

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, November 03, 2020

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: METROLINX INITIATIVES UPDATE FALL 2020

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Development

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To provide a status update of recent Metrolinx activities in Vaughan related to Metrolinx's GO Expansion project 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 scheduled to begin in 2021
- City staff provided comments on the Draft Network-wide Barrie Rail Corridor Transit Project Assessment Process. Draft Environmental Project Report has been prepared by Metrolinx for McNaughton Grade Separation at Barrie GO rail corridor
- Metrolinx does not have plans for rail service expansion to Bolton
- City staff continues to engage with the Block 27 Landowners Group and are provided updates on the delivery of the Kirby GO station as they are made available
- The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan are on schedule to proceed to the second round of public engagement beginning in Q1 2021

Recommendations

1. That Council receive this report for information.

Background

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

Construction is well underway at the Rutherford Go station to install the following new infrastructure:

- a rail bridge overpass across Rutherford Road
- a pedestrian bridge over Rutherford Road
- widened Rutherford Road via underpass
- a multi-level GO station parking structure
- a new east platform at the Rutherford Go station
- a stormwater pumping station and a large stormwater conveyance system

As of end of August, the following work has been completed:

1. All of the caisson drilling for the shoring wall on the east side of the existing track crossing, including the pump house
2. Majority of the bulk excavation
3. Major stormwater conveyance system was installed last year. This includes large piping starting at the north side of Rutherford Road, wrapping around the bridge to the south of Rutherford Road

There is still ongoing work on the west side of the track crossing to facilitate the construction of a shoring wall and the west section of the rail bridge. Metrolinx is projecting to have the east side of the rail bridge functioning by the end of the year. This would be a major milestone for the grade separation as half of the future rail bridge would be constructed and will be operational.

Maple GO station improvements are scheduled to begin in early 2021, requiring a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Metrolinx

Construction of improvements at Maple GO station are scheduled to begin in early 2021. The improvements include a new station platform and second track, increased capacity and improved circulation for pick-up/drop-off activities, and better integration with surrounding development including a weather-protected tunnel from Eagle Rock Way to the station platforms. In addition, City staff have been working closely with Metrolinx to finalize key pieces of City-owned infrastructure which will be constructed by Metrolinx as part of this project. This includes an extension of Eagle Rock Way with enhanced landscaping and space for additional transit buses, and an active transportation bridge over Major Mackenzie Drive. In order to detail the roles and responsibilities for this infrastructure, the City and Metrolinx will need to finalize a

Memorandum of Understanding, which is being presented to Council in a separate report.

City Staff provided comments on the Draft Network-wide Barrie Rail Corridor Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) Addendum Environmental Project Report for McNaughton Road Grade Separation

The McNaughton Road Grade Separation project will be separating the tracks from the road to ensure safety when Metrolinx increases GO train service. This grade separation work is deemed to present significant changes to a previously approved Barrie Rail Corridor Expansion Project Transit Project Assessment Process Environmental Project Report (BRCE EPR). This led to a reassessment of the effects associated with the project, the identification of potentially new mitigation measures, and potentially new monitoring systems is required. Through the TPAP Addendum process, the public was consulted through a public open house held in February and a virtual open house held from August 18 to September 1 this year. The City along with York Region and other agencies were consulted via a series of Technical Advisory Committee meetings. Metrolinx has prepared a draft EPR for municipalities' and agencies review. City staff have reviewed the documents and provided comments back to Metrolinx in October this year.

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/Master Environmental and Servicing (MESP) Terms of Reference for the Block 27 New Community Area. The second submission of the draft Terms of Reference is currently under review with the City and external agencies. A draft Terms of Reference establishing the scope of work to be undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment(s) (EAs) for the collector street network within Block 27 has been submitted and is also currently under review with the City and external agencies.

The Concord GO Centre Mobility Hub Study and Transportation Master Plan are on schedule to proceed to the second round of public engagement beginning in Q1 2021

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 in the area of Highway 7 and Bowes Road.

The emerging land use scenarios are currently under development, including a compatibility analysis, which will be followed by the transportation modelling and analysis. The Concord GO Centre is on schedule to proceed to the second round of virtual public engagement, including an Open House, beginning in Q1 2021 to seek feedback on the emerging scenario. Given that the potential Concord GO Station does not have an approved Metrolinx Business Case, the outcomes of the MHS and TMP may provide new information to form the basis of a request to update the 2018 Business Case.

A Block plan for Block 60 East has been submitted by the landowner's group and two potential future GO stations have been identified within these lands in VOP 2010, however Metrolinx does not have plans for rail service expansion to Bolton

The Block 60 East lands are designated "Natural Areas" and "Low-Rise Residential" as identified on Schedule 13 of the Vaughan Official Plan 2010. The developable lands within the Block are designated "Low-Rise Residential", which permits a range of housing types including detached, semi-detached and townhouse dwellings. The Block Plan application is intending to implement the land use permitted in VOP 2010 Volume 1.

The lands on the west side of Block 60 East are bound by the CPR rail line and provide service to CPR's MacTier Subdivision. The CPR line in this area had been identified for potential use by Metrolinx for the Bolton Commuter Rail as part of the Bolton Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, completed in 2010. As such, Schedule 10 of VOP 2010 identified two potential GO stations within the Block 60 East lands, identified as part of the feasibility study.

The Block 60 East Block Plan was circulated for internal and external comments in April 2020. Through the review of the block plan, Metrolinx indicated the Bolton Commuter Rail service is a project to be considered beyond 2041 and does not have any current plans for rail service in this area at this time. Metrolinx's new-market driven approach would be used in future to guide future development of potential stations, however the landowners in Block 60 East have not identified or protected for the potential stations identified within this block. The Block 60 East Block Plan, as proposed by the landowners, was presented at Committee of the Whole Public Hearing on November 3, 2020.

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

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 the York Region and City of Toronto.

Metrolinx has completed the Initial Business Case for the YNSE. It includes the review of technical and costing alternatives (subway alignment, stations and tunnel type). This process will be followed by a Preliminary Design Business Case and a Full Business Case.

A “one-window” approach to coordinate municipal input to the YNSE project is being established to streamline regional and local municipal interests as the YNSE project advances. It is expected that a presentation by York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and Metrolinx Staff will be made at the City’s Committee of the Whole meeting in the near future.

Previous Reports/Authority

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

[May 20, 2020, Committee of the Whole \(2\) – Metrolinx Activities Update – Spring 2020](#)

[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 continue to engage with the Block 27 Landowner's Group and are provided updates on the delivery of the Kirby GO station as they are made available

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. The City is also engaged with the Block 27 Landowner's Group regarding the Block Plan process and EA process for the Collector Street Network within the Block. 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 approval of the Secondary Plan and initiation of the Block Plan application process, Collector Road EA, Kirby Road EA, Transit Hub Special Study 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 in the implementation of 2041 Regional Transportation Plan and the Yonge North Subway Extension work

Both the 2041 RTP and YNSE 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 **Municipal Technical Advisory Committee (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 present to Council in a separate report the Maple GO Station project Memorandum of Understanding 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.

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

N/A

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