

# Committee of the Whole (1) Report

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**DATE:** Tuesday, April 5, 2022

**WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE:** METROLINX INITIATIVES UPDATE – SPRING 2022

**FROM:**

Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

**ACTION:** FOR INFORMATION

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**Purpose**

To provide a status update of recent Metrolinx activities in Vaughan related to Metrolinx's GO Expansion initiatives, including the Yonge North Subway Extension Project.

**Report Highlights**

- Majority of the infrastructure construction at Rutherford GO Grade Separation has been completed. Construction of Maple GO station improvements are scheduled to begin in early 2022.
- The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan are underway to establish the policy framework to support the development of a complete community around a potential GO Station.
- Participating Landowners within Block 27 have initiated the Block Plan Application process.
- The Environmental Project Report Addendum for the YNSE was finalized and made available for public review and general comment until March 14, 2022.
- Metrolinx will be advancing the business case for the future Caledon-Vaughan GO line.

**Recommendation**

1. That Council receive this report for information.

## **Background**

### **Majority of the infrastructure construction at Rutherford GO Grade Separation has been completed**

Major infrastructure being constructed as part of the grade separation project includes the following:

- Widened Rutherford Road from 2 lanes to 3, in each direction
- Rutherford Road underpass with retaining walls
- New multi-use paths both sides of Rutherford Road
- Rail bridge over Rutherford Road with two new tracks added
- New pedestrian bridge over Rutherford Road
- New east rail passenger platform
- New large multi-level parking structure
- New passenger station building
- New pedestrian bridge and tunnel crossing rail tracks to access platforms
- New stormwater pumping station

Most of the main project infrastructure construction has been completed. Minor works surrounding many of the constructed facilities continue, as a result, the Rutherford Road underpass is still operating with two lanes in each direction.

Since the last update on this project in November 2021, the north multi-use path has been opened for pedestrian use. New station building has also been opened since December 2021 and the old station building was demolished. The grade separation is in its final alignment, with the east platform and parking garage expected to be in service by end of March 2022.

### **Construction of Maple GO station improvements are scheduled to begin in early 2022**

Metrolinx is finalizing their procurement process for the Maple GO station improvements. The improvements include key City-owned infrastructure, which Metrolinx will be building on the City's behalf, namely:

- Extension of Eagle Rock Way with enhanced landscaping and new public transit bus stops
- A new active transportation bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive
- Relocations and replacement of underground infrastructure

The roles and responsibilities for the construction, maintenance and operations of this new City-owned infrastructure are defined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which has been finalized between the City and Metrolinx. The MOU also includes a cost-sharing agreement for the City-owned infrastructure.

**The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan are currently underway to establish the policy framework, to build a complete community around a potential future GO Station in area of Highway 7 and Bowes Road**

In October 2020, Vaughan Council supported a proposed Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) for lands generally located on the north side of Highway 7, from Keele Street to the Barrie GO Rail Line. In March 2021, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing approved the MZO, which generally permits high-rise mixed land uses, with heights ranging from 16 to 40 storeys, in and around the study area. Both the Mobility Hub Study (MHS) and the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) have been rescoped to address development permissions approved through the MZO.

A virtual public information center with live presentation followed by a Q&A session was held on March 29, 2022. The presentation and meeting recording are posted on the website with the commenting period open until April 15, 2022. Feedback collected from interested stakeholders and the public on the draft preferred land use scenario, the City's preferred location for a potential GO Station, the draft preferred transportation network which includes options for mobility, and the high-level policy direction will contribute to update the Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan.

**Participating Landowners within Block 27, where the proposed future Kirby GO Station is located, have initiated the Block Plan Application process**

Participating Landowners within Block 27, collectively known as the Block 27 Landowners Group, Inc., have submitted a revised Block Plan/Master Environment and Servicing Plan (MESP) Terms of Reference for the New Community Area - Block 27 Secondary Plan Area. The revised Terms of Reference has been prepared in advance of the submission of an anticipated Block Plan application. Alongside the Block Plan application process, the City of Vaughan and Participating Landowners as co-proponents, have issued the Notice of Commencement for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Collector Street Network within Block 27 in late 2021. The EA for the Collector Street Network is currently underway, completing Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process. The EA will inform

the Block Plan and build on Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the MCEA process as completed through the North Vaughan New Communities Transportation Master Plan (NVNCTMP).

### **Metrolinx is advancing work on the Yonge North Subway Extension project based on the new reference alignment**

Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) Project is a cross-jurisdictional transit priority project included in the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that will support growth in York Region and City of Toronto.

On December 8, 2021 as a result of ongoing municipal and public feedback, Metrolinx announced a further refinement to the proposed YNSE alignment.

*“In response to that feedback, and through our well-established process for improving designs as we advance our transit projects, Metrolinx has refined plans for the subway extension that will result in deeper tunnels and a route that travels under far fewer residential properties in the Royal Orchard community than the previous route. The changes mean the subway tunnels will follow a route that travels mostly under Bay Thorn Drive wherever possible once they turn east from Yonge Street to connect with the rail corridor. The previous route went under 40 homes and an additional 23 properties, whereas the new route goes under 20 homes and 15 additional properties...”*

[Metrolinx CEO statement on refined route for Yonge North Subway Extension – Metrolinx News](#)

### **Metrolinx has commenced an update to Transit Project Assessment Process (EA) Report for the Yonge North Subway Extension**

An update to the 2009 Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP), the Environmental Assessment process for transit projects, will be required to reflect the revised alignment along with other project modifications. Metrolinx has initiated the TPAP addendum process.

On January 22, 2022, Infrastructure Ontario advised the Regional Chair and local mayors that the Province would be expanding the project scope by creating an additional station at Royal Orchard subject to a number of development planning-related assurances. This will bring the total number of stations along the YNSE to five. Metrolinx is still waiting for official confirmation, but the planning continues to move forward with this additional station.

On February 10, 2022, Metrolinx announced the release of the Environmental Project Report (EPR) addendum for the Yonge North Subway Extension.

*“The report builds off previous environmental studies for the extension, bringing them up to date with the latest project plans, including the updated route, stations and train storage facility. It looks at the entire footprint of the project and considers how it might affect its surroundings, and how to protect and preserve the quality of life in neighbouring communities during and after construction...”*

The Environmental Project Report Addendum was available for public review and general comment until March 14, 2022. [Yonge North Subway Extension - Environmental Project Report Overview | Metrolinx Engage](#)

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

February 8, 2022, Committee of the Whole (2) (Item 7), [YONGE NORTH SUBWAY EXTENSION – ROUTE REFINEMENT UPDATE](#)

November 9, 2021, Committee of the Whole (2) (Item 7), [Metrolinx Initiatives Update Fall 2021](#)

April 7, 2021, Committee of the Whole (1) (Item 12, Report No. 14), [Metrolinx Initiatives Update Spring 2021](#)

November 3, 2020, Committee of the Whole (1) (Item 4, Report No. 51), [Metrolinx Initiatives Update Fall 2020](#)

May 20, 2020, Committee of the Whole (2) (Item 14, Report No. 20)– [Metrolinx Activities Update – Spring 2020](#)

November 5, 2019, Committee of the Whole (1) (Item 7, Report No. 34) – [Metrolinx Activities Update – Fall 2019](#)

May 7, 2019, Committee of the Whole (Item 12, Report No. 17) – [Metrolinx Activities Update](#)

April 11, 2018, Committee of the Whole (Item 9, Report No. 14) – [Metrolinx Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Express Rail Initiatives Update](#)

November 13, 2017, Committee of the Whole (Working Session) (Item 2, Report No. 41) - [Metrolinx Draft 2041 Regional Transportation Plan City-Wide](#)

## **Analysis and Options**

### **The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan are rescoped to respond to Minister's Zoning Order**

Staff have rescoped both the Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan to respond to Minister's Zoning Order and account for the additional development now approved for the area. However, the goal and objectives remain the same – to establish a complete community around a potential future GO Station and improve the inputs to the Metrolinx Business Case. A virtual public information center with a live presentation followed by a Q&A session was held on March 29, 2022. The presentation and meeting recording are posted on the website with the commenting period open until April 15, 2022.

### **Clark Station, as fourth stop on Yonge North Subway Extension, will serve growing neighbourhoods along the Yonge Street corridor and help reduce traffic congestion**

The latest analysis from Metrolinx shows that Clark station will put 8,100 people and 1,900 jobs within a 10-minute walk of the subway by 2041, which will feature transit hubs that will provide seamless connections to local and regional travel options.

Clark station will also help reduce traffic congestion by getting more people out of their vehicles and onto transit. Based on Metrolinx's analysis, it is expected that 2,500 riders will use the subway at Clark station during the morning rush hour peak, with more than half of riders connecting to subway from a bus. One of the most important bus connections will be the future Viva Orange service providing convenient access to the Bathurst-Centre corridor and Promenade Centre area. Newly installed Clark Avenue cycle tracks will make it convenient to get to Clark station by bicycle as the new station will be located at Yonge Street. The 4.5 kilometers of cycle track extend from the Bartley Smith Greenway and Vaughan Super Trail entrance at Jason Street to Yonge Street.

### **Commitment to advance the business case for the proposed Caledon-Vaughan GO line (formerly the Bolton GO line) was included in the Transportation Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**

On March 10, 2022, the Ministry of Transportation released *Connecting the GGH: A Transportation Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The Plan commits to monitoring

transit demand along the Caledon-Vaughan GO line and advancing the business case for passenger service along this corridor. Staff from Vaughan, Caledon, York and Peel Region have been collaborating and sharing information in support of the expansion of GO service along this corridor. Staff will continue to update Council as progress on the business case is made by Metrolinx.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no immediate financial impacts associated with this report.

### **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

The EA for the Collector Street Network in Block 27 will inform the Block Plan application and support the establishment of the proposed future Kirby GO Station in the City's designated New Community Areas.

The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan will establish a complete community around a potential future GO Station and improve the inputs to the Metrolinx Business Case.

The additional Clark station along the YNSE and potential station at Royal Orchard will also support growing neighbourhoods along Yonge Street corridor.

Metrolinx projects in Vaughan create higher-order transit and provides convenient and sustainable region-wide transportation options, and thus should remain priorities for the City. Staff will continue to work with local and regional partners including York Region, York Region Transit and Metrolinx to ensure the successful implementation of these region-scale projects.

### **Conclusion**

Metrolinx is investing a significant amount of transit infrastructure within the City. 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.

Staff will continue to work with Metrolinx, York Region, MTO and transit agencies to protect and advocate for sustainable and safe transportation in the City.

**For more information**, please contact Selma Hubjer, Acting Director of Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, 8674.

**Attachments**

N/A

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