

Update on the Presentation by the Greater Toronto Airports Authority

Date:	November 9, 2007
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	Director, Economic Research and Business Information
Wards:	All
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SUMMARY

The GTAA raised a number of significant issues in their presentation to Economic Development Committee (October 11, 2007). City staff welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters with the GTAA and other partners and to develop and implement collaborative recommendations for action.

Financial Impact

This report has no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on October 11, 2007, Economic Development Committee received a presentation by representatives of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority and requested Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Division staff to report back to its November 29, 2007 meeting on a number of major issues related to public transit, aviation/air policy, and economic development. A copy of the GTAA presentation was forwarded to the Toronto Transit Commission, GO Transit and the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority for consideration.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Toronto International Airport is Canada's largest airport serving over 30 million passengers annually with 75 airlines operating non-stop or direct flights to 76 international cities, 47 U.S. cities, and 29 Canadian cities. It is a major economic generator for the City and the region.

Working collaboratively with the GTAA and other partners to ensure the efficient and effective movement of business and leisure travellers and cargo is increasingly important to maintain a competitive advantage in today's global economy. This includes air transportation to and from destinations around the world, and ground transportation to and from the airport.

COMMENTS

City and GTAA officials and staff have a good working relationship and have worked cooperatively to exchange information and address issues of mutual concern since the Airport Authority assumed responsibility for the management, operation and maintenance of Toronto Pearson International Airport on December 2, 1996, pursuant to the terms of a Ground Lease between the GTAA and the Government of Canada. We are pleased to continue to do so.

The issues raised by the GTAA in their presentation to Economic Development Committee include:

- Expanded TTC service to the airport
- Developing Eglinton and Renforth as as key transit hub
- Supporting a rail link connecting Toronto Pearson to downtown
- Removing the 'anywhere but Toronto' regulations from federal air plicy
- Advocating for further open skies and new bilateral agreements
- Reducing government imposed airport costs
- Working collaboratively to promote Toronto and local events
- Working collaboratively to attract MRO and Aerospace business
- Integrating Toronto Pearson art program into the City's Culture Plan for the Creative City
- Advocating for arrivals duty free at Toronto Pearson

Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Division staff are in general agreement with the directions suggested in the GTAA presentation and, if fact, have initiated some of these proposals. Many are significant issues that require greater discussion with GTAA staff as well as City, TTC, GO Transit, GTTA staff. City staff have had some discussion on these issues and we are arranging meetings with the other agencies involved.

Conclusion

Staff are confident that the City, GTAA and other partners can find appropriate solutions to the issues raised by the Airport Authority in its presentation and will report back to the February 20, 2008 Economic Development Committee meeting.

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