



Office of the Commissioner  
Transportation Services Department

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: March 2, 2020

Re: Bill 171, *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020*

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### **The Province of Ontario has introduced Bill 171, *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020***

On February 18, 2020, the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, introduced Bill 171, [Building Transit Faster Act, 2020](#) (Bill 171). The proposed legislation is intended to streamline approvals by giving the Province tools to deliver four priority transit projects faster:

- Yonge North Subway Extension
- Ontario Line Subway
- Scarborough Subway Extension
- Eglinton Crosstown West Extension

A map showing these projects is included as Attachment 1.

The announcement also indicated the Environmental Assessment process would be streamlined through a standalone regulation for the Ontario Line and amendments to O.Reg. 231/08 Transit Projects and Metrolinx Undertaking (existing streamlined Environmental Assessment process for transit) the projects. These amendments are not part of Bill 171 and timing for updates is unknown at this time.

## **Bill 171 seeks to address a number of issues that impact the delivery schedule for priority transit projects**

Bill 171 went through First Reading in the Ontario Legislature on February 18, 2020. Bill 171 intends to ensure priority transit projects are delivered faster by:

- Relocating utilities quicker by allowing Metrolinx to require utility companies (including municipalities) to relocate infrastructure within a prescribed timeline, introduce a process for managing disputes and seek compensation when timelines are not met. This will apply to any utility, including water, wastewater or stormwater within 10 metres of transit corridor land.
- Making it easier for the Province to acquire the land required to construct the projects by removing Hearings of Necessity in the expropriation process for any property related to the projects.
- Ensuring timely access to municipal services and rights-of-way. The Province has indicated they remain committed to working with municipalities and reducing disruption to local communities during construction. In cases where an agreement cannot be reached with a municipality, the Minister of Transportation could issue an order outlining the terms and conditions when Metrolinx could be authorized to relocate or modify Regional infrastructure.
- Allowing the Province to inspect and remove physical barriers that may impact construction, such as trees, without permission from a property owner but with appropriate notification.
- Ensuring nearby developments or construction projects within 30 metres of a transit corridor do not interfere with the projects by requiring a permit to construct or change any building, structure, road, underground utility infrastructure, or to perform any dewatering or excavation near a priority transit project corridor.

## **Early engagement with Metrolinx will be required as Bill 171 could impact Regional infrastructure**

Regional interest is focused on the Yonge North Subway Extension. Successful implementation of this project will require coordination between the Region, the Province and Metrolinx in the following areas:

- Minimizing construction impacts to traffic and transit operations on Yonge Street
- Approving construction staging for any work within the Regional road allowance
- Potential impact to Regional water and wastewater services including relocating existing services

Bill 171 requires the Minister to identify infrastructure relocations and associated timelines for this work. Metrolinx is required to enter into negotiation with the municipality following receipt of Minister's notice. If an agreement cannot be reached within an identified short timeline, the Minister may permit Metrolinx to complete this work. It will be critical for the Region to work with the Province to obtain early understanding of infrastructure relocation timelines, allowing staff to plan and coordinate work in a manner that ensures critical services are uninterrupted.

### **York Region will continue to work with the Province of Ontario to achieve Council's number one transit priority, the Yonge North Subway Extension**

Staff is strongly supportive of the Province's initiative to build priority transit projects as quickly as possible, including the Yonge North Subway Extension, identified by Council as the Region's number one priority.

Staff will work in partnership with the Province and Metrolinx throughout the design and construction of the Yonge North Subway Extension to ensure areas of Regional interest are coordinated and potential impacts mitigated.

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Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment (1)  
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