

Committee of the Whole Report (1)

DATE: Tuesday, November 05, 2019

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: METROLINX ACTIVITIES UPDATE – FALL 2019

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To provide a status overview of recent Metrolinx activities in the City of Vaughan related to Metrolinx's GO Expansion project, 2041 Regional Transportation Plan, and Yonge Subway Extension.

Report Highlights

- The Rutherford Road Grade Separation and GO Station expansion work has begun and proceeding on schedule
- Staff are working with Metrolinx to plan and implement Maple GO Station improvements
- The Block 27 Landowner's Group submitted their Expression of Interest for the implementation of the proposed Kirby GO Station
- The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan are proceeding on schedule
- The McNaughton Grade Separation at Barrie GO rail requires an addendum to the 2017 GO Rail Network Electrification TPAP
- As part of the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan (2041 RTP) work, the 2011 Mobility Hub Guidelines and 2016 GO Rail Station Access Plan will be updated
- The approval of Bill 107 in June 2019 made rapid transit expansion projects, including Yonge Subway Extension, the sole responsibility of Metrolinx

Recommendations

1. That Council receive this report for information.

Background

The Rutherford Road Grade Separation and GO Station improvements are proceeding with support from City Staff

The Rutherford Road Grade Separation and GO Station improvements are proceeding on schedule. Temporary works such as construction of detour road began in Summer 2019 and major construction work is anticipated to begin in Fall 2019.

Staff are continuing to work with Metrolinx to deliver additional pedestrian and cycling access points to Maple GO station

The implementation of additional pedestrian and cycling access points is an important step to reducing the number of commuters currently driving and parking at this station, which is a major source of congestion on the area road network during peak hours. Additional pedestrian and cycling connections that staff are currently working with Metrolinx to deliver include a pedestrian bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive and a pedestrian access connection from the adjacent neighborhood. Public consultation and engagement are anticipated to begin in Fall 2019 by Metrolinx's communication team.

Block 27 Landowner's Group submitted their Expression of Interest for the implementation of the proposed Kirby GO station on July 19, 2019 to Metrolinx

The Landowner's Group letter is an important milestone in fulfilling the requirements of Metrolinx's Transit-Oriented Development strategy, which defines the principles that allows for the future delivery of the Kirby GO Station. Metrolinx and the Block 27 Landowner's Group are to meet to review the Kirby GO Station principles and possible requirements for the planning and delivery of the project.

The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan are on schedule

Both studies will be jointly soliciting public feedback to assist with identifying the future transportation network and land use needs of the area. A public open house is scheduled for November 12, 2019. As the potential Concord GO Station does not currently have an approved Metrolinx Business Case, the results from the Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan may provide updated information to potentially initiate a request for Metrolinx to update to their Business Case.

Metrolinx is working internally to deliver the required noise walls for the Barrie Rail Corridor Expansion

Metrolinx's Corridor Expansion project team will be responsible for construction of noise walls between Rutherford Road and McNaughton Road. The construction of these walls was originally identified within the station work contract. Metrolinx have removed the noise walls from the station construction and will undertake a separate project. Additional details, including whether a missing section of noise wall along Ridgefield Crescent and Marlott Road is to be constructed, have not yet been provided by Metrolinx. Therefore, the City has been actively monitoring the condition of the wall and ensuring pedestrian access is restricted by maintaining temporary metal fences along the corridor. The City will be repairing damaged or fallen fences along this corridor prior to winter through a tender that is in the process of award. Currently, there are approximately 100 Fence Posts to be repaired and 162 Fence Panels to be repaired.

Additional improvements are necessary to enable the GO expansion service levels which will require an additional Environmental Assessment under the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP)

Metrolinx has identified addition infrastructure improvement to support the Barrie Go expansion. These improvements will require a new TPAP include areas of proposed new tracks, five new layover and storage facilities, and new track and facilities to be electrified. An addendum to the 2017 GO Rail Network Electrification TPAP will be undertaken in parallel, which includes the assessment of the McNaughton Road/ GO rail grade separation in Vaughan. The first Public Meeting is anticipated to be in Fall 2019, Notice of Commencement is anticipated to be issued in Q1 2020 and Statement of Completion by end of Q3 2020.

A set of key performance indicators (KPIs) to facilitate monitoring and reporting program for the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan are being developed

Metrolinx has embarked on an initiative to capture Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to aid in monitoring and reporting the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan. The development of KPIs included a review by municipalities (including Vaughan), a jurisdictional scan was completed, internal project workshops were undertaken as part of Metrolinx consultation strategy. The set of draft KPIs are currently undergoing external consultation involving other agencies, Regions, and local municipalities. The set of KPIs are being finalized through Summer 2019 and the RTP Monitoring Report is anticipated to be completed in Winter-Spring 2020. As part of the 2041 RTP work, access improvements at all GO rail stations across the network are also being considered. As such, the 2011 Mobility Hub Guidelines and 2016 GO Rail Station Access Plan will be updated to align with recently updated planning framework including the new Frequent Rapid Transit Network, Growth Plan and Metrolinx's Transit Oriented

Development Program. The first workshop soliciting Municipal input was held on June 24, 2019.

Bill 107, the *Get Ontario Moving Act* received Royal Assent in June 2019, making rapid transit expansion projects as the sole responsibility of Metrolinx

The approval of Bill 107 enables the Province of Ontario to prescribe, through regulation, the design, development and construction of a rapid transit expansion project as the sole responsibility of Metrolinx. Bill 107 leads to the making of *Ontario Regulation 248/19* under the *Metrolinx Act, 2006*, also known as “*Interim Measures - Upload of Rapid Transit Projects*”. *Ontario Regulation 248/19* came into effect on July 23, 2019, which prescribes the Yonge Subway Extension (YSE) project as the sole responsibility of Metrolinx. The change in legislation also leads to the review of the governance for the YSE project.

Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario (IO) retained a team of advisors (referred to as the Review Panel) in July 2019 to perform an independent review of plans for the YSE and the Scarborough Subway Extension projects. The Review Panel is expected to report back to Metrolinx and IO with its draft recommendations report in Fall 2019.

With the Review Panel initiatives currently underway, Executive Committee direction has been given to pause some design work plans for YSE, however, the following activities are proceeding as planned:

- Interim design submissions for the stations, tunnels and systems contracts have been reviewed and Regional/Municipal comments have been consolidated and provided to the project partners
- Elevating design work of Richmond Hill Centre Station to a 15% level is progressing
- The analysis of the benefits of a potential mega-bore option is moving forward;
- Metrolinx’ work on the YSE business case is underway
- A procurement options analysis is near completion; and
- Geotechnical and topography surveying continue and are expected to be completed in October 2019

Previous Reports/Authority

Previous reports relating to Metrolinx related matters can be found at the following links:

[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](#)

[May 16, 2017, Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\) \(Item 1, Report No. 19\) - Metrolinx Regional Express Rail Update](#)

Analysis and Options

Staff continue to work in partnership with York Region and Metrolinx on GO Station Expansions and Pedestrian Connections

In keeping with the City's Transportation and Mobility objective to be a fully connected and integrated community by supporting the development of transit and increase cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, staff will continue to work closely with York Region and Metrolinx to coordinate the expansion of the Rutherford and Maple GO Stations. A key focus will be traffic management during construction in order to minimize disruption to the communities. The expansion of the two GO Stations also present opportunities to implement additional pedestrian and cycling access points such as, a pedestrian bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive and adjacent neighborhoods, and a pedestrian connection to Maple GO Station. City staff will work closely in partnership with Metrolinx in planning, design, construction and public consultation for these initiatives.

City staff are monitoring the work being undertaken by Metrolinx and the Block 27 Landowner's Group in delivering the Kirby GO station

As the Block 27 Landowner's Group begins their work with Metrolinx in delivering the Kirby GO Station, the City will continue to plan for infrastructure to support the lands surrounding the Kirby GO Station such as the Kirby Road Widening Environmental Assessment Study from Jane Street to Dufferin Street, which was initiated in September 2019. Staff continue to be actively involved in the planning and development work for the Block 27 Secondary Plan area including the Kirby GO-Transit Hub Centre to realize the envisioned complete community, with an appropriate mix of land uses, densities and pedestrian-friendly amenities to support the Kirby GO Station. The adoption of the Secondary Plan and initiation of the Transit Hub Special Study, Kirby Road EA and Station development process, will provide inputs into the final land use plan to provide for the development of the Station area.

Staff continue to participate in the Municipal Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) in the implementation of 2041 RTP and the YSE work

Both the 2041 RTP and Yonge Subway Extension work are important Region-wide projects that connects the City to the rest of the GTHA providing a gateway to economic activity in the GTHA, leading to prosperity, investment and social capital. Staff participation in the MTAC is necessary to ensure that the City's priorities are being considered and realized.

Financial Impact

The delivery of Kirby GO Station involving potential partnerships with the Block 27 Landowner's Group may involve the City financially in the future.

The construction of additional pedestrian connections such as the pedestrian bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive and pedestrian connection from adjacent neighborhoods to Maple GO Station may require City funding through collected development charges.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

In support of the development of the new communities, a future Kirby GO Station and the Highway 400 Employment Lands, the deployment of York Region Transit's Frequent Transit Network along Kirby Road, Jane Street and Weston Road should be expedited to continue to provide convenient sustainable transportation options in these areas.

Staff will continue to work with York Region to ensure appropriate sustainable transportation options are reviewed for implementation in these areas.

Conclusion

Metrolinx is currently investing in 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 on-going planning and delivery processes.

The proposed Kirby and potential Concord GO Stations, the proposed Bus Rapid Transit Corridors within the City, and the Yonge Subway Extension continue to be priorities for the City and form the backbone of a multi-modal transportation system that meets the needs of city residents and businesses.

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

For more information, please contact: Vince Musacchio, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Corporate Asset Management

Attachments

N/A

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