

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Wednesday, May 20, 2020

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: METROLINX ACTIVITIES UPDATE – SPRING 2020

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

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

Report Highlights

- Rutherford Road Grade Separation and GO Station expansion work is well underway and on schedule
- Maple GO station improvement project is expected to be awarded by Metrolinx in Fall 2020, with construction completion scheduled for Winter 2022
- McNaughton Grade Separation is needed to enable the GO expansion service levels and the first Public Open House was held on February 29, 2020
- City staff are monitoring the work being undertaken by Metrolinx and the Block 27 Landowner's Group in delivering the Kirby GO station
- The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan are on schedule
- 2041 RTP – Advancing Transit Priorities Report was finalized, and an annual review framework was set up to update priorities as needed
- Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) is being developed to allow for implementation using a public/private partnership

Recommendations

1. That Council receive this report for information.

Background

Rutherford Road Grade Separation and GO station expansion work is well underway

The detour road between Westburne Drive and Peter Rupert Avenue is complete and will be in place until the grade separation construction is complete which is scheduled for Spring 2022. Drilling work alongside Rutherford Road will begin to facilitate the construction of a retaining wall for the Rutherford Road underpass. Efforts to minimize impacts from drilling and equipment will be made by the contractors. The grade separation and parking structure are anticipated to open in 2022.

Staff have been working with Metrolinx to finalize the Maple GO station improvement project, which includes construction of new and improved transportation infrastructure

Improvements at Maple GO station include a new second track and platform to accommodate two-way, all-day service, better pedestrian and cyclist connectivity, additional satellite parking, an upgraded bus loop and pick-up/drop-off facility. Two pedestrian tunnels have already been installed in order to connect commuters to a second platform and track in the future for the increased two-way, all day service.

In order to facilitate efficient coordination of work, a Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted, outlining the roles and responsibilities of the City and Metrolinx to design, construct, finance, operate and maintain the major components of the Maple GO station project, including new City infrastructure. Staff will report to Council separately on the Maple GO Station project and the details of the Memorandum of Understanding.

McNaughton Grade Separation is needed to enable the GO expansion service levels and the first Public Open House was held on February 29, 2020

McNaughton Grade Separation project will be separating the tracks from the road to ensure safety when Metrolinx increases GO train service. The first public open house for the McNaughton Grade Separation was held on Saturday February 29, 2020 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. At the Public Open House, the following was presented to the public:

- A road-over-rail grade separation concept design

- Design elements such as elevated roadway, two vehicular traffic lanes in each direction, multi-use pathway, retaining wall locations, lighting and access points from stations
- Construction Staging, and
- Grade separation option analysis

Additional information sheets and technical studies related to the project were also made available. Metrolinx Staff will be providing a summary of public input to City staff for information.

Participating Landowners within Block 27 have initiated the Block Plan Application process

Participating Landowners within Block 27 (collectively known as the Block 27 Landowners Group Inc.) have initiated the Block Plan Application process with the submission of a Draft Block Plan Terms of Reference for the Block 27 New Community Area. The Terms of Reference is currently under review with the City and external agencies.

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

The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study (MHS) and Transportation Master Plan (TMP) are currently underway to establish the policy framework to build a complete community around a potential GO Station. The first public open house was held on January 23, 2020 to introduce the Concord GO Centre project to the community and business owners and solicit public feedback. As the potential Concord GO Station does not currently have an approved Metrolinx Business Case, the recommendations from the MHS and TMP may provide new information to be included as part of a request for Metrolinx to update their 2018 Business Case.

2041 RTP – Advancing Transit Priorities Report was finalized, and an annual review framework has been set up to update priorities as needed

The Advancing Transit Priorities Report summarizes 2019 evaluation of transit projects and consolidates information Municipal Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) members have previously provided. The report also includes the following elements:

- Confirms priority benefits and impact to prove the concepts
- Provides visual guidelines with illustrations and real case studies to make the case to a wider audience

- Data Collection framework for 2020 annual review
- Annual review process

Metrolinx will be sending out a checklist of data required from municipalities for the annual review. An Annual Review Workshop will be set up with consult municipal partners and agencies to better understand transit needs in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, including new Frequent Rapid Transit Network (FRTN) projects for evaluation.

The Yonge North Subway Extension project is being developed to allow for implementation using a public/private partnership

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

The approval of Bill 107 in 2019 enabled 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. The Province will own, retain decision-making responsibility, and be solely responsible for the delivery of the YNSE (previously referenced as Yonge Subway Extension) while informing such decision through meaningful collaboration and engagement with the York Region and local municipalities, City of Toronto and TTC through the design, development and delivery of the project.

Metrolinx is currently developing the YNSE project to allow for implementation using a public/private partnership. The scope of ongoing work to be achieved ahead of “Public Private Partnerships” (P3) RFP issuance include:

- Identification of a final alignment and station locations as part of optioneering/feasibility analysis process
- Business Case development including securing approvals through all phases (Initial Business Case, Preliminary Business Case and Full Business Case)

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

Previous Reports/Authority

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

[November 5, 2019, Committee of the Whole \(1\) \(Item 6, Report No. 7\) – 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](#)

[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.

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 YNSE work

Both the 2041 RTP and Yonge North 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

There are no immediate financial impacts associated with this report.

Staff will report separately on the Maple GO Station project Memorandum of Understanding, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the City and Metrolinx to design, construct, finance, operate and maintain the major components of the Maple GO station project, including new City infrastructure.

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 and York Region Transit 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 ongoing planning and delivery processes.

The proposed Kirby and potential Concord GO Stations, the proposed Bus Rapid Transit Corridors within the City, and the Yonge North 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 of Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management, ext. 8311

Attachments

1. N/A

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