

MEMORANDUM

To: Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Date: January 3, 2019

Re: Metrolinx Proposed Transit Project Prioritization Framework

This memorandum provides an update on the Metrolinx actions related to the implementation of the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). This memorandum also summarizes comments provided to Metrolinx by staff on behalf of Council. In November 2016, Metrolinx requested municipal partners provide comments on the prioritization framework. Metrolinx proposes to implement this framework in order to set priorities for rapid transit projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) over the next 20 years. Staff responded to Metrolinx with comments in a letter dated December 3, 2018 (Attachment 1).

Metrolinx has engaged municipal partners to prioritize and implement actions identified in the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan

Regional and York Region Rapid Transit Corporation staff are working with Metrolinx through the 2041 RTP Municipal Planning Leaders Forum and Municipal Technical Advisory Committee. The Region is engaged through a Regional Roundtable that includes City Managers and CAO's within the GTHA; upper tier, single tier and lower tier municipalities that operate transit, and key municipalities outside the GTHA within the GO Service Area.

On October 31, 2018, Metrolinx shared the proposed prioritization framework with the Regional Roundtable, and requested comments from municipal partners. Joint comments were provided by Regional and York Region Rapid Transit Corporation staff.

Comments on the project prioritization framework seek to capture previously confirmed priorities and reflect progress already made

Staff believe that project readiness for implementation is an important criterion and should factor significantly in Metrolinx's proposed prioritization. In addition, the prioritization process should

not be designed to replace or undermine the results of any previous prioritization process. This refers notably to the top 15 priorities that emerged from the Big Move in 2008, which included the Yonge North Subway Extension and the full Viva Bus Rapid Transit Network.

The staff position reflects Council's longstanding highest rapid transit priority, and that the project prioritization process not delay the timing of the Yonge North Subway Extension implementation as it moves to the next stage, upon completion of the preliminary design business case.

Furthermore, staff have also pointed out that the Viva Bus Rapid Transit Network is already a bundled project, based on the 2008 business case that resulted in full build-out of the network along Highway 7, Yonge Street and Davis Drive. At the time of the original funding approval, the Province proposed that funding for the Viva Bus Rapid Transit Network be assigned in two construction phases. The first phase of construction is nearing completion and it has always been the Region's understanding that Phase 2 funding would be available when Phase 1 is complete.

Conclusion

Staff provided comments to meet the Metrolinx deadline but will also communicate any additional comments from Council. Staff will continue to work with Metrolinx on the project prioritization framework to advance transit planning and implementation in the Region.

For more information, please contact Brian Titherington, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75901.

Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Attachment (1)
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