

The Regional Municipality of York

Regional Council
Transportation Services
January 31, 2019

Report of the Commissioner of Transportation Services

Metrolinx Pursuing Market-Driven Approach to New GO Stations

1. Recommendations

1. Council requests Metrolinx, as part of its consideration of a development-driven approach to GO Expansion station implementation, to include:
 - a) Potential stations at Kirby and Mulock on the Barrie Corridor, as per the original GO Regional Express Rail plan
 - b) Potential stations at Concord, 15th Sideroad on the Barrie Corridor, John Street, 16th Avenue, 19th Avenue on the Richmond Hill Corridor, and Denison/14th Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive on the Stouffville Corridor, as per the Region's 2016 Transportation Master Plan.
2. Council specifically requests that Metrolinx ensures adequate parking is implemented at GO Stations as part of the GO Expansion program, to eliminate impacts on adjacent established communities.

2. Summary

This report recommends that Council requests Metrolinx, as part of a development-driven approach, to consider a number of new GO stations in York Region as well as the associated parking impacts of the GO Expansion program.

Key Points:

- On January 10, 2019, Council was informed that Metrolinx is pursuing a market-driven approach to delivering new GO stations resulting in a pause on new station work on all new GO stations in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area, including at Kirby and Mulock stations in the Region, as identified in the Metrolinx 2041 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- The Region's Transportation Master Plan identifies 12 new GO stations in the Region by the year 2041. This includes the newly built Gormley and under construction Bloomington stations as well as an extended Richmond Hill line station at Aurora Road. There are four new GO stations identified on the Barrie line at Concord, Kirby, 15th Sideroad, Mulock Drive, three new GO stations on the Richmond Hill line at John

Street, 16th Avenue and 19th Avenue and two new GO stations on the Stouffville line at Denison Street/14th Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive.

- Parking at GO stations has considerable impacts on surrounding communities and should be considered through the implementation of the GO Expansion program. This includes giving consideration and priority to sustainable transportation modes including behaviour change programs and prioritizing structured parking in urbanizing areas
- Staff recommends that Council requests Metrolinx to consider all new GO stations identified in York Region’s 2016 Transportation Master Plan and request Metrolinx address parking impacts at new GO stations as part of the GO Expansion program.

3. Background

Metrolinx has a proposed a market-driven approach to deliver new GO stations

On January 10, 2019, Council considered a staff memorandum regarding Metrolinx’s proposed market-driven approach to delivering new GO stations. Metrolinx has paused all work related to new GO stations, including both Kirby and Mulock stations in York Region, while it assesses opportunities for an increased role for co-development of new GO stations by private development partners.

The Region’s 2016 Transportation Master Plan recommended 12 new GO stations

York Region’s 2016 Transportation Master Plan identified 12 new GO station locations to be in place by 2041, including the already-built Gormley Station, the under-construction Bloomington Station and the Richmond Hill line extension/station at Aurora Road. Table 1 summarizes the remaining nine GO stations.

Table 1

New GO stations identified in the 2016 Transportation Master Plan

GO Corridor	Local Municipality	New GO Station
Barrie	Vaughan	Concord
	Vaughan	Kirby
	King	15 th Sideroad
	Newmarket	Mulock
Stouffville	Markham	Denison Street/14 th Avenue

GO Corridor	Local Municipality	New GO Station
	Markham	Major Mackenzie Drive
Richmond Hill	Markham	John Street/Green Lane
	Richmond Hill	16 th Avenue
	Richmond Hill	19 th Avenue

Metrolinx announced new GO stations for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area as part of the Regional Express Rail Initiative (now GO Expansion)

In June 2016, Metrolinx Board adopted Metrolinx staff recommendations for new GO stations to support GO Expansion, including two in York Region at Kirby and Mulock. On [October 6, 2018](#), Council endorsed the new GO stations at Kirby and Mulock and recommended Concord GO station also be considered for implementation.

4. Analysis

New GO station locations influence land use and Regional transportation services

The success of new GO stations requires not only integration with development in the immediate vicinity of the station, but also needs to be supported by development within the broader community. This helps create complete communities that can leverage the transportation capacity created by GO stations without being reliant on private automobiles to get there. It helps facilitate neighbourhoods where residents of all abilities and ages can live and work, reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicle trips during peak travel times.

To ensure the planning of the surrounding area is supportive, new station locations already identified in planning documents, such as the Metrolinx 2041 Regional Transportation Plan, York Region Official Plan and the Transportation Master Plan, and particularly those located in future two-way, all day GO service areas, should be considered first.

Metrolinx should review the opportunity to deliver all nine new GO station locations identified in the 2016 Transportation Master Plan

With significant population and employment growth projected in York Region to 2041, the GO Expansion program, including the increased service levels and new stations, is a critical part of the Region’s broader transportation network. The following nine new stations are identified in the York Region Official Plan and the Transportation Master Plan.

BARRIE GO CORRIDOR

Concord Station (Highway 7 west of Dufferin Street)

- Station will provide direct multi-modal connections to existing Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transit services and the future Highway 407 Transitway. It will serve as a multi-modal hub to support development in the Concord / GO Centre Secondary Plan area.

Kirby GO station

- Will serve as a multi-modal station to support existing communities, Block 27 Secondary Plan and Highway 400 North Employment Lands.

15th Sideroad (at Bathurst Street)

- Bathurst Street is a major north-south commuter corridor with average annual daily traffic of 23,000 vehicles. This new GO station would provide additional capacity for growth in Aurora and Richmond Hill.

Mulock Station

- Station will serve as a multi-modal hub to support development and help serve growing GO Rail demand in Newmarket. The Town of Newmarket has initiated the Mulock Station Area Secondary Plan.

RICHMOND HILL CORRIDOR

John Street

- Station will provide access to existing residential and employment land uses and ease demands at both the Langstaff and Old Cummer GO Stations. In addition, Station will support the redevelopment of the Shouldice Hospital.

16th Avenue (east of Yonge Street)

- Station supports growing GO Rail demand in Richmond Hill and development of the Yonge and Carrville/16th Key Development Area Secondary Plan.

19th Avenue

- Will take pressure off already well utilized Richmond Hill GO station and Stouffville GO station. Provides access to GO Rail along the Yonge Street corridor and is adjacent to the existing Bayview Avenue commuter corridor. Station will also support approximately 6,000 new residential units in the North Leslie Secondary Plan and developments in the Bayview/Elgin Mills corridor.

STOUFFVILLE CORRIDOR

Denison Street/14th Avenue

- Station provides access to existing residential and employment land uses which are currently reliant on car travel and will motivate non-auto use.

Major Mackenzie Drive

- This station is located along the north urban boundary of the City of Markham and major east-west commuter corridor. The future station will be located adjacent to Donald Cousens Parkway. It will support existing communities, infill developments and the north Markham Future Urban Area (FUA) to the west.

Demand for parking at GO stations has a considerable impact on the adjacent established communities

Demand for parking at GO stations is significant, with parking lots reaching capacity regularly. Commuters arriving after parking lots are at capacity have been observed parking on local streets and filling parking spaces at local businesses. With the GO Expansion program increasing service, an even greater demand on accessing stations/parking will occur. Options to help mitigate these should be considered to alleviate negative impacts on adjacent established communities.

GO station planning should include appropriate sustainable transportation options, including active transportation facilities/connections, passenger pick-up and drop-off locations, improved local transit integration, associated education campaigns and transportation demand management or behaviour change programming. In emerging urban areas and at GO stations serving major commuter corridors, Metrolinx should consider structured parking facilities to make most efficient use of available land.

5. Financial

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. New GO stations are funded by Metrolinx; however, the GO Expansion program has the potential to significantly impact York Region's capital and operating budgets. Proposed road/rail grade separations may be required to facilitate the two-way, all day, 15-minute or better service. Staff will continue to assess and monitor these impacts.

6. Local Impact

The introduction of new GO stations benefit York Region and the local municipalities by providing greater access to regional rail transit services. New GO stations influence land use development and assist in achieving provincially-mandated intensification targets.

The GO Expansion program is part of the Region's broader transit network, helping to provide residents and employees with greater transportation options.

7. Conclusion

The new Metrolinx GO stations provide additional opportunities for integrating the transportation network to meet the needs of travellers today and into the future. Staff

continues to work with Metrolinx to advance efforts in protecting, planning for and delivering new GO stations in York Region.

Staff recommends Council requests Metrolinx to consider all new GO stations identified in York Region's 2016 Transportation Master Plan as part of a development-driven approach to implementing new GO stations, and to address parking impacts at GO stations through the GO Expansion program.

For more information on this report, please contact Brian Titherington, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning at 1-877-464-9675 ext.75901. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by: **Paul Jankowski**
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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Chief Administrative Officer

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