act, 2020, a series of enabling authorities have the ability to designate lands as Transit Corridor Lands (TCLs), if required for a priority transit project. Prior to development activities occurring within any TCLs and permit buffers, property owners will be required to obtain a Corridor Development Permit (CDP) from Metrolinx, in order to ensure that there is no conflict between the proposed works and the YNSE project. Transit Corridor Lands and permit buffers are designated for each of the priority transit projects, and CDPs are required within 10 metres of the

Transit Corridor Lands for utility infrastructure works and within 30 metres for the construction or alteration of buildings, structures and roads. In April 2023, Metrolinx sent notification letters to approximately 1100 property owners identified within TCLs; these letters included an explanation of the designation, overview of the Act and outlined what this means for landowners going forward.

Property Acquisition and Negotiation

Property acquisition is required to facilitate the construction of the YNSE. Metrolinx will be negotiating land acquisition, whether temporary or permanent, in order to support the YNSE project.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Metrolinx is committed to continued engagement with stakeholders and community partners. In an effort to minimize disruptions to residents, businesses and the community, Metrolinx continues to work with project companies to reduce impacts to property, community institutions, etc., holding project companies accountable for disruptions in project agreements, and working with local municipalities and transit agencies to minimize traffic and transit disruptions. Later this year, a Community Office will be opened on High Tech Road, between Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue.

Financial Impact

There are no immediate financial impacts associated with this report.

Operational Impact

None.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

On May 18, 2023, Metrolinx staff provided a status update on the Yonge North Subway Extension project to Regional Council.

[Yonge North Subway Extension Update, presentation to York Region Council, May 18, 2023](#)

Conclusion

Metrolinx is investing a significant amount of transit infrastructure within the City of Vaughan. It is important that the City's interests are effectively presented to Metrolinx so that they can be incorporated into the ongoing planning and delivery processes.

Through the Yonge North Subway Extension project, five new stations will be delivered across the 8-kilometre route, resulting in up to 22 minutes reduced travel time from York Region to downtown Toronto and approximately 7,700 fewer kilometers traveled by cars during the morning rush hour. It will also provide an estimated 26,000 people with a 10-minute walk to transit, saving more than 4,800 tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

Staff are committed to continue working with Metrolinx, York Region, and transit agencies to protect and advocate for sustainable and safe transportation in the City. Staff will keep Council apprised of updates as they become available, and as part of the semi-annual Metrolinx Activities Update reports.

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

Attachments

None.

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