

Clause 5 in Report No. 14 of Committee of the Whole was adopted by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on October 20, 2016 with the following additional recommendation:

7. Receipt of the communication, dated October 17, 2016, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services regarding “New GO Stations in York Region to Support Metrolinx’s Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Express Rail Program”.

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New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations, **as amended**, contained in the report dated September 22, 2016 from the Acting Commissioner of Transportation Services:

1. Council endorse two new GO stations in York Region on the Barrie GO rail corridor near the intersection of Kirby Road and Keele Street in the City of Vaughan (Kirby) and near the intersection of Mulock Drive and Bayview Avenue in the Town of Newmarket (Mulock), as recommended in the Metrolinx GO Regional Express Rail Update report adopted by the Metrolinx Board of Directors on June 28, 2016.
2. Council request the Ministry of Transportation and Metrolinx to fully fund the new GO stations at Kirby and at Mulock as part of the Regional Express Rail 10-Year Program.
3. Council request that Metrolinx reconsider its decision to not include a new GO station on Highway 7, east of Keele Street in the City of Vaughan (Concord) in the Regional Express Rail 10-Year Program.
4. Council request Metrolinx and the City of Vaughan to work with staff to immediately pursue improving the Initial Business Case for the Concord GO station to address transportation needs associated with future growth in this area, as set out by the Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2016.
5. **Staff prepare a memorandum for the October 20, 2016 Regional Council meeting, presenting a response which outlines the recommendations in this report combined with the recommendations in the report entitled “York Region’s Response to Metrolinx’s Discussion Paper for the next Regional Transportation Plan”.**

New GO Stations in York Region to  
Support Regional Express Rail

6. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to Metrolinx, Ontario Ministry of Transportation and the Clerks of the local municipalities.

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Report dated September 22, 2016 from the Acting Commissioner of Transportation Services now follows:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council endorse two new GO stations in York Region on the Barrie GO rail corridor near the intersection of Kirby Road and Keele Street in the City of Vaughan (Kirby) and near the intersection of Mulock Drive and Bayview Avenue in the Town of Newmarket (Mulock), as recommended in the Metrolinx GO Regional Express Rail Update report adopted by the Metrolinx Board of Directors on June 28, 2016.
2. Council request the Ministry of Transportation and Metrolinx fully fund the new GO stations at Kirby and at Mulock as part of the Regional Express Rail 10-Year Program.
3. Council request Metrolinx reconsider their decision to not include a new GO station on Highway 7, east of Keele Street in the City of Vaughan (Concord) in the Regional Express Rail 10-Year Program.
4. Council request Metrolinx and the City of Vaughan work with staff to immediately pursue improving the Initial Business Case for the Concord GO station to address transportation needs associated with future growth in this area, as set out by the Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2016.
5. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to Metrolinx, Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Clerks of the local municipalities.

2. Purpose

This report seeks Council endorsement of Metrolinx recommendations for two new GO station locations in York Region on the Barrie GO rail corridor at Kirby in the City of Vaughan and at Mulock in the Town of Newmarket, prior to the deadline of November 30, 2016.

## New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

This report also recommends Council request Metrolinx reconsider additional new GO station locations in York Region, with a new GO station on the Barrie rail corridor at Concord in the City of Vaughan as an immediate focus for delivery within the 10-Year Regional Express Rail (RER) program. Over the longer term, Metrolinx is requested to further reconsider two additional new GO station locations on the Stouffville GO rail corridor in the City of Markham at Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and at Major Mackenzie Drive East (east of Markham Road).

### 3. Background

The 2016 Transportation Master Plan identified new GO stations on the Barrie and Stouffville GO rail corridors

The 2016 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) recommended eleven new GO stations within York Region to support increased GO ridership forecasts. The TMP identified new stations within the GO RER 10-year program at Kirby in the City of Vaughan and at Mulock in the Town of Newmarket, as well as potential future GO stations at Concord, Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive East. The Moving to 2020 YRT/Viva 2016-2020 Strategic Plan includes the Frequent Transit Network, which accounts for adjustments to YRT/Viva transit routes, bus stop facilities and service frequencies to serve the needs of commuters to potential new GO stations at Concord, Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive East.

In June 2016, Metrolinx Board adopted Metrolinx staff recommendations for two new GO stations in York Region on the Barrie GO rail corridor at Kirby in Vaughan and at Mulock in Newmarket

Metrolinx has completed the New Stations Analysis study and proposed two new GO stations in York Region on the Barrie GO rail corridor. The New Stations Analysis study considered a range of station access options, including improvements to active transportation, local transit, pick-up and drop-off (including on-demand services), parking and customer information for more than 120 sites across the GTHA. The new stations in York Region are to be located at Kirby in the City of Vaughan and at Mulock in the Town of Newmarket. The Metrolinx Board of Directors adopted Metrolinx staff recommendations for the new GO station locations in York Region, as outlined in the GO Regional Express Rail Update report (Attachment 1) and via letters from Metrolinx to the City of Vaughan and the Town of Newmarket (Attachment 2). Metrolinx based their recommendations for new stations on positive outcomes from Initial Business Cases completed in support of the New Stations Analysis study.

## New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

Despite being considered a strong candidate, Metrolinx has recommended the Concord GO station not be included in the GO RER 10-Year Program at this time

The GO Regional Express Rail Update report, Recommendation 1.2, published by Metrolinx June 28, 2016, recommends the Concord GO station on the Barrie GO rail corridor not be included in the GO RER program at this time.

Metrolinx based this recommendation on the Concord GO station achieving a very low score result in the Metrolinx Initial Business Case, due primarily to low economic performance not offset by strategic factors. For example, the Initial Business Case evaluation for the Concord GO station indicated this station would have higher construction costs, potential ridership catchment limitations due to the new Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension to the west and the addition of upstream ridership negatively impacting potential new riders at this location.

Other potential station locations on the Stouffville GO rail corridor need to be protected as part of the long-term vision for RER in York Region

Staff also engaged Metrolinx and the City of Markham to review how potential GO station locations on the Stouffville GO rail corridor were evaluated and to further understand why the stations did not achieve a positive result in the station analysis. New GO stations on the Stouffville GO rail corridor that were excluded from the proposed new station locations included:

- Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Markham, Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue west of Kennedy Road
- Major Mackenzie Drive East – Markham, Major Mackenzie Drive east of Markham Road

Metrolinx noted in their New Stations Analysis that some GO station locations did not perform as well as others due to similar challenges and constraints including:

- Prohibitive construction costs or challenges, such as corridor or track limitations
- High time-cost impact where many passengers are delayed, few save time through boarding or alighting at this location
- Few nearby regional destinations

## New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

- Unsupported by Provincial growth policy, constrained by Greenbelt or area of limited growth
- Unsupportive of current or planned uses and/or low densities, such as warehouses, mature residential neighbourhoods
- No major new infrastructure to facilitate station construction within current RER program

Metrolinx has committed to working with local municipalities to improve the new station business cases for future consideration

Through Metrolinx's GO Regional Express Rail Update report Recommendation 1.3, the agency advised they will continue working with local municipalities to improve the RER New Stations Initial Business Cases, including Concord, and will bring forward future considerations to the Metrolinx Board.

York Region continues to have a strong working partnership with Metrolinx. Regional staff has met with Metrolinx and the City of Vaughan to discuss potential improvements to the Initial Business Case for the Concord GO station on Highway 7. York Region, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC) and the City of Vaughan all acknowledge improvements to the Initial Business Case can be made based on planned growth and future land uses supporting transit-oriented development and Provincial transit infrastructure investments.

The deadline for Metrolinx to integrate and evaluate any new information on new GO stations is November 30, 2016

Staff continues to work with Metrolinx and local municipalities to provide input and recommendations to Metrolinx on the ongoing update to the GO Rail Parking and Station Access Plan for all GO stations located in York Region. Regional staff has provided Metrolinx with the rationale for a new GO station at Concord and for continued protection for future stations on the Stouffville GO rail corridor so they may be included in the New Stations Analysis study. This study will inform the GO Rail Parking and Station Access Plan that Metrolinx will finalize by November 30, 2016.

#### 4. Analysis and Implications

Metrolinx's recommended GO station locations will influence growth, land use and Regional transportation services for the next 10 years and beyond

Metrolinx's commitment to enhancing connections to the GO rail network in York Region is encouraging. Staff are supportive of the new GO stations being recommended at Kirby and Mulock on the Barrie GO rail corridor. The Kirby GO station will aid in accommodating forecasted population growth and ridership demands in the North Maple area (Block 27), designated as a New Community Area in the City of Vaughan's Official Plan. The Mulock GO station will address current deficiencies with accommodating ridership demand by alleviating pressures at the existing Newmarket GO and Aurora GO stations.

Local municipal planning is at various stages of development for the Kirby and Mulock GO stations

As part of the City of Vaughan's Block 27 Secondary Plan process, the Kirby GO Transit Hub Sub-study (Hub Sub-study) was initiated in April 2016. The purpose of the Hub Sub-study is to advance land use planning for the precinct around the Kirby GO rail station site. The City of Vaughan is actively working with the Region and Metrolinx on the Hub Sub-study, in consultation with affected landowners, with a view to coordinating processes and ensuring needs of all parties will be met. Currently, it is expected the Block 27 Secondary Plan, including results of the Hub Sub-study, may be available for adoption in mid-2017.

The Town of Newmarket is evaluating transportation and land use policies to advance planning work for the Mulock GO station. It is anticipated that Secondary Plan studies will proceed for the Mulock GO station in 2017.

The proposed Concord GO station will support future growth and address transportation service needs in the area

An additional new GO station at Concord would further support the Region's ongoing efforts to accommodate future population and employment growth in the area. The Province's Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2016 (Growth Plan) proposes a 60 per cent intensification target and a minimum planned density target for Major Transit Station Areas, which includes GO rail station areas at 150 people and jobs per hectare. Only a few of the Major Transit Station Areas identified across the Greater Golden Horseshoe have achieved densities recommended by the Province's Transit Supportive Guidelines. The proposed Concord GO station satisfies the objective of the Growth Plan to

## New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

ensure the highest density development occurs in areas in proximity to rapid transit infrastructure.

Further, the Growth Plan directs an increasing proportion of growth be accommodated within the Built Up Area of the Region. The proposed Concord GO station is within the Built Up Area, adjacent to Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, a Provincially-designated Urban Growth Centre.

Secondary Plans in the vicinity of Concord strongly support the location of a new GO station east of Keele Street on Highway 7

The [City of Vaughan Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan](#) (Secondary Plan) Schedule 'E' – Transit Network (Attachment 3) outlines a vision for a future Mobility Hub, where interconnections between transportation modes are seamless. The Secondary Plan acknowledges there is significant potential for an additional GO station to be located in the Secondary Plan area. The proposed Concord GO station would be centrally located within the Secondary Plan area with a planned overall density far exceeding the proposed Provincial target of 150 people and jobs per hectare. The Secondary Plan projects future growth in the area to reach a population of between 4,000 to 8,000 people and 8,000 to 10,000 jobs by 2031. This further supports the need for integration of the local centre with existing and future transit expansion.

The City of Vaughan has committed the resources to advance the planning for a Secondary Plan scale Mobility Hub. These studies include:

- A Feasibility Study to assess a connection from Bowes Road on the west over/under the GO rail corridor to connect to the north-south public road leading to Highway 7.
- A Comprehensive Transportation Study that will address long-term development capacity of the area, Traffic Demand Management measures and active transportation options.
- A Concord GO Mobility Hub Study that will focus on land use planning and design, servicing and staging policies required to develop the Mobility Hub in accordance with Provincial, Regional and City policies for the area. The study will be informed by and coordinated with the transportation studies to develop a comprehensive planned hub area that will support the ultimate land use, infrastructure and density mix.

City of Vaughan staff advise these studies can be conducted in 2017.

## New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

The proposed Concord GO station is also located within the vicinity of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Secondary Plan Area, which includes the provincially-designated Urban Growth Centre. This area is projected to grow to a population of 25,000 people and support 11,500 jobs by 2031; the same horizon planned in the Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan. Given the number of residents and jobs planned along this section of Highway 7, the proposed Concord GO station would likely serve as an origin for commuters to downtown Toronto and a destination for workers from areas north along the Barrie GO rail corridor to access jobs in both Concord and the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre by connecting with the Viva rapidway.

The Concord GO Centre area is ready to develop now and Metrolinx's support for a new GO station at Concord is critical to implement a comprehensive, transit-oriented site development

Extensive planning for the Concord GO Centre area has now been completed. The City of Vaughan Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan is currently under municipal context review. Support from Metrolinx now for the Concord GO station to be included in the GO RER 10-Year Program is crucial to develop the Concord GO Centre area as a comprehensive, mixed-use, transit supportive community. The Concord GO station is necessary to meet the land use density target established by the Province for Concord GO Centre as a Major Station Area. The majority of the developable land at Concord GO Centre is owned by a single land owner, providing the opportunity to advance development. The area is identified as brownfield and along with transit infrastructure readiness, including the Viva rapidway on Highway 7, nearby VMC subway and a Concord GO station location, site development could be advanced.

Beyond the immediate Concord GO Centre area, the Concord GO station would also serve adjacent lands. Employment area lands located immediately to the north and west of the proposed GO station location would accommodate a significant number of destination jobs. As a Mobility Hub, Concord GO aligns with the employment areas. Concord GO station would support ridership from the West Thornhill area located along Centre Street and Bathurst Street. Centre Street is an identified Policy Area served by YRT/Viva transit and the future expansion of the Viva rapidway in 2019.

Support from Metrolinx to include a new GO station location at Concord within the GO RER 10-Year Program is necessary to continue to move forward now with the plans to develop Concord GO Centre as a Mobility Hub.



## New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

The York Region Official Plan and 2016 Transportation Master Plan identify the need for new GO stations in York Region to address transportation needs to 2041

The proposed Concord GO station location is situated along a planned Regional corridor on Highway 7. Regional corridors function as transit-oriented, mixed use high density corridors connecting the Region's four Provincially-designated Urban Growth Centres in the Cities of Markham and Vaughan and Towns of Newmarket and Richmond Hill. The Highway 7 corridor has been consistently identified for intensification and transit-oriented development in the York Region Official Plan since it was first introduced in 1994. Some of the Region's future highest density population and employment developments are planned for the section of Highway 7 between Highway 400 and Highway 407 (west of Dufferin Street), running directly through the Concord GO Centre area.

GO stations at Concord, Kirby and Mulock on the Barrie GO rail corridor and at Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive East on the Stouffville GO rail corridor are identified in the recently-approved York Region Transportation Master Plan.

Addition of the Concord GO station would help build an interconnected system of mobility in York Region by connecting Provincial investments with future transit initiatives

Transit networks are strengthened when connections are enabled between intersecting rapid transit lines such as GO Regional Express Rail and Viva rapidway services. The Concord GO station would provide the Barrie GO RER service with a direct connection to existing Viva bus rapid transit and YRT conventional services on Highway 7 to achieve the goal of developing an interconnected system of mobility.

Currently, both the Stouffville and Richmond Hill GO rail corridors include GO stations directly connecting to existing east-west YRT/Viva services on Highway 7 at the Unionville and Langstaff stations respectively. Addition of the Concord GO station to the RER program will enable creation of an integrated, higher-order transit network providing connections between four Provincially-designated Urban Growth Centres in York Region. Significant Provincial investment has been made into delivery of Viva rapidways. Connecting the Highway 7 rapidway with RER service on the Barrie rail corridor is the next step to realize and leverage benefits of this investment.

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The Concord GO station offers an opportunity to connect to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation planned Highway 407 Transitway

In 2007, Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) initiated an Environmental Assessment study for the first segment of the 407 Transitway extending from just east of Highway 400 to Kennedy Road. The Environmental Assessment was approved in 2011 and included the Concord GO station as one of seven approved 407 Transitway stations. The Concord GO station was defined as an intermodal station connecting the 407 Transitway to the Barrie GO regional commuter rail line and providing access by bus services, including YRT/Viva, to commuter parking and passenger pick-up and drop-off.

A [March 2011](#) Council report adopted staff recommendations to support the 407 Transitway, subject to satisfactory resolution of outstanding issues submitted by York Region and the Cities of Markham and Vaughan, either through an amendment to the Environmental Assessment or during the project design phase.

The 407 Transitway is identified in the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan and recommended for implementation in the current 25 year network schedule.

Metrolinx's Initial Business Case would benefit from updated information and new assumptions on population, employment and parking estimates

Following publication of the Metrolinx RER New Stations Initial Business Case in late June 2016, staff conducted a comprehensive review of the Initial Business Case and identified items for further consideration and discussion with Metrolinx.

In collaboration with the City of Vaughan, staff from Transportation Services, Planning and Economic Development and YRRTC completed an analytical review of the business case for the Concord GO station. The analytical review raised a number of questions on the assumptions that went into developing the strategic, operational, financial and economic business cases. Attachment 4 includes the complete set of questions sent to Metrolinx for their consideration.

## New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

Future land use, transit-oriented development and Regional transportation services substantiate a request to Metrolinx to consider further evaluation of the Concord GO station at this time

Staff is requesting Metrolinx consider potential improvements to the Initial Business Case for the Concord GO station based on planned population and employment growth and future land uses supporting transit-oriented development and Provincial transit infrastructure investments. Potential improvements include:

- Using higher growth projections as defined in the Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan, which support the achievement of intensification targets set out in the Proposed Growth Plan 2016.
- Expanding the station catchment area to reflect land use context including industrial uses in the immediate vicinity and adjacent residential areas further to the west of the proposed station.
- Increasing ridership estimates illustrating the demand for an express rail service option into downtown Toronto from south Vaughan and also for commuters travelling north to destinations in York Region and beyond to Barrie.
- Evaluating Concord GO station as a destination, as well as an origin station. The Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan envisioned the area as a destination station because of planned commercial use for this area, future job projections and connectivity to other employment nodes outside of Downtown Toronto, such as Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, the Highway 7 corridor, Toronto Pearson International Airport and the Mississauga/Highway 401 corridor.
- Reducing the number of parking spaces evaluated in the Initial Business Case to projections included in the 407 Transitway Environmental Assessment would significantly reduce construction costs of the GO station, which could increase its viability, considering Concord Centre is planned as a potential Mobility Hub.

## New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

Additional future GO stations in York Region require consideration for inclusion in the GO rail network

Other potential GO stations, as identified in the Transportation Master Plan 2016 (Attachment 5), will be considered as part of future studies. In addition to advancing the evaluation for the Concord GO station as a priority location with Metrolinx, staff will continue to coordinate and work with local municipalities and Metrolinx to protect for GO station locations at Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and at Major Mackenzie Drive on the Stouffville GO rail corridor for future analysis and investment.

New GO stations and RER service in York Region support the 2016 Transportation Master Plan and Vision 2051 goal area of building an interconnected system of mobility

The Region envisions a future where a seamless network of mobility options provides access to all destinations for residents, employees and visitors, promotes active healthy living and safely and efficiently moves people and goods. Staff is continuing to work with Metrolinx to support the delivery of RER service to the Region, including construction of new GO stations to facilitate a better integrated, comprehensive transit system that supports the functioning of communities and economic well-being of York Region.

### 5. Financial Implications

The Province has invested significantly in improving transit infrastructure within York Region

To date, the Province has invested about \$1.8 billion in rapid transit infrastructure in York Region. A new GO station at Concord will leverage those investments to support Provincial targets for future growth, land use planning and transit-oriented development.

Financial impacts of new GO stations to be introduced through the Regional Express Rail Program are yet to be determined

The introduction of new GO stations in York Region has the potential to have significant financial impacts on York Region capital and operating budgets with respect to the surrounding road networks. Since the new GO stations will serve to increase GO ridership, it is recommended the Ministry of Transportation and Metrolinx fully fund these stations as part of the RER 10-Year Program. Staff has been informed by Metrolinx separate discussions are underway between

## New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail

Metrolinx and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to determine full cost impacts of new GO stations and potential additional funding requirements.

### 6. Local Municipal Impact

New GO stations at Kirby in the City of Vaughan and at Mulock in the Town of Newmarket, as well as potential additional new stations, such as Concord in the City of Vaughan and at Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and at Major Mackenzie Drive East in the City of Markham, will benefit York Region and local municipalities. Expansion of the GO transit network and introduction of new GO stations has the ability to transform local communities by attracting transit-oriented, mixed use, high density development. The recommended and proposed new GO station locations serve as key connectors in York Region's higher-order transit system.

Proximity to transit services is of significant importance for new developments in York Region and will enable local municipalities and the Region to achieve Provincially-mandated intensification targets. Resulting increases in development charges and transit ridership will help York Region accommodate anticipated population and employment growth to 2041.

Regional staff have engaged municipal partners at the Cities of Vaughan and Markham to promote additional new GO stations at Concord, Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive East locations. The City of Vaughan strongly supports the Concord GO station and fully supports the Region's request to Metrolinx to reconsider the site for further evaluation. The City of Markham is advocating for new GO stations at Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive East. Staff are continuing to work with the City of Markham to understand Metrolinx's evaluation of these GO stations and the reason they did not make the shortlist for the Initial Business Case.

### 7. Conclusion

Metrolinx plays a significant role in addressing future regional transportation needs

York Region is committed to partnering with Metrolinx to provide an integrated transportation network that meets the needs of our residents and workers today and into the future. Staff fully supports Metrolinx's recommendation to introduce two new GO stations at Kirby in the City of Vaughan and Mulock in the Town of Newmarket, with the delivery of RER service to the Region. To ensure

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transportation services and infrastructure are aligned with Provincial planning objectives, staff requests Metrolinx reconsider their decision to exclude a new GO station at Concord within the RER 10-Year Program.

Future land uses in the Concord area, existing and planned transit network connectivity and Provincial transit infrastructure investments, provide the rationale for requesting Metrolinx to reconsider Concord GO station as a priority location for investment as part of the RER Program.

For more information on this report, please contact Angela Gibson, Acting Director, Infrastructure Management and Project Management Office, at ext. 75949.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

September 22, 2016

Attachments (5)

7003750

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

**To:** Metrolinx Board of Directors  
**From:** Bruce McCuaig, President and CEO  
**Date:** June 28, 2016  
**Re:** GO Regional Express Rail Update

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**Executive Summary:**

This report provides an update on progress made toward meeting the ten year GO Regional Express Rail commitment in terms of infrastructure advancement, public engagement, and station access, and makes recommendations on new stations and the integration of the City of Toronto SmartTrack concept into the GO RER program.

The report covers the following areas:

- The extensive work that is underway to advance the GO RER program.
- Recommendations on new stations to add to the GO Transit rail network, subject to formal receipt of legislated approvals and funding from the appropriate sources.
- Recommendations on continuing work to integrate the City of Toronto proposal for SmartTrack into the GO RER 10 year program including plans for an Eglinton West Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension between Mount Dennis and Pearson International Airport, as well as other projects of shared interest.
- Cost-sharing arrangements that need to be developed among the various orders of government to support incremental additions to the existing GO RER 10 year transit expansion program, as well as to support operations and maintenance of the existing Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT) program.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors:

RESOLVED:

1. Approve the following new stations to be included in the GO RER 10 year program subject to formal confirmation to Metrolinx of funding by November 30, 2016 as well as meeting the conditions presented in Section 1.4 of this report:
  - i. On the Barrie corridor, new stations at Spadina (at Front St.), Bloor-Davenport (Bloor St. near Lansdowne Ave.), Kirby (near Keele St.), Mulock (near Bayview Ave.), and Innisfil (at 6th Line),
  - ii. On the Kitchener corridor, new stations at Liberty Village (at King St. West), St. Clair West (near Weston Rd.), and Breslau (near Greenhouse Rd.),
  - iii. On the Lakeshore East and Stouffville corridors, new stations at Don Yard/Unilever (between Cherry St. and Eastern Ave.) and Gerrard (near Carlaw Ave.),

- iv. On the Stouffville corridor, new stations at Lawrence East (between Kennedy Rd. and Midland Ave.) and Finch (between Kennedy Rd. and Midland Ave.).
- 1.1. Request that municipalities where these recommended new stations (1.(i) through to 1.(iv)) are located provide resolutions to Metrolinx by November 30, 2016 indicating their agreement to the station location(s) and demonstrating their commitment to implementing transit supportive land-uses around stations, and sustainable station access.
  - 1.2. Advise municipalities that the following stations are not being included in GO RER 10 year program at this time:
    - i. Highway 7-Concord (Vaughan)
    - ii. Park Lawn (Toronto)
    - iii. Woodbine, at Highway 27 (Toronto)
  - 1.3. Advise municipalities that Metrolinx will continue to collaborate to improve the strategic, economic, financial, and operations cases for these locations (1.2(i) through to 1.2(iii)) and bring them forward for future consideration to the Metrolinx Board. Additional considerations will include any additional land use in the area that supports transit-oriented development and optimizes provincial transit infrastructure investments.
  - 1.4. Direct staff, as part of the ongoing regional transportation planning legislated review process, to continue ongoing dialogue with all municipalities to ensure that Metrolinx has current information regarding the status of locations that might be considered as part of the GO network beyond the ten-year window of the current GO RER program.
  - 1.5. Direct staff to thank all the municipalities across the region who have provided input to this analysis for their ongoing collaboration and share this report with them.
2. Endorse an integrated SmartTrack Concept including GO Transit Rail Corridors and Eglinton West LRT extension:
    - 2.1. Endorse a GO RER concept that integrates SmartTrack concept with up to six new stations at: St. Clair West (at Weston Rd.), Liberty Village (at King St. West), Don Yard/Unilever (between Cherry St. and Eastern Ave.), Gerrard (near Carlaw Ave.), Lawrence East (between Kennedy Rd. and Midland Ave.), and Finch (between Kennedy Rd. and Midland Ave.) and an estimated capital cost of \$0.7 to 1.1B (\$2014; costs do not include escalation, financing costs, lifecycle and operating and maintenance).
    - 2.2. Advance the preferred Eglinton West LRT extension alignment with 11 to 15 stops between Mt. Dennis and Pearson Airport, running at grade with targeted grade separations, consistent with the findings of the Eglinton West LRT Initial Business Case (2016), subject to further engagement with the local community, with an estimated cost



of \$1.5 to 2.1B (\$2014; costs do not include escalation, financing costs, lifecycle and operating and maintenance) and direct staff to:

- i. Collaborate with the City of Toronto, TTC and the local community to review traffic operations, stop locations, and grade separations and further develop the Eglinton West LRT integrating design excellence and sustainability objectives.
  - ii. Continue working with the Greater Toronto Airports Authority on the alignment connecting to Toronto Pearson International Airport.
  - iii. Coordinate planning with the City of Mississauga on the interface with the BRT.
  - iv. Continue to consult with the public in Toronto and Mississauga on the development of the Eglinton West LRT plans.
3. Direct staff to continue discussions among orders of government to confirm that costs incremental to the GO RER program, including, new stations in the City of Toronto, the Eglinton West LRT extension, infrastructure and services will need to be funded through contribution from the City of Toronto, the Government of Canada and other sources of funding, including local development contributions. This includes incremental capital construction costs, escalation, financing, lifecycle and operations/maintenance of the incremental new service.
- 3.1. In order for SmartTrack components to be procured alongside RER, the Province and Metrolinx require the City of Toronto's commitment to full funding (including capital with escalation and financing, operating/maintenance costs for SmartTrack, and operating/maintenance costs for LRTs) by November 30, 2016.
4. Direct staff, as set out in the Metrolinx Board June 25, 2015 report entitled "Yonge Relief Network Study," to advance the Relief Line in collaboration with the City of Toronto and the Toronto Transit Commission to ensure that it achieves significant relief to the Yonge subway and is an integrated approach incorporating further business case analysis and the current work by the City of Toronto, alongside the other Next Wave projects.

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## **Background:**

In 2015, the Province of Ontario committed funding of \$13.5 billion for extensive rail improvements through the GO Regional Express Rail (GO RER) program. Metrolinx is currently implementing the program, a transformation which will bring faster and more frequent GO train service across the region, with electrification in core areas. Five GO corridors will be upgraded to GO RER service levels – 15 minutes (or better) service in both directions throughout the day. Trains will be electrified which shortens trip times by up to 20 percent. Numerous other infrastructure improvements will also be made to enable GO RER service, including additional tracks, bridge reconstruction, grade separation, and more.

Implementing GO RER is expected to add 4,500 new weekly train trips, for a total of 6,000 weekly trips, and increase GO ridership by 140 percent over the next fifteen years. GO train ridership in 2014 was approximately 54 million annual trips. With the implementation of GO RER on five corridors, ridership is forecast to climb to 127 million annual trips over the next fifteen years. This package of GO enhancements is a step-change for rail service in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, transforming it from what is now largely a commuter service to a true regional rail system, comparable to similar

systems in world-class cities across the globe. The full program of GO upgrades, including service, infrastructure, costs and benefits, is presented in the [GO RER Initial Business Case](#), available on the Metrolinx website.

The Metrolinx Board of Directors has received a number of previous reports on the development and implementation of the GO RER program, as follows:

- Beginning in June 2014, Metrolinx staff began to report on the vision for GO improvements in the context of world-class rail networks.
- In September 2014, Metrolinx staff began to provide further specifics on the GO RER program, including the electrification and service components.
- In December 2014, staff reported on the GO RER workplan, initial direction for integrating GO RER and SmartTrack, the community engagement strategy, and quick wins.
- In March 2015, staff updated the Board on issues by corridor, integration with SmartTrack, and public consultation.
- In September 2015, staff provided an update on progress by corridor as well as on system-wide elements like signalling and Union Station. A framework for New Stations analysis was also presented at this meeting
- In February 2016, a detailed update on electrification was provided, along with updates on GO RER-SmartTrack integration, New Stations analysis, and grade separation analysis.

### **Analysis:**

This report presents analysis and updates on a number of GO Regional Express Rail-linked initiatives. GO RER is a complex program, with a number of components, all of which are progressing concurrently. The report begins with an update on the implementation of infrastructure upgrades to support GO RER, including environmental approvals, construction, and public engagement. From there, it presents an update on analysis supporting the GO RER Station Access Strategy. The report then presents analysis on expansions to the GO RER program including new stations and integration with the City of Toronto's SmartTrack initiative, including both rail corridors and the Eglinton West LRT. The report presents an update on Metrolinx work alongside the City of Toronto in advancing related rapid transit initiatives. Finally, the report provides information on cost-sharing of infrastructure and service. A number of appendices to this report provide further details and supporting evidence.

## ***1. GO Regional Express Rail Update***

### **1.1 Infrastructure Implementation Update**

When the provincial government announced its commitment to the GO RER program as part of its Moving Ontario Forward plan, it set in motion an extensive program within Metrolinx to plan, design and build the infrastructure to support greatly enhanced GO rail service across the region. All told, Metrolinx is undertaking one of the largest infrastructure projects in North America. It will consist of over 150 km of new track to ensure uninterrupted service, an array of new bridges and tunnels to eliminate intersections of road and rail traffic, enhancement, renovation and construction of new stations, the electrification of the core network including Union Station and the acquisition of new electric fleet.

Each one of these initiatives is a significant undertaking in its own right, requiring work that ranges from the conceptual to design to delivery. Adding to the complexity of the task is the need to integrate this plan with existing GO expansion efforts just to meet growing demand. As noted in section 1.2, an extensive region-wide consultation has been undertaken to gather feedback on the plan for what should be built. At the same time, discussions on how best to integrate with the City of Toronto's SmartTrack initiative have also been held and are reported on today.

Since the announcement of GO RER, substantial progress has been made. Eleven Metrolinx-led GO RER related Environmental Assessments are completed, in progress or about to be launched. Discussions on potential grade separations have been initiated with municipalities. On many parts of the network, construction is already underway, including track work, layovers and station improvements. In other cases, efforts are underway to finalize planning and design. In all cases, the work requires partnership with local municipalities and the input of critical stakeholders, the broader public and the local community. Metrolinx supports this framework as essential for getting decisions right.

It is important to note that GO RER is the most significant focus of GO expansion work, however, there are other areas of GO expansion also underway. Metrolinx has been expanding GO rail across various sections of the network to respond to growth and demand across the GTHA. Examples of this include the recent addition of additional track on the Kitchener corridor to support more GO service and the Union Pearson Express, moving to half-hour service all day on the Lakeshore corridor, and improvements to Union Station. What this means is that there is work that is already complete, underway or substantially advanced for construction that helps position GO RER for success. Metrolinx has been able to advance work in each corridor to deliver more immediate expansion of the service as well as the foundation for GO RER. An update on these works follows:

#### Barrie Corridor

GO RER plans for the Barrie corridor include over 30 miles of new track, layover facilities, rail/rail and rail/road grade separations and station improvements.

Planning and design work and Environmental Assessment (EA) to support double tracking along much of the corridor is underway.

The Environmental Assessment for the Caledonia Station was completed in February 2016 with final approval issued by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change on April 28, 2016.

The Notice of Completion for the Davenport Diamond Rail Overpass EA issued on May 26, 2016, has been submitted to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and is awaiting approval. Work also continues on an EA to add an additional track to the corridor to support service in both directions. A second series of public meetings is anticipated to be held this fall.

In addition to the studies that are underway to support the infrastructure that is needed along the Barrie corridor to deliver more GO service, work is beginning on a new layover facility in Barrie, construction of new track between York University and Rutherford Road is underway, as is construction of a new Downsview Park GO/TTC station, tunnels and platforms are being added at existing stations to accommodate more trains, and this summer, work will begin on the planned widening of the Dufferin Street bridge.

Metrolinx is investing in several targeted parking structures along the Barrie Corridor. The feasibility studies for parking structures at Maple and King GO Stations were completed in January 2016. The contract to design the Rutherford parking structure was awarded to R. V. Anderson Associates Limited in June. In addition, a passing track providing increased flexibility and reliability in scheduling from Steeles Avenue to south of Rutherford GO station is scheduled for completion by Fall 2017.

#### Kitchener Corridor

GO RER plans for the Kitchener corridor include new track, layover facilities, station improvements, some track realignment and the construction of a new rail tunnel under the 401.

The EA that was completed for the UP Express also studied the addition of a 4th track and the expansion of the tunnel under the 401/409 highways to support GO service running in both directions in addition to the UP Express service. Work is being done to move these projects forward to more detailed design and construction. Work is continuing on the Shirley Avenue layover facility in Kitchener in anticipation of the extension of two additional peak trips in the fall for a total of four new trips to Kitchener. On June 14, 2016, the Province announced an agreement-in-principle with CN Rail, proposing additional planning and technical analysis to build a new freight corridor between Bramalea and Milton.

Work is being completed for the new parking lots at the Weston GO and UP Express Station. These new parking lots bring the total number of spaces to 330 to help support demand from both GO Transit and UP Express customers.

#### Lakeshore East Corridor

GO RER plans for Lakeshore East include new track, grade separations, station modifications and numerous bridge modifications.

Three public meetings were held at the end of May 2016 on the expansion of the Lakeshore East Corridor between Guildwood and Pickering GO Stations as part of the EA process. This includes proposed addition of a third track, modifications to two rail bridges, electrification enabling works and grade separations at Scarborough Golf Club Road, Galloway Road and Morningside Avenue.

Work is also underway at Guildwood station to build a new station building, platforms, tunnels, elevators, two Kiss and Rides, and additional parking.

#### Lakeshore West Corridor

GO RER Plans for the Lakeshore West corridor include new track, corridor expansions, new stations and station modifications, layover facilities and grade separations. Planning is underway for the GO RER Corridor Enabling Works, and preliminary design is underway at several locations including significant station improvements at Mimico, Long Branch Station, Port Credit, Aldershot, and Hamilton GO Centre. Final construction work is targeted to wrap up this year at West Harbour Station, Burlington Station, and the Lewis Road Layover Facility.

Ongoing construction projects include Exhibition Station Rehabilitation, Bronte Station Platform and Parking Rehabilitation, and rail corridor expansion projects including bridges, retaining walls, and track and signal improvements required to provide future two-way-all-day service to Hamilton.

### Milton Corridor

With GO RER, the number of trips on the Milton line is projected to increase by up to 30 percent over the next five years, requiring work to improve stations and parking.

To help support this added level of service, construction is underway on new layover facilities that will house and store trains. Plans are also underway for improvements at Cooksville, Kipling and Milton stations.

### Richmond Hill Corridor

With GO RER, the number of trips on the Richmond Hill line is projected to increase by up to 35 percent over the next five years, requiring works including station improvements. The tender for the construction of Bloomington GO Station, the new northern terminus of the Richmond Hill line, is scheduled for release in July 2016. The tender is for the construction of the station and integrated parking structure, as well as road access from Highway 404 into the station.

Construction of the Gormley Station is ongoing and progressing well; the station is expected to open for partial train services on the first week of December 2016. Staff are also working with the community on plans to commemorate Mennonite heritage at the new station.

### Stouffville Corridor

GO RER plans for the Stouffville corridor include double tracking, station modifications and improvements, new layover facilities and road/rail grade separations.

Phase 1 double tracking work continues on the corridor and a public meeting was held on June 1st in preparation for the start of Phase 2 work beginning. This work includes track expansion, signal work along the corridor and the installation of noise walls. A community workshop was also held for the redesign of Agincourt Station to inform the design of the station as well as to gain a better understanding of pedestrian access to the station.

Parts of the project along the full 17-kilometre segment are currently being designed or planned. These include adding a second track to the remaining single-tracked parts of this segment and expanding Unionville, Milliken, Agincourt and Kennedy GO stations to accommodate the second track. Construction will begin as designs are completed, starting in 2016.

The construction tender for the Lincolnville Layover Expansion was released on May 13, 2016 and closed on June 7, 2016. The expansion will include an additional track for train storage and upgrades to the existing track to accommodate future additional peak-hour and peak-direction service on the Stouffville Corridor.

### Union Station Rail Corridor

As the hub of the GO rail network, work in the Union Station Corridor will be a cornerstone for the network. Work will include the installation of new track, crossovers, platform enhancements, signals, and storage facilities.

Signals continue to be replaced throughout the Union Station corridor to update and improve the reliability of service.

Work is continuing on the Union Station Trainshed project. The current plan is to have the existing contractor complete a reduced scope of work, and then to incorporate the balance of the trainshed rehabilitation into a subsequent procurement, to ensure the electrification component can be contracted through a competitive process.

### Network Infrastructure Update

#### Network Electrification

As part of GO RER, five GO rail corridors will see all or core portions electrified to support the increased service. The EA for the electrification of the GO network is ongoing and consultation with stakeholders and communities are progressing well. Metrolinx has met with several stakeholder groups, including municipalities, members of parliament at the Provincial and Federal levels, First Nations communities and other stakeholder groups.

The next series of public meetings is anticipated to be held in October where feedback will be requested on the environmental studies that are being completed.

#### Network Facilities

As the system expands, there are a number of network facilities and supports that will need to be enhanced to support the new level of service and increase in rail traffic. Construction on the fuel upgrade system upgrade at the Willowbrook Rail Maintenance Facility began in June and is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Construction of the new East Rail Maintenance Facility continues and is progressing well to completion by December 2017.

Construction of the new GO Transit Control Centre is underway and is expected to be completed by Fall of 2018.

Construction of the new Mimico Train Layover Facility, located across from Willowbrook, continues and is scheduled for completion later this year.

The 30 percent design of a new Rail Operations and Train Crew Facility at Willowbrook is ongoing and a new design build tender is expected to be issued in August 2016.

#### Grade Separations

There are 185 level crossings across the GO system where rail and road traffic intersect. As traffic volumes increase, grade separation of these crossings can be considered. Typically, grade separation projects are initiated by road authorities and addressed on a case by case basis. Projects are cost-shared between road and rail authorities in accordance with Canadian Transportation Agency guidelines.

In conjunction with GO RER, Metrolinx identified an opportunity to consider potential grade separations on a network-wide basis. Metrolinx has conducted a preliminary assessment of all crossing locations and has begun discussions with municipalities on the outcomes of this work to help inform respective priorities. These discussions will continue over the summer and staff will report back to the Board in the fall on the outcomes.

Planning work on specific grade separations continues on projects that have been previously identified. The Town of Oakville completed an environmental assessment for a grade separation of Kerr Street on the Lakeshore East corridor in 2009. The City of Toronto is in the midst of conducting an environmental assessment of the Steeles Avenue crossing on the Stouffville corridor. York Region recently completed an environmental assessment of improvements to Rutherford Road, including a grade separation where it intersects with the Barrie corridor. Metrolinx is consulting on three crossing locations on the Lakeshore East corridor as part of its preparations for an upcoming environmental assessment of track expansion plans.

The GTHA has seen tremendous growth over the past decades. As a result, the volume of traffic on roads and rail corridors has increased with this growth. Metrolinx is committed to working with municipal partners to identify and advance projects in the context of construction timelines and each organization's available budgets. Projects that cannot proceed in conjunction with GO RER will continue to be considered for future implementation.

#### Design Excellence and GO RER

Design Excellence has identified a number of opportunities to advance design objectives on network wide program elements such as stations, grade separations, bridges, stations, noise walls, and the overhead catenary system. The GO Transit Design Excellence Guidelines, currently being developed, will provide guidance to Metrolinx teams and their consultants working on all station projects. This work is being supported by the Regional Transit Wayfinding Harmonization and Integrated Art initiatives.

The Metrolinx Design Review Panel (MDRP) is key to support the GO RER program. The MDRP reviews and provides non-binding advice on architecture, urban design and landscape architecture for select Metrolinx capital projects. In terms of our corporate design objectives, the benefits of good design must be considered in the context of the project's life span and its ability to draw increased ridership. The investment in design excellence has been proven to yield substantial long-term savings, both in the GTHA and other jurisdictions.

## **1.2 Public and Stakeholder Engagement**

Since the announcement of the GO RER program in 2015, over 105 meetings have been held with communities and stakeholders across the region to further the planning and design of the infrastructure that was identified in the Initial Business Case.

In addition, in February and March 2016, Metrolinx hosted 15 Regional Open Houses in Aurora, Barrie, Brampton, Burlington, Innisfil, Lincolnville, Maple, Mississauga, Oakville, Pickering, Toronto, Unionville, and Whitby; including three in partnership with York Region, and an additional five meetings in partnership with the City of Toronto. The public meetings were attended by nearly 2,000 residents and stakeholders with nearly 3,000 additional visitors to the MetrolinxEngage online consultation portal.



The Open Houses were a legislated component of the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) for the Electrification of the GO Transit Rail Network, and also served as venues for Metrolinx to inform the community on the New Station Analysis and Station Access Plan, Integrated Transit Fares, and the Legislated Review of the Regional Transportation Plan, as well as seek feedback. In partnership with the City of Toronto, Metrolinx also consulted on GO RER-SmartTrack integration and the Eglinton West LRT extension.

The [www.metrolinxengage.com](http://www.metrolinxengage.com) site served as an additional touchpoint, the digital equivalent of attending a public meeting. The same information and questions posed to attendees at the public meetings were available online and visitors had the option of being actively engaged in the conversations, which are posted for all to see and comment on for each project. All comments provided through the website or in person at the public meetings were recorded.

In total, 138 comments were submitted at the Open Houses and 281 comments were submitted on the website (2,791 people visited Metrolinxengage.com over 4,454 sessions with one quarter of visitors returning for additional visits).

#### Key Findings from the Public Consultation

- A number of comments were received in support of a station at Park Lawn; Mount Dennis, Kirby, Finch, Ellesmere, Dorval, Winston Churchill, Whites Rd., and Woodbine also received individual submissions in favour.
- On station access, key themes included the need for safer pedestrian and cyclist access to stations, better local transit connections, as well as additional parking. Members of the public also noted that the current fare structure favours those who drive to GO stations and is unfair to those arriving via alternative means.
- On the GTHA Fare Integration Strategy, comments included the need to make sure fares are affordable and the need for integration with TTC and UP Express. Members of the public who provided comments were generally comfortable with distance-based fares, but favoured a single fee per zone, rather than one which distinguishes by service type.

### 1.3 Station Access Plan

Metrolinx is currently developing a GO RER Station Access Plan. Increased GO service needs to be supported by easy and convenient station access solutions in order to be successful. Sufficient and more sustainable station access and egress along with a reduced reliance on parking is critical to meeting GO RER ridership forecasts and provincial, Metrolinx, and municipal policies.

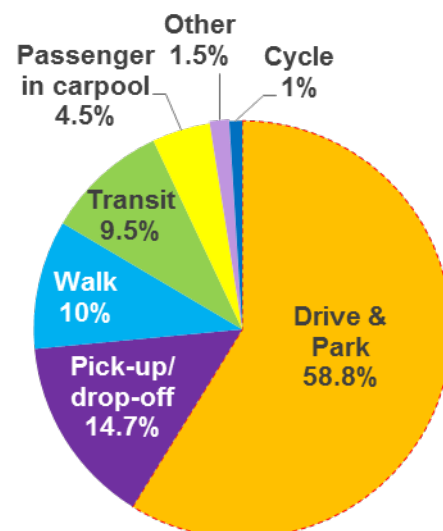
Phase I of the background review of GO station access was completed in Spring 2016. Phase I included the development of station access profiles, research topic papers on active transportation, parking, transit, and pick-up and drop off, as well as a summary background report. As well, Metrolinx engaged with internal stakeholders, municipal staff, and the public (the latter as part of the Metrolinx Regional Open Houses). Key findings from Phase 1:

- There are significant opportunities to encourage more walking to and from GO stations by improving pedestrian connections within and surrounding the stations (40 percent of customers living within a 10 minute walk of their station are not currently walking to their station). Additionally, the majority of current customers live within biking distance of GO (75 percent).

Increasing biking to GO is most feasible at stations where there is a dense street network and bike friendly streets and paths.

- It is essential for Metrolinx to work in coordination with municipal transit providers to increase service frequencies and better align the schedules of priority routes with direct connections to GO stations to help support increased use of local transit as a station access mode. Additionally, local transit use can be further supported by expanding the capacity of existing bus bays, providing dedicated access routes and implementing transit priority on and adjacent to the station site.
- GO RER is forecasted to increase demands on pick-up and drop-off facilities. Metrolinx can support the growth in use of this mode by expanding the capacity of existing facilities and exploring a wider range of configurations including short-term parking.
- Parking facilities at GO stations today are at capacity or nearing capacity and lack of available parking is regularly identified as a key concern by customers. GO RER is forecasted to increase the demand for parking across the network over the coming years. Even with improvement to other access modes, auto access and parking will continue to be an important access mode and there will be some expansion of parking as part of the GO RER program. With significant challenges to expanding conventional parking at GO stations, there are opportunities to expand parking at select stations by incorporating shared parking (19 stations), remote parking (19 stations) and peer-to-peer parking (30 stations). Each of these alternative approaches to parking is described in further detail in the Station Access appendix.
- Phase II of the Plan Update, the Business Case Assessment, is currently underway. The Business Case is evaluating three potential scenarios (Business-as-usual, Incremental Change, Big Changes and Partnerships) to determine the preferred approach to meet the access needs of current and future GO riders:
  - If the 'Business-as-Usual' scenario were pursued, it would result in significant parking and modest focus in growing other modes. Parking would grow at today's rates (25-30,000 additional spaces) mostly through structure and surface lots. Additionally, some improvements will be made to walking, cycling and transit at GO stations. The impact of station related traffic on the surrounding road networks and communities would grow, as would operating budgets due to the costs of maintenance for parking facilities.
  - If the 'Incremental Change' scenario were pursued, it would result in limited parking expansion and an incremental shift in focus to growing other modes. Parking would grow at a slower rate than today (12-15,000 additional spaces) mostly through surface or leased lots and will be more actively managed through growing the carpool and reserve parking programs. Additionally, substantial improvements would be made to GO facilities for walking, cycling and transit. The scenario would also require new levels of cooperation and consensus building with public and private stakeholders to make improvements to non-Metrolinx facilities. Metrolinx operating budgets would need to grow to support these partnerships as well as increase subsidies for

**Figure 1: GO Station Access Mode Split (2015)**



- o local transit and ride-sharing.
- o If the ‘Big Changes and Partnerships’ scenario were pursued, it would result in minimal parking expansion and an aggressive shift in focus to growing other modes. Parking growth would be limited to approximately 5-7,000 new spaces, mostly through leased lots. This scenario builds on the Incremental Change scenario and further enhances GO and municipal facilities and infrastructure for walking, cycling and transit. It also would result in enhanced parking management solutions. This scenario would require a high degree of coordination across all levels of government and a wide range of public and private stakeholders. Operating budgets at Metrolinx would grow to support this coordination as well as increase subsidies for local transit and ride-sharing.
- o Municipal engagement on the scenarios was completed in June. Municipal stakeholders expressed support for limiting expansion of parking around GO stations, pursue parking management strategies, and work collaboratively to further greater use of local transit and active modes of transportation to GO stations. A number of municipal stakeholders suggested that additional funding will be required in order for them to deliver service increases and municipal infrastructure upgrades.

An updated draft Plan will be developed that reflects a preferred scenario and project findings to date. Internal and external stakeholders will be engaged on the draft Plan, which is expected to be presented to the Board in September 2016.

#### **1.4 Recommended New Stations for the GO Rail Network**

New GO stations are being considered as part of the GO RER program and are undergoing thorough analysis through the business case methodology. In September 2015, potential new station locations and analysis methodology were presented to the Board. The presentation identified general policy objectives that the implementation of a new station should meet:

- Improving service and adding riders,
- Minimizing impact on trip time for existing customers,
- Maintaining appropriate station spacing for the vehicle technology,
- Supporting existing regional and municipal plans, and
- Addressing the demands of local context (e.g. urban/suburban).

The February 2016 update presentation to the Board identified refinements to the analysis methodology. In February and March, at a series of public meetings, the public was engaged on station selection methodology and the 50+ potential locations being evaluated, as part of the Regional Open Houses held across the GTHA and on [metrolinxengage.com](http://metrolinxengage.com).

Following the public engagement period, the 50+ new GO RER station locations were further refined to a shortlist of 20+ locations on which further analysis was conducted, including Initial Business Cases. The shortlisted stations were selected based on the feedback from the public, input from municipalities and other key stakeholders, and through preliminary analysis performed in the Winter of 2016.

Seventeen Initial Business Cases were developed, examining stations ensuring that each site was analyzed and considered through multiple lenses. A suite of strategic, economic, financial, and deliverability/operational considerations were evaluated to create the basis for recommending new stations, including:

- Strategic
  - Policy alignment
  - Natural environment
  - Social inclusivity and accessibility
- Economic
  - Net present value
  - Safety benefits
  - GHG emissions reduction
  - Capital and operating cost recovery
  - Development potential
- Financial
  - Capital and operating cost
  - Revenue from ridership
- Deliverability and Operations
  - Constructability
  - Service and operational impacts
- Magnitude of impact for sensitivities
  - Alternate fare scenarios
  - Alternate development scenarios

Net Present Value (NPV) is an economic metric similar to a benefit-cost ratio that looks at a project's benefits minus the costs and describes the magnitude of project's cost-benefit ratio. NPV was the starting point for evaluation, reflecting the relative benefits to society and the regional economy. This tool captures strategic considerations like ridership, total travel time impacts including benefits to new passengers as well as negative impacts to existing passengers, and the potential for reductions in auto travel. Specific strategic and operational considerations that are not captured in NPV provide additional criteria for ranking:

- HIGH - all stations with positive economic performance should be recommended: bring economic value to the region, meet key station objectives.
- MEDIUM - sites with marginal economic performance but advantaged by strategic factors or sensitivities with likely positive impacts.
- LOW – sites with marginal economic performance but disadvantaged by strategic factors or sensitivities with likely negative impacts OR sites with poor economic performance but advantaged by strategic factors or sensitivities.
- VERY LOW - stations with lowest economic performance, which are not advantaged by strategic factors or likely sensitivities.

Beyond the individual assessment of station sites, the broader context of corridors and the full transportation network is also a critical lens. To this end, an analysis of Network Fit was layered on to the site-specific evaluation. Each new station adds time to the journey of passengers so there are limitations to the number of new stations that can be added to a line before they undermine the objective of providing effective service to a regional constituency served by the entire rail corridor. This must be considered in optimizing the investment of public dollars. In addition, stations should:

- Support the capacity to achieve planned GO RER service levels

- Provide direct or future connections to the wider transit network and/or support major corridor plans
- Minimize the degradation of performance improvement achieved through electrification; and
- Consider combined effects of stations on the same corridor.

As well, Metrolinx should:

- Prioritize stations with strong partnership opportunities and local community support
- Prioritize locations with maximum versatility in serving the widest reach of riders
- Include strategic considerations in addition to the results of the Initial Business Cases and the network fit analysis to also support strategic considerations to include factors like overall priorities of the various levels of government.

All the above factors were applied to the ranking of station to identify recommended new stations as part of the GO RER 10 year program:

- INCLUDED: Stations based on individual performance and/or with Network Fit, subject to further detailed analysis and conditions required to address contextual issues and/or determine network capacity
- NOT INCLUDED: Stations with Very Low Performance and no Network Fit justification or stations in clusters that are relegated based on superior performance of alternate location (i.e. may not be inherently poor performers but only one in cluster can proceed)

Based on the analysis completed to date, the following stations are recommended for inclusion in the GO RER and SmartTrack programs. They are presented below along with the conditions which must be met in order to advance implementation:

#### Barrie Corridor

- Spadina (near Front St.)
  - High travel time savings for both new and existing passengers in a high-density area with new development expected; relatively low capital costs due to existing rail yard
  - Subject to review of long-term (beyond 10 year GO RER program) train storage needs
- Bloor-Davenport (Bloor St. near Lansdowne Ave.)
  - Aligns with municipal and regional transportation and planning policies; connection to the Bloor-Danforth Subway at Lansdowne Station; delay to upstream riders with net loss in ridership anticipated
  - Subject to further analysis of corridor service implications and commitment by the City of Toronto to provide accessible, weather-protected, pedestrian connection to Lansdowne subway station
- Kirby (near Keele St.)
  - Located in area subject to new development; low forecast ridership, subject to additional work with municipality and landowners

- Subject to corridor service planning and further analysis of service implications
- Mullock (near Bayview Ave.)
  - Reasonable potential to add new GO ridership; overall net travel time savings and benefits
  - A grade separation at the location as well as further Metrolinx analysis are required
- Innisfil (near 6<sup>th</sup> Line)
  - Good opportunity to serve new and underserved market with limited impact on existing riders; new and existing GO riders shifting to this station could yield overall travel time benefits
  - Subject to existing financial agreements between City of Barrie and Town of Innisfil, confirmation of specific station location by the Town of Innisfil / County of Simcoe, and potential EA amendment or new EA.

#### Kitchener Corridor

- Liberty Village (near King St. West)
  - Key connection to major employment with large numbers of alighting passengers forecast and good travel time savings benefits; extremely tight corridor with potential construction and operations challenges
  - Subject to further development of corridor service plan and track configuration
- St. Clair West (near Weston Rd.)
  - Generally aligns with provincial and municipal policies for growth and intensification and overall net new ridership increase; deliverability challenges related to track realignment and bridge works; feasible locations may overlap catchment area with the Mt. Dennis station or limit transfer potential to adjacent streetcar
  - Subject to corridor service planning and further analysis of service implications
- Breslau (near Greenhouse Rd.)
  - Identified in previous Environmental Assessment; good opportunity to attract new riders from a wide catchment and support adjacent transit-oriented development; limited impact to existing passengers
  - Subject to confirmation of specific station location by Township of Woolwich / Region of Waterloo

#### Lakeshore East and Stouffville

- Don Yard/Unilever (between Cherry St. and Eastern Ave.)
  - Good connectivity and development potential; high potential capital cost and complex construction context
  - Specific location subject to further technical analysis, corridor service plan, and discussion with public and private landowners.

- Gerrard (near Carlaw Ave.)
  - Conforms well to provincial and municipal policies; positive travel time savings benefits, high capital cost and complex construction context due to modifications to the railway embankment and overpasses, and property requirements
  - Subject to detailed consideration of specific station location with the City of Toronto

#### Stouffville

- Lawrence East (between Kennedy Rd. and Midland Ave.)
  - Located in a low-density industrial and residential area; low forecast ridership, subject to additional work with municipality/landowners; connectivity to major bus route may yield higher ridership with fare integration
  - Subject to corridor service planning and further analysis of service implications
- Finch (between Kennedy Rd. and Midland Ave.)
  - Located in a low-density industrial and residential area; low forecast ridership, subject to additional work with municipality/landowners; connectivity to major bus route may yield higher ridership with fare integration
  - Subject to corridor service planning and further analysis of service implications
- The following stations, which underwent Initial Business Case analysis, are not recommended for inclusion in the GO RER program at this time. As further information becomes available and additional work is completed with municipalities, these stations could be brought forward for further consideration:

#### Barrie Corridor

- St. Clair West (at Caledonia Rd.)
  - Potential for new ridership but countered by very high impact on upstream riders and a challenging corridor context including a constrained site
- Highway 7 – Concord (east of Keele St.)
  - Higher construction costs; potential ridership catchment is limited by the new subway to the west; the potential for addition of new riders is offset by significant negative impacts to upstream riders

#### Lakeshore West

- Park Lawn (near Lakeshore Blvd. W)
  - Considered as alternative to Mimico GO station; potential performance is similar to Mimico GO station; advantages of marginal additional ridership from this location are outweighed by the high capital costs of new network and station infrastructure

Initial Business analysis may also be conducted on additional locations as new information emerges, such as Hwy-7 Woodbine on the Kitchener corridor, and Walkers Line-Cumberland on the Lakeshore West corridor.

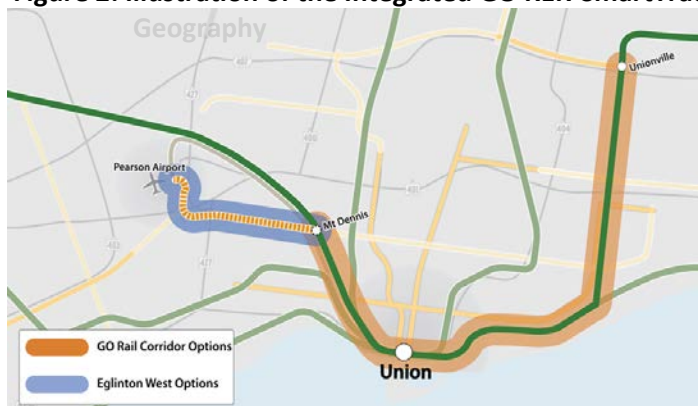
The remaining 24 stations that did not undergo initial Business Case analysis are identified for future consideration in the context of longer term regional transportation planning.

Following the Board's approval of the new GO RER stations recommendation, Metrolinx recommends that municipalities be requested to indicate their agreement with the station locations and demonstrate their commitment to implementing transit supportive land-uses around stations, and sustainable station access to enable first and last mile solutions. Metrolinx will continue to update and refine Initial Business Cases, and advance toward commencement of the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) processes, and the initiation of preliminary station design work. The IBCs for each station location are available on the Metrolinx website.

## 2. GO RER/SmartTrack Integration

The GO RER program, and particularly plans for GO RER within the City of Toronto, sets the context for the City of Toronto's SmartTrack initiative. GO currently has 19 stations in the City of Toronto. SmartTrack proposes utilizing the GO network to provide more service to the City of Toronto. In February 2015, Toronto City Council directed the City Manager to carry out a workplan and requested that Metrolinx include a number of SmartTrack elements in GO RER. The City's concept included a number of components including new stations, TTC fares, TTC service integration, frequency improvements on the Kitchener and Stouffville corridors, as well as a major transit service along Eglinton Avenue West to the Mississauga Airport Corporate Centre and Pearson Airport.

**Figure 2: Illustration of the Integrated GO RER-SmartTrack**

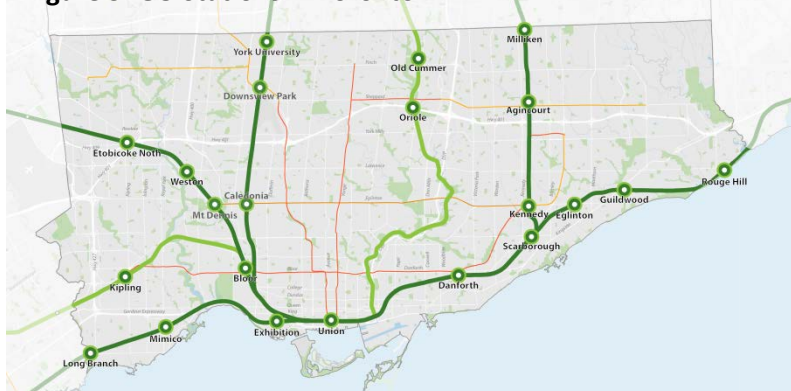


Metrolinx and the City of Toronto and TTC have been working closely together on options for GO RER-SmartTrack integration. These options are comprised of two components, as illustrated in Figure 2: GO rail corridors and Eglinton West. Each of these components is presented in the following section. The appendix to this report includes joint Metrolinx-City of Toronto initial business cases for the rail corridors component as well as the Eglinton West LRT.

### 2.1 GO Rail Corridor Options

All seven GO corridors run through the City of Toronto, stopping at 19 stations, and meeting at Union Station. As is evident in Figure 3, the GO corridors largely run through Etobicoke and Scarborough, providing downtown access opportunities to neighbourhoods located at a distance

**Figure 3: GO Stations in Toronto**





from the subway. By bringing fifteen minute or better two-way service to five of the GO corridors (highlighted in darker green on Figure 3), GO RER will bring more flexible travel options for residents and jobs within the City and to the broader region.

The City proposal triggered more intensive consideration of the potential for GO expansion within Toronto to improve access for residents and greater connectivity of the transit networks. Separate GO RER and SmartTrack concepts were deemed too infrastructure intensive and costly and resulting in a duplication of service, and are not being considered further.

The GO RER-SmartTrack Initial Business Case analyzed four options for integrating the City proposal with the committed GO RER program on the Kitchener and Stouffville corridors.

- Option A: Increased frequencies, 5 new stations
- Option B: Express and local service, 8 new stations
- Option C: Committed GO RER frequencies, 7-8 new stations
- Option D: Committed GO RER frequencies, 4-5 new stations

The GO RER-SmartTrack Initial Business Case built on and expanded the analysis completed for the GO RER Initial Business Case in order to determine the impact of SmartTrack on the GO RER benefits and costs. The GO RER Initial Business Case and this analysis are premised on the current fare structure, including existing GO fare structure for GO RER service, TTC fares, and existing transfer policy. The GTHA Fare Integration Strategy, currently underway, will serve as a vehicle for addressing transfer policy and other fare issues across the region.

GO RER is expected to utilize the available and planned track and corridor capacity. In this light, integrated GO RER-SmartTrack options were screened to determine the extent of additional infrastructure that they would require over and above that which is required for GO RER. Through this analysis, it was determined that Options A and B would each require extensive additional track infrastructure, resulting in the need for corridor widening, extensive property acquisition, consequent community impacts, and other deliverability challenges. In light of these findings, Options A and B were screened out and detailed analysis focused on Options C and D. In March 2016, City Council endorsed focusing analysis on Options C and D.

Strategic Case analysis suggests that GO RER will go a long way towards growing the attractiveness of GO rail as a travel option for Torontonians. Over and above GO RER, both Options C and D achieve the central objectives of integrating GO RER and SmartTrack in terms of improving access to GO within the City of Toronto. Both options increase ridership about nine to ten percent above GO RER. Because Option C includes more new stations than Option D, it goes further in increasing transit accessibility within Toronto but also imposes greater negative travel time impacts in comparison to Option D.

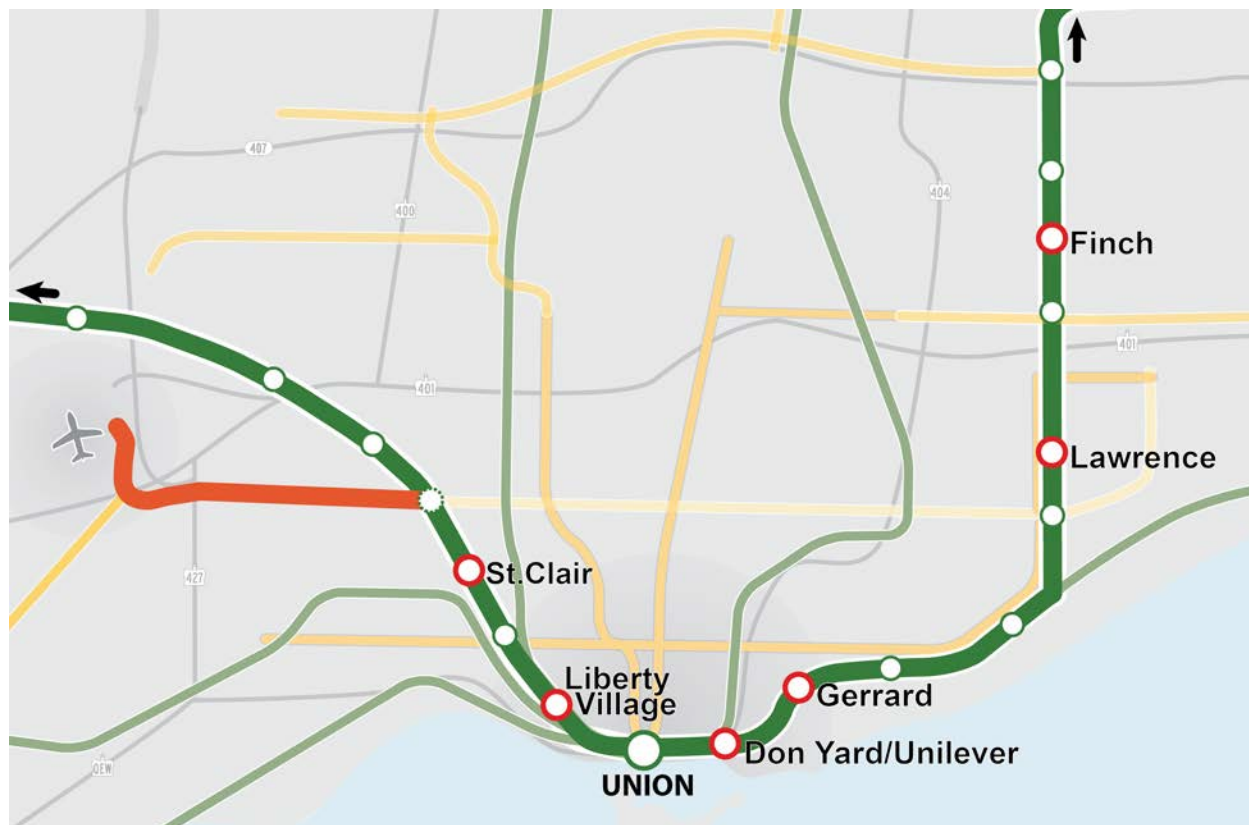
In terms of the Financial Case, Options C and D are relatively similar in terms of financial performance and affordability. Option C is slightly more expensive to both build and operate, compared to Option D, but the difference is marginal in the context of the larger GO RER infrastructure costs. It should be noted that capital cost estimates are preliminary and may not reflect the full costs of associated

structure works required to deliver the stations or comprehensive fleet costs, depending on ongoing operational analysis.

Economic Analysis measures the costs and benefits of a project including benefits such as travel time savings and congestion relief. This lens of analysis monetizes those benefits and then compares them to costs to provide an indication of the extent to which a project is a worthwhile investment. For the GO RER Kitchener and Stouffville corridors, benefits such as the dollar value of travel time savings exceed the capital and operating costs by a ratio of approximately 2:1. Economic analysis of the integrated options in the context of the overall analysis suggests that Option C would have a downward impact on the overall GO RER benefit-cost ratio, bringing about a decrease of approximately thirty percent while Option D would have a smaller downward impact, decreasing the GO RER benefit-cost ratio by approximately 18 percent. This suggests that Option D performs better than Option C from an economic perspective.

In summary, based on business case analysis, Option D is the stronger performing option for integration of SmartTrack with GO RER, striking the optimal balance between advancing local access within Toronto while preserving service quality for medium and longer distance passengers. Consistent with the findings of the new stations analysis, this report recommends six new stations for GO RER-SmartTrack integration: St. Clair West, Liberty Village, Don Yard/Unilever, Gerrard, Lawrence East, and Finch with an estimated cost of \$0.7 to 1.1B (\$2014, costs do not include escalation, financing costs, lifecycle and operating and maintenance).

**Figure 4: Recommended Integrated GO RER-SmartTrack Option, including GO Rail Corridors and Eglinton West LRT Extension**



## 2.2 Eglinton West Corridor Options

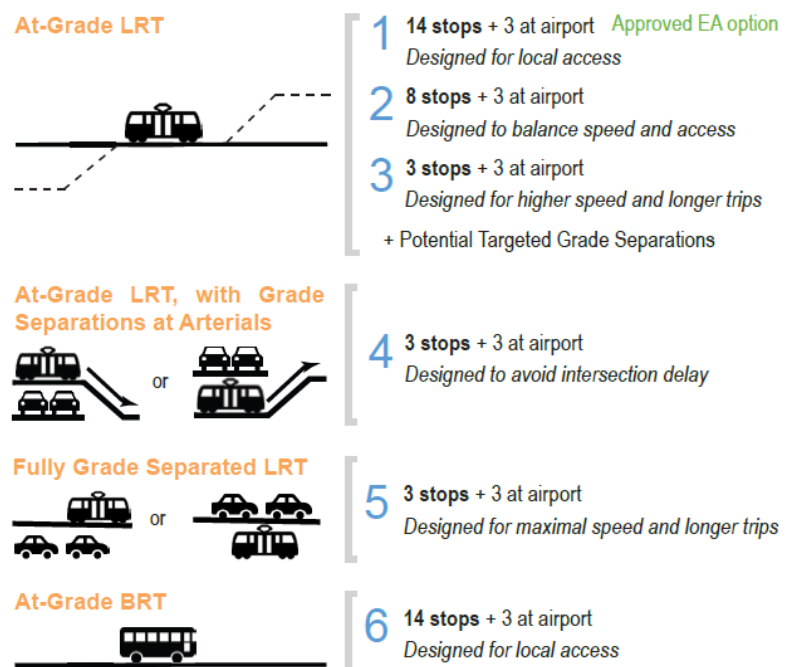
An Environmental Assessment for the full Eglinton Crosstown LRT from Kennedy Station to Pearson Airport was approved in 2010. The EA included 17 stops, 14 along Eglinton Avenue West and three between Renforth Gateway and Pearson Airport.

As noted previously in this report, rapid transit on Eglinton West between Mt. Dennis and the Airport Area, is also identified as part of SmartTrack, originally proposed as heavy rail. In March 2016, City Council recommended removing an Eglinton heavy rail option from further consideration based on the results of the City of Toronto's Eglinton West Corridor Feasibility Study in favour of pursuing a Light Rail Transit (LRT) option. Metrolinx and the City undertook a business case assessment of options to enhance the EA-approved design for LRT.

The goal of the analysis was to understand the costs and benefits of various options, including the impacts of increasing travel speed. An option for Bus Rapid Transit was also analyzed. Findings demonstrate that fewer stops and more separation from other road users increases travel speed but can also reduce local access and significantly increase costs. The business case process allows for balancing these different objectives.

Six options were studied with different numbers of stops, different technology, as well as different degrees of grade separations. The six options are detailed in Figure 4. A parallel analysis was undertaken on targeted grade separations to address community concerns of traffic impacts and improve the transit user experience.

**Figure 5: Eglinton West Options**



**Figure 6: Eglinton West LRT Business Case Summary Table**

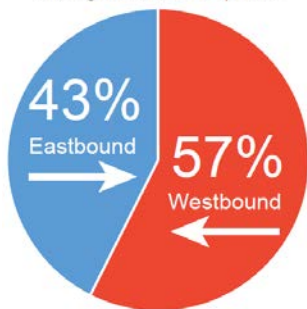
	Option 1 At-Grade 17 Stops	Option 2 At-Grade 11 Stops	Option 3 At-Grade 6 Stops	Option 4 Some Grade Separation 6 Stops	Option 5 Full Grade Separation (Elevated or Underground) 6 Stops	Option 6 BRT 17 Stops
<b>AM Peak Hr. Boardings</b> (Pearson to Mt Dennis)	4100	4150	3350	4850		950
<b>Capital Cost*</b> (2014\$ billions)	\$1.4 - \$1.8	\$1.4 - \$1.7	\$1.3 - \$1.7	\$1.7- \$2.1	\$2.0 - \$3.0	\$1.4 - \$1.8
	With Targeted Grade Separations:  \$1.5 - \$2.1					
<b>Benefit/Cost Ratio</b>	0.9	1	0.9	n/a	0.9-1.2	0.9

\*Costs developed for comparative purposes, capital costs do not include escalation, financing costs, lifecycle and operating and maintenance

#### *Strategic Case*

Strategic analysis highlighted the critical role of the Eglinton West corridor as an important missing connection in the regional transportation network between the Mississauga Transitway BRT, which currently serves the Renforth Gateway (currently under construction) and Phase 1 of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT, which will terminate at Mount Dennis (currently under construction).

**Figure 7: Directionality of AM Peak Trips (averaged across options)**

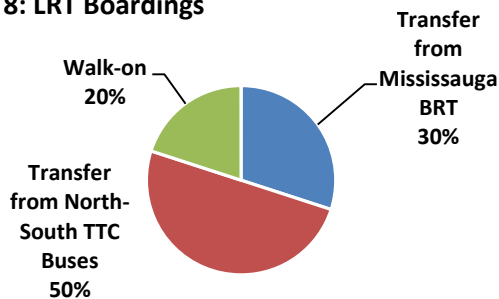


Options with only three stops on Eglinton miss important network connections with many of these bus routes. Riders coming from Mississauga and the west comprise 30 percent of boardings, benefitting from a new east-west rapid transit alternative to the Line 2 subway.

Ridership analysis confirmed the benefits of extending the LRT westward. The extension would increase ridership on the portion of the LRT already under construction and provide significant benefit for Toronto residents accessing Pearson Airport and its surrounding employment area. Ridership on the LRT extension during the morning peak period is higher in the westbound direction, towards the Pearson Airport area, than in the eastbound direction towards Downtown Toronto. Fully half of the boardings on the corridor come from transfers from major north-south TTC bus routes, particularly riders

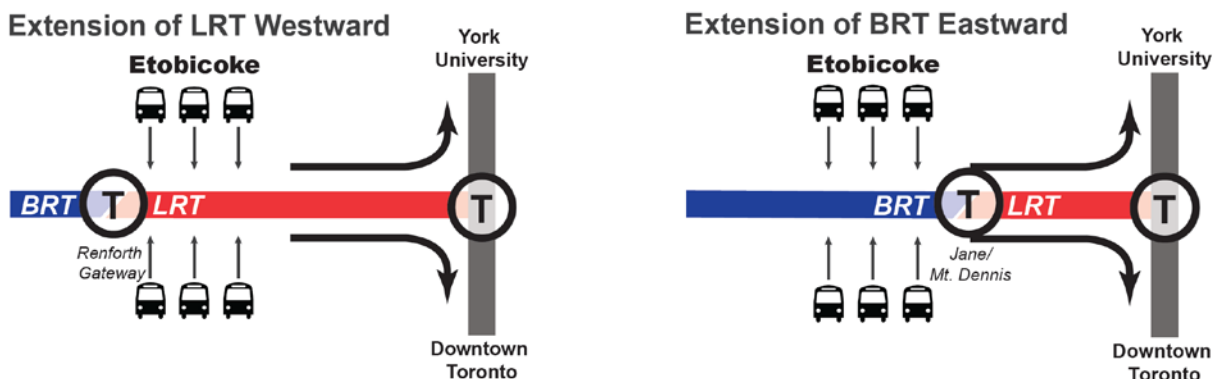
from northern Etobicoke.

**Figure 8: LRT Boardings**



In terms of technology, analysis of ridership and travel patterns suggest that the choice between BRT and LRT is really a matter of selecting a location for the best transfer point along the Eglinton corridor. A choice of BRT would mean extending the Mississauga BRT to Mt. Dennis and selecting Mt. Dennis as the transfer point. A choice of LRT would mean extending the Eglinton Crosstown LRT to the west with a major transfer point at Renforth Gateway. The strategic location of this transfer is therefore an important consideration in technology choice. Analysis revealed that locating the major transfer point at Renforth Gateway offers more benefits by minimizing transfers for passengers coming from midtown Toronto and north-south bus routes in Etobicoke.

**Figure 9: Transfer Point Analysis**



Ensuring access to transit for the local community is an important objective; about 20 percent of passengers are expected to walk to the LRT. Specific areas along the corridor have significant density and redevelopment potential but most significant destinations are outside of the corridor itself. This condition creates the need to carefully balance access with travel speed. Options with only three stops

on Eglinton Avenue create large distances between stops and reduce the ability of the local community to use the service. Such distances between stations will likely require the TTC to operate a parallel bus service with unattractive frequencies and operating costs. Further detailed analysis is required to determine the optimum number of stops that balance travel speed and local accessibility. However, this number is expected to be between 12 and 8 stops along Eglinton Avenue West between Mt. Dennis and Renforth Gateway as well as three stops between Renforth Gateway and Pearson Airport.

#### *Financial Case*

Keeping the LRT largely at grade is the more affordable option; full grade separation (elevated or underground) is estimated to roughly double capital costs to as much as \$3 billion (\$2014, costs do not include escalation, financing costs, lifecycle and operating and maintenance). Removing stops slightly lowers capital costs but increases operating costs because of the need for potential parallel bus service. Costs for the airport segment are currently shown as a placeholder subject to further work with the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) to refine the alignment on the Pearson Airport property.

#### *Economic Case*

Because there are fewer destinations for transit riders in this stretch of Eglinton Avenue than the areas immediately east and west, trips tend to be longer distance through the area. This travel pattern means that benefit-cost ratios are highest for the options with the highest travel speeds – those with few stations and full grade separation. Although the fully grade separated (elevated) option has the highest benefit-cost ratio, it is not recommended because of the overall cost, significant community impacts, lower overall ridership and reduced transit accessibility to riders in the local area and northern Etobicoke. Both the 17 stop and 11 stop options have positive benefit-cost ratios with the 11 stop option performing slightly better.

#### *Deliverability Case*

Deliverability for the at-grade options was addressed extensively during the 2010 Environmental Assessment process. Concerns about visual and operational impacts of grade separating at every major intersection were sufficient to screen these options out of further analysis as they would result in a LRT structure that undulated up and down along the corridor and required significant station infrastructure.

Land sales in the corridor since 2010 by Build Toronto have protected just enough for road widening to accommodate the LRT as it was designed in the EA. The residential development which is now being completed on the recently sold lands faces onto Eglinton Avenue, changing the character of the street and introducing additional considerations about visual impacts of potential structures and grade separations. Right of way limitations near Mt Dennis increase the capital costs for the BRT option as additional infrastructure is needed to maintain road capacity and a transit right of way in this area. Because of this narrow right of way, the LRT would be tunneled through Mt Dennis from a portal west of Pearen Park as per existing plans.

#### *Strategic Grade Separations*

By targeting grade separations to specific locations, some key benefits may be obtained without the cost of grade separating the entire line. Three such locations were identified based on community feedback,

traffic turning volumes and transit passenger transfers: Jane and the Humber River crossing through Scarlett; Martin Grove Avenue and the entrance to Highway 401; and Kipling Avenue. High level feasibility and costing was undertaken for these grade separations but further analysis is needed to understand how these grade separations could be designed, the full benefits that they could have, and the impacts they might have on the community. All three grade separations raise the cost of the project to between \$2 - \$2.1 billion (\$2014, costs do not include escalation, financing costs, lifecycle and operating and maintenance) however because they speed travel time, they do not appear to significantly impact the benefit/cost ratio. Further public engagement will be critical in advancing these proposed grade separation locations.

#### *Public Consultation and Community Feedback*

The Eglinton West community has been highly active and engaged in the planning process to date. Metrolinx and the City jointly hosted public meetings in the community on February 20 and June 4, 2016. On May 16, 2016 a community consultation was hosted by the local MPP, Yvan Baker and attended by the Minister of Transportation and local Councillors John Campbell and Stephen Holyday. At these meetings, community members voiced concerns about a number of issues including impacts to traffic congestion and potential left turn restrictions. The project team learned about the area's specific traffic challenges related to access to and emergency detours from Highway 401 as well as the history of the corridor and ongoing growth pressures. Moving forward, strong commitments have been made to continue the planning process in close consultation with the local community particularly with the detailed traffic analysis that will be undertaken in the next phase of the work.

#### *Next Steps*

This analysis represents only the first step of work in planning an enhanced rapid transit option for Eglinton Avenue West. Significant concern has been noted from the local community and the next phases of work will be undertaken through committed public consultation. The next phases of work will include detailed traffic analysis and microsimulation to better understand the local traffic impacts and operational characteristics of the LRT. Further analysis will also be undertaken to better understand ridership and access to transit stops at the local level such as to inform a final decision on stop locations. Furthermore, work will be undertaken in consultation with the GTAA to establish an alignment on the Pearson Airport Property and improve the cost estimates of this segment.

### **2.3 Other City of Toronto Rapid Transit Projects**

In addition to joint Metrolinx and City of Toronto work on GO RER-SmartTrack integration, extensive collaboration is also ongoing on other rapid transit initiatives including the Relief Line. Metrolinx and Toronto are working out purpose-fit governance structures and work-plans appropriate to each project.

The Eglinton East LRT (previously the Scarborough-Malvern LRT) has an approved EA, is identified in the regional transportation plan, and is a priority moving forward. Further work is required to confirm the design and alignment, capital costs, and timing. Planning questions include the interchange of the Line 2 Scarborough subway extension and an Eglinton Crosstown LRT east extension at Kennedy Station, maintenance and storage facility requirements, and the design of a terminus at the University of Toronto-Scarborough (UTSC).

On the Relief Line, Metrolinx concluded the Yonge Relief Network Study in 2015 and the City of Toronto has conducted a great deal of analysis using the *Feeling Congested?* framework. Both of these studies as well as the TTC's earlier Downtown Rapid Transit Expansion Study is premised on providing relief to the crowding on the Yonge Subway. In order to understand Relief Line project options from additional perspectives, Metrolinx, Toronto, and the TTC are advancing a workplan for a fulsome business case as well as additional analysis and design. This work is consistent with the Provincial announcement on June 1 which focused on ensuring that the optimal project for the Danforth to downtown as well as the northern segment to Sheppard Avenue moves forward. Metrolinx is currently in discussions with Toronto and the TTC to develop a Memorandum of Agreement to advance the workplan and define responsibilities.

As with all rapid transit project proposals around the region, these projects will be considered through the update to the regional transportation plan, currently underway.

## 2.4 Cost Sharing Arrangements

Developing appropriate and reasonable cost-sharing arrangements for the ambitious program of transit expansion and service is a critical factor in the success of the program. The Province of Ontario is making significant investments in transit infrastructure with the goal of improving transit and transportation across the Province, including the GTHA.

Since 2003, the Province has committed more than \$4.4 billion to the City of Toronto to help improve and expand its transit system, including funding to support the revitalization of Union Station, support for the Toronto-York Spadina subway extension, and the upgrade of the TTC's subway and streetcar fleets, to highlight some key investments. In addition, the Province has expanded the GO Transit rail system, including the investment of \$1.2 billion for the Georgetown South corridor, which is enabling GO Transit to better meet existing demand and accommodate future growth. The recent changes to the fare model of the Union Pearson Express are also making that service a more important part of the local and regional transit system, with about 20% of the ridership comprised of local commuters.

The Province committed an additional \$8.4 billion (\$2010) towards rapid transit projects in Toronto, including the Eglinton Crosstown, Finch West and Sheppard East LRT projects, and the City's Scarborough Transit Network proposal.

The Province's Moving Ontario Forward plan is making about \$16 billion available over 10 years for investment in transit in the GTHA. This includes a commitment of \$13.5 billion (\$2014) in capital construction costs related to the implementation of GO RER. It also includes funding for ongoing planning and design work for other priority projects, including the Relief Line and the Yonge North Subway Extension.

Significant provincial funding has also been provided for the York Viva Rapidway program, the Mississauga Transitway, Hurontario LRT and Hamilton LRT. The PRESTO integrated fare card is now being deployed across the TTC. These, and other investments, will contribute to a transformational change in the reach, quality and impact of the region's transit system.

As part of the GO RER program, about \$3.7 billion (\$2014) of capital construction cost is foundational to the SmartTrack program. SmartTrack is dependent on this investment being made. The Province is



prepared to cover the costs of this investment, supported by federal funding, provided the City assumes responsibility for paying for SmartTrack related costs and comes to a cost-sharing agreement with the Province on other shared priority transit issues. SmartTrack costs incremental to the GO RER program, including the Eglinton West LRT extension, new stations, and infrastructure and services incremental to the GO RER program, will need to be funded through contributions from the City of Toronto, the Government of Canada and other sources of funding, such as local development contributions. To this end, the original proposal for SmartTrack included contributions of \$2.6 billion from each of the City of Toronto and the Government of Canada towards the total costs of SmartTrack components. Commitments from these two orders of government will need to be finalized in order to advance these SmartTrack components of the program, including consideration of the capital construction cost, escalation, financing, lifecycle and operations/maintenance cost of the incremental new services.

The Province will also continue working with the City of Toronto to finalize equitable cost-sharing arrangements for other infrastructure costs associated with all Metrolinx-owned corridors, including utilities and grade separations, costs associated new GO train station locations as well as upgrades to existing GO train stations to support increases in service and to enhance both local and regional transit connections.

In addition, in Budget 2016, the Province re-affirmed its expectation that municipalities contribute to the ongoing operating and maintenance cost of the Eglinton Crosstown, Finch West, Hurontario and Hamilton LRT projects.

The Province is prepared to fund the capital construction costs, provided there is a commitment by the City of Toronto to fund escalation, financing, operations and maintenance costs and, where appropriate, lifecycle costs. In order for SmartTrack components to be procured alongside RER, the Province and Metrolinx require the City of Toronto's commitment to full funding (including capital with escalation and financing, operating/maintenance costs for SmartTrack, and operating/maintenance costs for LRTs) by November 30, 2016.

### **Conclusions:**

Since the provincial announcement of GO Regional Express Rail in May 2015, work to advance the program has advanced quickly. Where needed, Metrolinx has initiated environmental approvals process, construction has initiated in some locations, and community engagement has been ongoing. Planning work has continued on potential expansions to the GO RER program, including new stations and SmartTrack integration. As part of the SmartTrack proposal, analysis of the Eglinton West LRT has also proceeded, and will continue in partnership with the City of Toronto, TTC, and the local community. Close collaboration with stakeholders including the City of Toronto, TTC, York Region, City of Mississauga and Toronto Pearson has characterized work to date and will continue to distinguish the GO RER program into the future.

### **Appendices:**

1. GO Rail Parking & Station Access Plan Update
2. New Station Initial Business Case Assessment Presentation
3. GO RER-SmartTrack Integration Options Initial Business Case
4. Eglinton West Enhanced Rapid Transit Initial Business Case



**METROLINX**An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Une agence du gouvernement de l'OntarioOffice of the President and Chief Executive Officer  
Bruce McCuaig  
416-202-5908  
bruce.mccuaig@metrolinx.com

August 4, 2016

Daniel Kostopoulos  
City Manager  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON  
L6A 1T1Dear Mr.  Kostopoulos,**RE: GO Regional Express Rail Proposed New Station**

On Tuesday June 28, 2016, the Metrolinx Board of Directors met to discuss several planning projects, including the GO Regional Express Rail 10-year program: New Stations Analysis (Appendix 2).

At this meeting, the Board adopted a number of recommendations that specifically require action from those municipalities where recommended GO RER stations are proposed. This correspondence is to confirm the Board's adopted recommendations and the subsequent follow up required.

First, I want to thank you and your staff for your cooperation in providing input into the Business Case analysis that has led to a list of recommended New Stations that could be part of the GO RER Program. In total, the Board accepted staff recommendations to include 12 new stations.

I am now writing to confirm that a new station location at Kirby (near Keele Street) has been recommended as part of the GO RER 10-year program. Please note that the new station is still subject to further detailed analysis and conditions to address contextual issues.

As listed in Recommendation 1.1 of the Board report, the Province and Metrolinx require the City of Vaughan to provide to Metrolinx, by November 30, 2016, a Council-approved resolution that commits the City to the following conditions:

- agreement with the station location;
- commitment to implementing transit supportive planning regimes around the station, if such does not already exist; and
- sustainable station access solutions.

.../2

## Next Steps

In order to meet our timelines, commitments to the transit investments are necessary. We will work closely with you over the coming months to establish a work plan and working group to undertake the next level of due diligence. The next steps will include establishing a New Stations Working Group to:

- Define the station scope and site plan, including multi-modal access;
- Define the related incremental costs to the current GO RER program;
- Review the current land use policies in the Kirby station area, and update as necessary any local policies, guidelines or bylaws to ensure transit supportive uses.
- Confirm the process, roles and responsibilities to advance Kirby station to procurement including local community consultations, TPAPs, the preparation of Bid Documents, and potential partnerships with developers.

Should you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact Leslie Woo, Chief Planning Officer at [Leslie.Woo@metrolinx.com](mailto:Leslie.Woo@metrolinx.com) or Lorna Day, Director of Project Planning and Development at [Lorna.Day@metrolinx.com](mailto:Lorna.Day@metrolinx.com). Please also identify an internal point of contact on behalf of the City of Vaughan.

Metrolinx is committed to working with the City of Vaughan to achieve an integrated and seamless transportation network throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. The Metrolinx Board expressed its pleasure on June 28<sup>th</sup> to see that the working relationship with the City of Vaughan continues to be collaborative and delivering progress. I look forward to a continued positive and productive relationship as we progress to the next phase of this work with the City.

Best regards,



Bruce McCuaig  
President and Chief Executive Officer

- c. Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer, York Region  
Leslie Woo, Chief Planning Officer, Metrolinx



# METROLINX

An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Une agence du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Office of the President and Chief Executive Officer

Bruce McCuaig

416-202-5908

bruce.mccuaig@metrolinx.com

August 4, 2016

Robert Shelton  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Newmarket  
395 Mulock Drive  
P.O. Box 328  
Newmarket, ON  
L3Y 4X7

Dear Mr. Shelton,

**RE: GO Regional Express Rail Proposed New Station**

On Tuesday June 28, 2016, the Metrolinx Board of Directors met to discuss several planning projects, including the GO Regional Express Rail 10-year Program: New Stations Analysis (Appendix 2).

At this meeting, the Board adopted a number of recommendations that specifically require action from those municipalities where recommended GO RER stations are proposed. This correspondence is to confirm the Board's adopted recommendations and the subsequent follow up required.

First, I want to thank you and your staff for your cooperation in providing input into the Business Case analysis that has led to a list of recommended New Stations that could be part of the GO RER Program. In total, the Board accepted staff recommendations to include 12 new stations.

I am now writing to confirm that a new station location at Mulock (near Bayview Avenue) has been recommended as part of the GO RER 10-year program. Please note that the new station is still subject to further detailed analysis and conditions to address contextual issues.

As listed in Recommendation 1.1 of the Board report, the Province and Metrolinx require the Town of Newmarket to provide to Metrolinx, by November 30, 2016, a Council-approved resolution that commits the Town of Newmarket to the following conditions:

- agreement with the station location;
- commitment to implementing transit supportive planning regimes around the station, if such does not already exist; and
- sustainable, multi-modal station access solutions.

.../2

## Next Steps

In order to meet our timelines, commitments to the transit investments are necessary. We will work closely with you over the coming months to establish a work plan and working group to undertake the next level of due diligence. The next steps will include establishing a New Stations Working Group to:

- Define the station scope and site plan, including multi-modal access;
- Define the related incremental costs to the current GO RER program;
- Review the current land use policies in the Mulock station area, and update as necessary any local policies, guidelines or bylaws to ensure transit supportive uses.
- Confirm the process, roles and responsibilities to advance Mulock station to procurement including local community consultations, TPAPs, the preparation of Bid Documents, and potential partnerships with developers.

Should you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact Leslie Woo, Chief Planning Officer at [Leslie.Woo@metrolinx.com](mailto:Leslie.Woo@metrolinx.com) or Lorna Day, Director of Project Planning and Development at [Lorna.Day@metrolinx.com](mailto:Lorna.Day@metrolinx.com). Please also identify an internal point of contact on behalf of the Town of Newmarket.

Metrolinx is committed to working with the Town of Newmarket to achieve an integrated and seamless transportation network throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. The Metrolinx Board expressed its pleasure on June 28<sup>th</sup> to see that the working relationship with the Town of Newmarket continues to be collaborative and delivering progress. I look forward to a continued positive and productive relationship as we progress to the next phase of this work with the Town.

Sincerely,

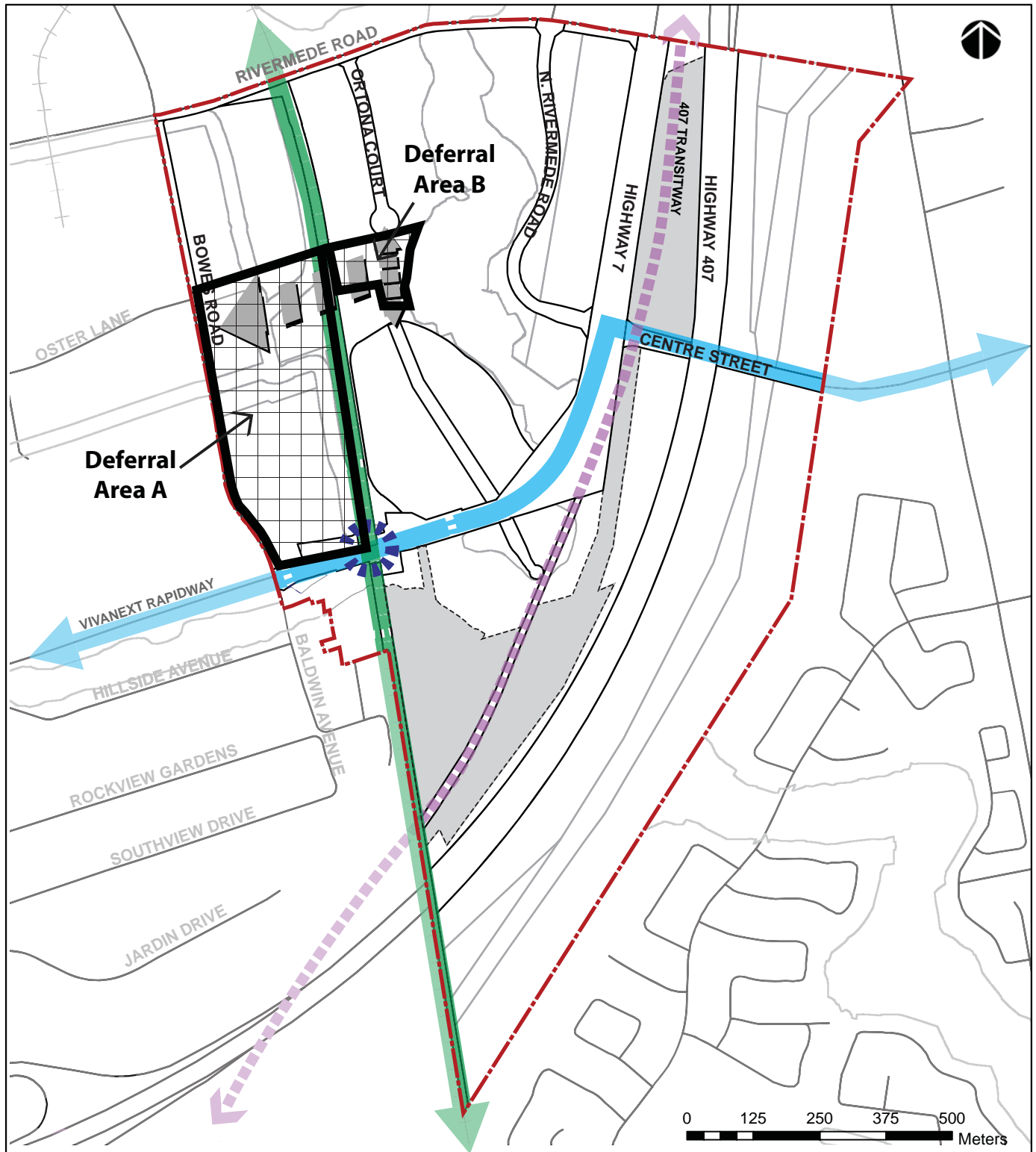


Bruce McCuaig  
President and Chief Executive Officer

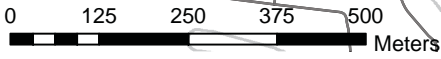
- c. Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer, York Region  
Leslie Woo, Chief Planning Officer, Metrolinx



Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan  
**Schedule E - Transit Network**



- Concord GO Centre Boundary
- VivaNext Rapidway/YRT Route 77
- GO Transit
- See York Region Notice of Decision, May 8, 2015
- 407 Transitway Alignment (Approved Transitway EA)
- Inter-Urban Transit (Refer to Policy 3.4)
- Railway
- Potential Mobility Hub (could include integrated transit facilities such as transit stops, parking areas and pedestrian connection enhancements.)
- Proposed New Road Link (Conceptual)



## **RER New Stations Initial Business Case Review: HIGHWAY 7–CONCORD**

Transportation Planning, Community Planning and York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC) have reviewed the Highway 7-Concord station’s Initial Business Case (IBC) and offered following comments:

1. In the description of options on page 3 – Scenario 1 indicates “No fare integration” – Why is this assumed when fare integration currently exists between GO and YRT?
2. Page 13 indicates that Highway 7 is only 4 lanes at the rail underpass. Highway 7 is a 6 lanes road at the rail underpass (note that it may currently be restricted to 4 lanes due to the construction of the Viva rapidway but will be returned to 6 lanes shortly).

### **Station Context and Concept Plan**

3. The Highway 7–Concord station Initial Business Case (IBC) concept plan proposed a 1,300-car parking structure and a 170-car surface lot. Please explain the rationales for proposing this high parking supply. Why parking structure is proposed when space is available for enough surface parking?

Considering the potential mobility hub (GO RER, Viva BRT, and planned 407 Transitway), planned population/employment growth within 800m of the station and existing/planned active transportation infrastructures in the catchment area, the proposed parking supply seems very high. Further, it is our understanding that Metrolinx is updating Station Access Plan and developing strategies to promote non-park and ride modes to access the GO stations. The proposed high parking supply may not help to meet the Metrolinx objectives.

4. Cycling lanes are being implemented on Highway 7 to the west of the rail crossing as part of the current Viva project and to the east on Centre Street. Was this cycling infrastructure considered in the evaluation?

### **Strategic Case Summary**

5. Overall, the Highway 7-Concord station IBC has very strong ‘Strategic Case’ and produce positive results for Policy Alignment, Development Potential and Intensification, Operational System, Station Access and Social Inclusivity and Accessibility. Please explain how are the benefits of these variables quantified and applied in the Financial and Economic Cases?
6. Any transit network is strengthened when connections are enabled between crossing rapid transit lines (GO RER and Viva). Why was “Connectivity and Ridership Drivers” rated as



“red” in the overall evaluation when this station offers the opportunity to connect existing Viva and future planned 407 rapidway?

### **Rationale for a New Station**

7. Page 27 noted that the projected RER ridership increase will require an expansion of the travel market for GO network from peak-period 905-to-Union travel to include more off-peak, contra-peak, and non-Union travel, including increased travel between the 905 and suburban and downtown “shoulder” areas of Toronto.

Contrary to the above objective, the IBC analysis focused on the ridership destined to Union Station. To capture the full benefit of this station, the analysis should be expanded and include other employment nodes such as Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC), Pearson Airport and Mississauga/401 employment corridor. The Viva network expansion, Toronto-York Spadina Subway extension and implementation of the Eglinton Crosstown connection will provide reliable and efficient services to these nodes.

8. The close proximity of Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension is considered to be a constraint (in this IBC, page 28), to the Highway 7-Concord station. In our opinion, this station will provide an opportunity to meet the Metrolinx objective mentioned above in comment 7.
9. Why York Region Transit is not included in the list of transit agencies stakeholders on page 29?

### **Policy, Land Use and Development**

10. The Highway 7-Concord station is situated along a planned Regional Corridor. Regional Corridor function as transit oriented, mixed use and high density corridors that connect the Region’s four Provincial Urban Growth Centres. The Highway 7 corridor has been a mainstay of Regional Official Plan since Region’s first Official Plan in 1994 and has served as the foundation of the Region’s urban structure and is the focus of Region’s major city building initiatives. A GO Rail station at this location would further support Region’s planned urban structure as articulated in the Regional Official Plan.
11. The proposed changes to the Growth Plan set minimum planned density targets for GO Rail Station areas at 150 people and jobs per hectare. Were the 150 people and jobs per hectare density used in the IBC?
12. In addition, the proposed growth plan calls for an increasing amount of growth be accommodated within the built up area of the Region. Highway 7-Concord station is better positioned to achieve the proposed increased intensification target of 60%.

13. The Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan has a vision for this area to be a potential mobility hub. While the Concord GO Centre is not an identified Mobility Hub as per the Big Move, the intersection of multiple transit services and the provision of high density and range of uses (including within the station area) would rival other identified Mobility Hubs in the GTA.
14. The Secondary Plan contemplates that the first phase of development within the immediate vicinity will include a non-residential component. This area could become a destination for southbound and northbound passengers.
15. Currently a majority of developable land is owned by a single land owner (Liberty Developments). Was development readiness within the station area a component of the IBC? The fact that single land owner holds a majority of the developable lands should be prioritized over other where surrounding developable lands have more fractured ownership.
16. The Concord GO Centre Secondary Plan projected population growth is 4,000 – 8,000 by 2031 and 8,000 – 10,000 jobs at full build-out. Apparently, the IBC used lower projections and noted on page 31 that the projections are not available beyond 2026. Please confirm the population/employment projections used for the station ridership analysis. What was the data source for the 2026 growth projections? Were updated growth projections requested from York Region as part of the IBC?

### **Network, Connectivity and Accessibility**

17. Given the location of the Barrie Line within Vaughan, we believe that the station catchment areas extend much further to the west than the standard 5km. This was noted in the GO Station Access Profile report (Nov 2015) prepared by Metrolinx for the Rutherford station. Was this larger catchment area considered in the ridership projections for the Highway 7-Concord station?
18. Page 37 indicates that the Highway 7-Concord station's catchment area is expected to overlap by 15% (224 riders). It also states that 1,190 existing GO passengers would use Highway7-Concord station rather than their current access station (Rutherford or York University) during the AM peak period. Given that York University has very few boarding passengers in the AM peak period, why is there such a large discrepancy between the 224 riders and 1,190 passengers?
19. The Highway 7-Concord station is estimated to attract 190 new passengers boarding during the 2031 AM peak period (540 new trips per day) and 115 passengers alighting. Additionally, the station is estimated to attract about 1,190 existing GO passengers from

their current access stations (e.g., Rutherford or York University) during the AM period (3,390 passengers daily).

Considering better transit connectivity (i.e. Viva BRT on Highway 7 and planned 407 Transitway), population/employment growth within 800m and land use within the catchment area, we believe the projected ridership for this station is underestimated. The GO RER Initial Business Case (Scenario 5 infrastructure and service level) estimated that Rutherford Station, which is contextually comparable to this station, would attract about 4,800 passenger trips during the 2031 AM peak period (8,050 trips per day). Please explain why the ridership projections of this station are much lower than the Rutherford station?

20. The ridership analysis noted that Highway 7-Concord station would serve predominantly as an origin station, rather than destination station. We don't agree with this finding. This station is a potential mobility hub (GO RER, Viva BRT and planned 407 Transitway), and would provide accessibility to non-Union employment nodes such as Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, employment along Highway7 Corridor, Pearson Airport and Mississauga/401 employment corridor, etc. Considering this high transit connectivity, the forecasted 115 passengers alighting seems underestimated. The GO RER Initial Business Case (Scenario 5 infrastructure and service level) estimated that Rutherford Station, which has lower transit accessibility than this station, would attract about 800 passengers alighting during the 2031 AM peak period (5,700 alighting per day). Please confirm if the transit accessibility and non-Union destinations were considered in the ridership analysis?
21. On page 37 the report refers to VivaNext service as being "planned" and reference that the nearest station is about 500m away. VivaNext is more than "planned" as it is currently funded and under construction. In addition, a new Viva stop can easily be implemented if/when the Concord station is implemented. Was the ridership forecasting modelled assuming a full integration of Viva service at the Concord station? The report notes on page 37 that "Further study is required to determine impact of station on local transit ridership" which would tend to indicate that it has not been fully incorporated into the modelling.
22. Following are the 2031 ridership projections for the Highway 7-Concord station:
  - 190 new passenger trips during the AM peak period (540 new trips per day);
  - 1,190 existing GO passengers enter to this new station instead of their current access stations during the AM peak period (3,390 daily riders);
  - 3,930 total daily ridership (i.e. 540 new riders + 3,390 existing riders);
  - 1,230 upstream riders lost, due to 5% increase in travel time due to a new station, in the AM peak period (3,510 daily riders);
  - 2,960 net loss of daily ridership (i.e. 3,510 lost riders – 540 new riders).

We have following observations on the ridership projections:

- The report references both a 2min delay being added per station and a 5% delay being added. Which one was used in the ridership analysis? Using a 5% delay for all riders would not be appropriate as this would mean that a rider from Barrie would be experiencing about a 5min delay. Even a 2min delay seems long for a RER type service.
- The analysis assumed that 20% of the lost riders will be diverted to automobile. It is noted that the ridership analysis considered delays due to a new station in order to estimate automobile diversion rate while other factors such as transit service reliability/comfort, parking cost at destination, automobile operating cost, traffic congestion, etc. were ignored. From mode choice perspective, these factors are equally important and should be considered in the analysis.
- The analysis shows that 20% of the lost riders will be diverted to automobile. However, the analysis did not mention where will the rest of 80% lost riders be diverted to? Assuming Union station as the destination, there are no alternative attractive mode choices are available for these lost riders.
- It is our understanding that the planned RER electrification service will reduce the journey time by up to 20%. The planned service will be more frequent and reliable. On the other hand, automobile mode would be longer and stressful and the travel time will only increase over time for the same OD pair. Considering these factors, the amount of lost riders as a result of 2min delay is considered to be very high. The elasticity of the delay should be re-evaluated by considering all possible travel behavior variables in (mentioned above).
- Was a similar loss in ridership projected for the two stations downstream (Bloor-Davenport, and Spadina) that are included in the implementation?
- Since the cluster analysis for the York University/Highway 7-Concord stations recommends not proceeding with the York University station, this would mean that the existing station is being removed at the same time as a potential new station is added at Highway 7-Concord, resulting in no increase in travel time for upstream riders. Why was an additional 2min delay added in the evaluation?

23. Was any comparison made between the potential Highway 7-Concord station and the existing Langstaff and Unionville stations? Both the Richmond Hill Line and the Stouffville Line include stations that are directly connected to East-West viva services on Highway 7. No such opportunity exists without the Highway 7-Concord station, however, the benefits should be compared to the other two existing stations.

## Existing and Proposed GO Rail Stations in York Region

GO Station Location			Existing/ Proposed (YR)/ Planned (Mx)	York Region Official Plan (Consolidated 2016)	York Region Transportation Master Plan (2016)	Local Official Plan**	Local Transportation Master Plan**	Metrolinx 10-year RER Program	Comments
Local Municipality	Station Name	Line							
Aurora	Aurora	Barrie	Existing	√	√	√	N/A		
East Gwillimbury	East Gwillimbury	Barrie	Existing	√	√	√	√		
Georgina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		No station identified. Local OP only mentions GO <b>bus</b> transit services.
King	King City	Barrie	Existing	√	√	X	√		In effect Rural OP (1970) does not include GO.
	15 <sup>th</sup> Sideroad	Barrie	Proposed	√	√	X	N/A		
Markham	Mount Joy	Stouffville	Existing	√	√	√	Master Transportation Servicing Plan (Draft)		
	Markham	Stouffville	Existing	√	√	√			
	Centennial	Stouffville	Existing	√	√	√			
	Unionville	Stouffville	Existing	√	√	√			
	Denison St/14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Stouffville	Proposed	X	√	X			City of Markham Council recently endorsed Denison St as opposed to 14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
	Major Mackenzie	Stouffville	Proposed	X	√	X			
	John St/Green Lane	Richmond Hill	Proposed	√	√	√			
Newmarket	Newmarket	Barrie	Existing	√	√	√	N/A		
	Mulock	Barrie	Planned	√	√	√	N/A	√	Metrolinx IBC recommended location; not funded within 10-year RER Program
Richmond Hill	Richmond Hill	Richmond Hill	Existing	√	√	√	√		

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Local Municipality	Station Name	Line							
	Langstaff	Richmond Hill	Existing	√	√	√	√		
	Gormley	Richmond Hill	Planned	√	√	√	√		Station under construction
	Bloomington	Richmond Hill	Planned	√	√	√	√		Planned Extension by GO
	16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Richmond Hill	Proposed	X	√	X	X		
	19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Richmond Hill	Proposed	√	√	X	√		
Vaughan	Maple	Barrie	Existing	√	√	√	√		
	Rutherford	Barrie	Existing	√	√	√	√		
	Kirby	Barrie	Planned	√	√	√	√	√	Metrolinx IBC recommended location; not funded within 10-year RER Program
	Concord	Barrie	Proposed	√	√	√	√		
Whitchurch-Stouffville	Lincolntonville	Stouffville	Existing	√	√	√	N/A		Town does not have a final TMP
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\*Stations highlighted in grey are *proposed* in the Transportation Master Plan

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√ indicates the listed GO Station is identified in the document.

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Office of the Commissioner  
Transportation Services

## Memorandum

To: Regional Council  
From: Paul Jankowski, Commissioner Transportation Services  
Date: October 17, 2016  
Re: New GO Stations in York Region to Support Metrolinx's Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Express Rail Program

---

New GO station locations are needed in York Region to support Metrolinx's next Regional Transportation Plan and the delivery of GO Regional Express Rail (RER) service over the next 10 years. It is recommended Metrolinx consider bringing new GO stations on line within the GO RER 10-year program to align with phasing in the York Region 2016 Transportation Master Plan (TMP).

On October 6, 2016, Committee of the Whole reviewed two staff reports:

1. [New GO Stations in York Region to Support Regional Express Rail](#)
2. [York Region's Response to Metrolinx's Discussion Paper for the next Regional Transportation Plan](#)

The staff reports recommend Metrolinx give consideration to and plan for new GO station locations that address the Province's plans for population and employment growth as outlined in the Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2016.

The 2016 Transportation Master Plan identified eleven new GO stations in York Region to accommodate growth to 2041

Attachment 1 outlines existing and potential new GO stations in York Region identified in the TMP to support forecasted increases in GO ridership due to future population and employment growth. Potential new GO stations are supported by local and regional land use planning in alignment with the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan, The Big Move 2008, and the Provincial Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2006. The TMP proposed phasing for GO stations considered Metrolinx's GO RER 10-year

program to deliver two-way 15-minute service from Union Station to Aurora Station on the Barrie GO corridor and from Union Station to Unionville Station on the Stouffville GO corridor. Due to geographical constraints and rail ownership issues, Metrolinx has not included the Richmond Hill GO corridor in the RER 10-year program. Table 1 summarizes potential new GO stations and proposed horizon years for phasing station implementation identified in the TMP.

**Table 1**  
**New GO Stations Identified in the 2016 Transportation Master Plan**

GO Corridor	Local Municipality	New GO Station	Horizon Year Phasing
Barrie	Vaughan	Concord	2022 – 2026*
	Vaughan	Kirby	2022 – 2026
	King	15 <sup>th</sup> Sideroad	2022 – 2026*
	Newmarket	Mulock	2027- 2031
Stouffville	Markham	Denison Street / 14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	2022 – 2026*
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Richmond Hill	Markham	John Street / Green Lane	by 2041*
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	Richmond Hill	Gormley	Under Construction
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\* Phasing of potential new GO stations not part of GO RER 10-Year program

Metrolinx has completed the New Stations Analysis study for the RER 10-year program and recommended two new GO stations on the Barrie GO corridor at Kirby in Vaughan and Mulock in Newmarket

The New Stations Analysis study focused on new GO stations that should be included in the RER 10-year program. The study considered opportunities to improve local transit, land use including transit-oriented development and a range of station access options including local transit, active transportation, pick-up and drop-off and park and ride.

The New Stations Analysis study initially examined more than 120 potential GO station locations across the GO service area and narrowed the list to approximately 50 locations. Feedback from affected municipalities and public engagement on the 50 locations informed Metrolinx’s preliminary evaluation and refined a shortlist of 24 stations for more detailed analysis via an Initial Business Case. The outcome of the Initial Business Case recommended 12 new GO stations across the GTHA. A high-level summary of the study process is shown in Table 2.



**Table 2**  
**Process for Metrolinx New Stations Analysis Study**

Process Description	Number of Sites Evaluated	Timeline
1. Identified Initial List of sites (based on key site and network considerations)	120+	Early 2015
2. Focusing Analysis (site factors, service considerations and historical requests)	120+ → 50+	Early 2015 to Sept 2015
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The study noted some locations, such as Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Major Mackenzie Drive and John Street/Green Lane, did not perform well due to challenges and constraints including:

- Prohibitive construction costs
- High cost impact of travel time delays on the GO corridor
- Unsupportive of Provincial growth policy (constrained by Greenbelt area)
- Current or planned land uses and/or low densities
- Constrained development potential

Metrolinx acknowledged that in the longer term it is expected GO service increases will align with regional growth and enable more stations to be brought into service. In June 2016, the Metrolinx Board adopted Metrolinx staff recommendations for new GO stations, including the two stations at Kirby in Vaughan and Mulock in Newmarket.

On October 6, 2016, Committee of the Whole recommended Council endorse the new stations at Kirby and Mulock and recommended Concord GO station be considered for construction within the 10-year horizon. In addition, Committee of the Whole acknowledged the merits of protecting for and phasing-in additional GO stations as prioritized in the TMP. This includes stations at 15<sup>th</sup> Sideroad on the Barrie GO corridor and at Denison Street/14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive on the Stouffville GO corridor as well as at John Street/Green Lane, 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the Richmond Hill GO corridor.

For more information on this memorandum, please contact Stephen Collins, Director, Infrastructure Management and PMO, at ext. 75949.

---

Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner, Transportation Services

LC/ag/sjc/sb

Attachments (1)

7033472

## Existing and Proposed GO Rail Stations in York Region

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Transportation Services

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Commissioner, Transportation Services

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	Unionville	Stouffville	Existing	√	√	√			
	Denison St/14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Stouffville	Proposed	X	√	X			City of Markham Council recently endorsed Denison St as opposed to 14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
	Major Mackenzie	Stouffville	Proposed	X	√	X			
	John St/Green Lane	Richmond Hill	Proposed	√	√	√			
Newmarket	Newmarket	Barrie	Existing	√	√	√	N/A		
	Mulock	Barrie	Planned	√	√	√	N/A	√	Metrolinx IBC recommended location; not funded within 10-year RER Program
Richmond Hill	Richmond Hill	Richmond Hill	Existing	√	√	√	√		

GO Station Location			Existing/ Proposed (YR)/ Planned (Mx)	York Region Official Plan (Consolidated 2016)	York Region Transportation Master Plan (2016)	Local Official Plan**	Local Transportation Master Plan**	Metrolinx 10-year RER Program	Comments
Local Municipality	Station Name	Line							
	Langstaff	Richmond Hill	Existing	√	√	√	√		
	Gormley	Richmond Hill	Planned	√	√	√	√		Station under construction
	Bloomington	Richmond Hill	Planned	√	√	√	√		Planned Extension by GO
	16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Richmond Hill	Proposed	X	√	X	X		
	19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Richmond Hill	Proposed	√	√	X	√		
Vaughan	Maple	Barrie	Existing	√	√	√	√		
	Rutherford	Barrie	Existing	√	√	√	√		
	Kirby	Barrie	Planned	√	√	√	√	√	Metrolinx IBC recommended location; not funded within 10-year RER Program
	Concord	Barrie	Proposed	√	√	√	√		
Whitchurch-Stouffville	Lincolntonville	Stouffville	Existing	√	√	√	N/A		Town does not have a final TMP
	Stouffville	Stouffville	Existing	√	√	√	N/A		Town does not have a final TMP

\*Stations highlighted in grey are *proposed* in the Transportation Master Plan

\*\* N/A represents not applicable as the municipality does not have an OP/TMP

√ indicates the listed GO Station is identified in the document.

X indicates the listed GO Station is not identified in the document.