

## MEMORANDUM

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: January 3, 2019

Re: Metrolinx Reviewing Approach to New Kirby and Mulock GO Stations

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This memorandum provides an update on the work Metrolinx is undertaking related to the new Kirby (City of Vaughan) and Mulock (Town of Newmarket) GO stations in York Region. On November 29, 2018, the Region received a letter from Metrolinx (Attachment 1) stating Metrolinx has been asked by the Minister of Transportation to assess the status of transit projects and to determine the feasibility of applying a market-driven approach to delivering transit infrastructure, starting with new GO stations. The current delivery process for new GO stations, including Kirby and Mulock, will be paused while Metrolinx works with municipal and development partners to determine opportunities for third party investment in the delivery of these stations.

### **In 2015, the Province committed \$16B to improving transit infrastructure in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area**

In April 2015, the Provincial government announced The Trillium Trust and Moving Ontario Forward plan. Moving Ontario Forward consists of a \$31.5 billion total commitment for transit infrastructure over a 10-year period. Of this, \$16 billion was identified for transit projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), with the balance for projects outside of the GTHA.

One such project, the GO Expansion (formerly Regional Express Rail) focuses on implementing improvements to service and infrastructure to the GO train network. A recommended implementation plan to deliver the GO Expansion program in the GTHA, over a 10-year period, includes service expansion on the Barrie, Richmond Hill and Stouffville GO corridors in York Region.

## **As part of the GO Expansion, Metrolinx recommended two new GO stations on the Barrie GO corridor at Kirby Road in Vaughan and Mulock Drive in Newmarket**

Metrolinx completed a New Station Analysis study focused on new GO stations that should be included in the GO Expansion 10-year program. The study initially examined more than 120 potential GO station locations across the GO service area and narrowed the list to approximately 50. The list was then refined to a shortlist of 24 stations for more detailed analysis. The final recommendation was for 12 new GO stations to proceed across the GTHA, including Kirby and Mulock in the Region.

## **Council endorsed the new Kirby and Mulock stations and recommended Concord GO station be considered**

In October 2016, Council endorsed the new Kirby and Mulock stations and recommended that Concord GO station in the City of Vaughan be considered for construction within the 10-year period. Council acknowledged the need to protect for and phase in additional GO stations in the Region, based on the recommendations included in the 2016 York Region Transportation Master Plan.

## **Work on all new GO stations, including Kirby and Mulock, is being paused while Metrolinx determines the feasibility of applying a new approach to delivering transit projects**

The Minister of Transportation has asked Metrolinx to assess the status of transit projects and determine the feasibility of applying a market-driven approach to delivering transit projects, starting with new GO Stations. This new approach is intended to ensure the integration of transit and land-use to support growth in transit ridership. While Metrolinx reviews the feasibility of this approach, work for all new GO stations, including Kirby and Mulock, will be paused.

## **Implications of the new approach for new GO stations in the Region are unclear**

Currently, it is not clear what implications this new approach will have on the Kirby and Mulock GO stations announced for the Region, or for Concord station. Staff will continue to work closely with Metrolinx and local municipal staff to better understand what is envisioned for the assessment of new GO stations based on the new market-driven approach.

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Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Attachment (1)  
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