

## Committee of the Whole (2) Report

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**DATE:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025

**WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE:** METROLINX INITIATIVES UPDATE – Q1 2025

**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 including Metrolinx's GO Expansion initiatives and the Yonge North Subway Extension Project.

**Report Highlights**

- Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) moves closer to the award of the Advance Tunnel (AT) Contract, which is anticipated later this year. It will include City watermain replacement works at Clark Station, as identified under a future Municipal Infrastructure Agreement. Staff continue to collaborate with Metrolinx to include key Station Design elements as approved by Council into the project scope.
- Maple GO station improvements are anticipated to be completed by Q4 2025.
- Due to a lack of project funding, Metrolinx is suspending further work on the Queen Street and Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transit planning process.
- Staff continue to protect for potential GO Station sites on the proposed Caledon-Vaughan GO line.
- The Block 27 Block Plan and Collector Roads Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in Q4 2024.

**Recommendations**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

## **Background**

### **Significant progress continues to be made on Metrolinx initiatives within Vaughan.**

Metrolinx is currently engaged in numerous planning, design, and construction projects in the City. This report will provide updates on the Metrolinx projects noted below:

- Yonge North Subway Extension (Planning/Design/Construction)
- Maple GO Station Improvements (Construction)

In addition, there are several ongoing City studies and/or submitted development applications closely linked with Metrolinx projects, including proposed new stations on the proposed Caledon-Vaughan GO line, and the Block 27 Block Plan and Collector Road Environmental Assessment to support Block 27 Kirby GO Station.

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

[Item 8, Report No. 39, of the Committee of the Whole \(2\), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on November 19, 2024](#)

[Item 3, Report No. 30, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 24, 2024](#)

[Item 4, Report No. 22 of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 25, 2024](#)

[Item 9, Report No. 5, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on February 21, 2024](#)

[Item 8, Report No. 23, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 16, 2023](#)

[Item 3, Report No. 46, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 13, 2022](#)

[Item 6, Report No.16, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 26, 2022](#)

[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**

### **Metrolinx is advancing work on the Yonge North Subway Extension in collaboration with staff.**

The Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) project extends approximately 8 kilometers (6 km underground and 2 km at-grade) north from Finch Station to the Richmond Hill/Langstaff Gateway Urban Growth Centre at Highway 7, with 5 confirmed stations at Steeles Avenue, Clark Avenue, Royal Orchard Boulevard, Bridge (between Highway 7 & Highway 407) and High Tech Road.

As noted in previous reports to Council, the YNSE project has been split into three (3) separate contracts, each with different timelines and procurement strategies. Contract 1 for early works at Finch Station was completed in December 2023. Activities for the remaining two contracts, and potential implications for Vaughan infrastructure, are:

#### **Contract 2 – Advance Tunnels (AT) – [RFP released December 2023](#)**

Construction activities and potential impacts on Yonge Street or at the Langstaff tunnel launch shaft expected to commence late 2025 or early 2026.

Staff have been advocating for the inclusion of two infrastructure upgrades as part of this contract:

- City watermain replacement and upgrade has been approved for inclusion at the Clark Station location to reduce the approval risk of new development due to the availability of water capacity.
- Iron watermain replacement outside of the YNSE project between Arnold Avenue to Centre Street is being pursued, due to recent failures of this section of watermain and the potential high-risk disruption to residents and businesses. There is a limited window of opportunity prior to the pending start of the AT Contract and Metrolinx is working collaboratively with the City to allow for this critical City work. Currently, the City's request to include this work within the YNSE project has not been granted.

#### **Contract 3 – Stations, Rails and Systems (SRS)**

Metrolinx continues to finalize the elements for each station such as location and number of entrances, bus terminal location and size, streetscaping, etc., based on the engagement with various stakeholders. Staff continue to engage with Metrolinx on the proposed station design to determine these elements, and continue to advocate for the

inclusion of station design elements which are consistent with Council's previous direction.

### Utilities

Utility relocations, field investigations, construction notifications, property requirements are continuing in advance of the tunneling with anticipated completion date of December 2025 within the Transit Corridor Lands. The City's utility relocations/replacement, including the City's iron watermain replacement project beyond the section noted for AT Contract 2, are an active topic of discussion for the SRS contract.

### Agreements and updates to Council

Metrolinx submitted a first draft Municipal Infrastructure Agreement (MIA) to the City for review and comment in late 2024 to cover the additional watermain replacement cost outside of the original scope of works at Clark Station in keeping with the City's recently approved Integrated Urban Water Plan Update. The City's first draft comments have been sent back to Metrolinx. Delegated authority to enter into the MIA agreement was previously approved by Council with Metrolinx's Resource Agreement.

Staff continue to negotiate a Main Agreement with Metrolinx which will define the roles and responsibilities of the City and Metrolinx for the YNSE project. City's first draft comments were submitted to Metrolinx to ensure we protect the interests of Vaughan. Council's authority to enter this Main Agreement will be required later under a separate Council report.

Staff are working with Metrolinx, in coordination with the other stakeholder municipalities, to present a Metrolinx YNSE project status update to Council which we are anticipating once the final design elements has been determined within the Stations, Rails and Systems (SRS) contract anticipated later this year.

### Traffic

Staff along with other municipalities are continuing to refine the SRS contract requirements with Metrolinx to mitigate traffic impacts on local roads. The discussions are focused on identifying an acceptable balance that will allow work to proceed, not impact residents or businesses, minimize additional costs to the YNSE project that would be better spent on station design elements, protect travelling commuters and not extend the YNSE completion schedule.

Different strategies are being reviewed to complete work efficiently and a communication protocol between Metrolinx and the municipalities is being refined to ensure complaints are resolved quickly. Communication, Marketing and Engagement Department have been distributing construction /other notices from [Metrolinx Communications](#) and we are looking to develop other strategies to inform our residents and businesses.

**Progress on Maple GO station improvements continues. Construction is scheduled for completion by Q4 2025.**

Construction work to improve Maple GO station is ongoing and anticipated to be completed by the end of this year. Construction is largely complete on the expansion of Eagle Rock Way, the acoustical wall replacement and watermain replacement/relocation on Simcoe Street & Major Mackenzie Drive. Elements still under construction include:

- A new west side platform and rehabilitation of the existing east platform; along with commissioning of the pedestrian tunnels connecting both platforms;
- Double tracking from Rutherford GO to McNaughton;
- A new pedestrian and cycling bridge with an enhanced railing over Major Mackenzie Drive and new multi-use paths connecting to the existing sidewalk; and
- Decommissioning of existing wells in the park behind Maple Community Centre.

City staff is continuing to work with Metrolinx on the operations and maintenance agreements for the expanded bus loop on Eagle Rock Way.

**Potential GO Train Stations along the future Caledon-Vaughan GO Line continue to be investigated. The future Major Mackenzie GO Station has been protected through the Block 60E Block Plan.**

On June 4, 2024, an approval report was submitted to the Committee of the Whole for the Block 60E Block Plan that identified the lands to be protected for the future Major Mackenzie GO station as identified in the Bolton Commuter Rail Service Feasibility Study and proposed future Caledon-Vaughan GO Line, through the use of a Holding Provision (“H” symbol) to identify the station location (see previous reports/authority section).

**The future Woodbridge station on the proposed Caledon-Vaughan GO Line has been protected for through an Official Plan Amendment.**

On May 16, 2023, Council approved Interim Control By-law 060-2023 in the vicinity of the Kipling Avenue Corridor Secondary Plan and directed staff to undertake a land use study to assess the potential of a GO station along the Caledon-Vaughan GO Line, on Kipling Avenue in Woodbridge.

As per Council direction, Policy Planning and Special Programs staff undertook the Woodbridge GO Station Land Use Study, which assessed the feasibility of a potential GO Station within the study area along the proposed Caledon-Vaughan GO Line. The study determined that a GO Station is feasible within the study area and selected a preferred potential station location. The project included a detailed background review, GO Station technical analysis, Indigenous community engagement, landowner engagement, public engagement, development of the Study, and the introduction of an Official Plan Amendment (OPA) to protect for the potential station location. The study commenced in January 2024, and the final recommendation report and OPA were presented to Committee of the Whole (2) on September 17, 2024 (see previous reports/authority section). By-law 160-2024, adopting Official Plan Amendment Number #123, was approved by Vaughan Council on October 29, 2024.

**The Block Plan application and Collector Street Environmental Assessment (EA) in the Block 27 Secondary Plan area are currently underway.**

The EA for the Collector Street Network and Block Plan application in the Block 27 Secondary Plan area will support the proposed future Kirby GO Station. Participating Landowners within Block 27, collectively known as the Block 27 Landowners Group, Inc., have submitted a Block Plan application for the Block 27 Secondary Plan Area. The Block Plan will serve to implement the policies of the Secondary Plan and establish the basis for subsequent development applications, including the area surrounding the proposed Kirby GO Station, which will be subject to a subsequent City-led Study as required by the Block 27 Secondary Plan. This area is intended to be developed as a transit-oriented community, featuring a mix of land uses and transit-supportive densities. Staff proceeded to Committee of the Whole (Public Meeting) on May 7, 2024, to present the Block Plan for public comment and have received a revised submission of the Block Plan from the applicant.

Concurrent to the Block Plan application process, the City and Participating Landowners are collaborating as co-proponents on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Block 27 Collector Street Network which advances the street network established in the North

Vaughan New Communities Transportation Master Plan (NVNCTMP). The EA was completed by the project team in Q4 2024 following a 30-day public review period. The EA is currently under review by the MECF. The EA completes the remaining portions of the (MCEA) process. The EA will establish the recommended alignments and cross-sections of the collector street network.

### **Financial Impact**

N/A

### **Operational Impact**

Staff from Infrastructure Delivery, Development Engineering, Policy Planning and Special Programs and Environmental Services were consulted, contributed or are aware of the various elements to this report.

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

N/A

### **Conclusion**

Over the past six months, staff have continued to work collaboratively with and cultivate relationships with Metrolinx through the various projects that are ongoing throughout the City. This professional working relationship is being leveraged to ensure that Metrolinx's projects in Vaughan meet the City's transportation objectives and Council's direction.

It is clear that working together with Metrolinx will deliver improved transit infrastructure, which is needed to provide convenient and sustainable transportation options, to accommodate growth and maintain the vitality of the City.

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

### **Attachments**

N/A

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