

Official Plan Amendment for Etobicoke-Finch West Light Rail Transit – Request for Direction

Date:	March 31, 2010
To:	Planning and Growth Management Committee
From:	Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division
Wards:	Wards No. 1 (Etobicoke North)
Reference Number:	pg10018

SUMMARY

On March 21, 2007, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) endorsed Transit City, a light rail transit (LRT) plan for the City of Toronto. The TTC and the City of Toronto are Transit City co-proponents. Transit City is comprised of seven LRT projects, including the Etobicoke-Finch West line, which is currently proposed to run along Finch Avenue West, westerly from Finch Station on the Yonge Subway line to Highway 27, south on Highway 27 to Humber College Boulevard and terminating at Humber College campus, just west of Highway 27 on the south side of Humber College Boulevard.

The Official Plan, Map 5 Surface Transit Priority Network, identifies both Finch Avenue and Highway 27 as transit priority segments, which provide for the implementation of the proposed Etobicoke Finch West LRT. Map 5, however, does not provide for the extension of the LRT west of the intersection of Highway 27 on the south side of Humber College Boulevard to the Humber College Campus.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorization for the preparation of a City-initiated Official Plan Amendment to reflect the recommended alignment for the Etobicoke-Finch West LRT, consistent with the Council approved Etobicoke Finch West LRT Environmental Project Report, specifically, the portion of the line west of the intersection of Highway 27 and Humber College Boulevard to a terminal at the Humber College campus.

The Official Plan Amendment would enable construction of the project to commence in a timely manner upon approval of the Transit Project Assessment Process and procurement of funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Planning Division recommends that:

1. The Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, be directed to prepare an Official Plan Amendment to designate a surface transit priority segment west of Highway 27, on the south side of Humber College Boulevard, to a terminal facility on the Humber College campus, to be considered at a statutory public meeting to be held as part of the June 16, 2010 meeting of Planning and Growth Management Committee.
2. Notice for the statutory public meeting under the Planning Act be given according to the regulations under the Planning Act.
3. Staff be directed to schedule a Public Information Centre, together with the affected Ward Councillor, to present the draft Official Plan Amendment prior to the statutory public meeting under the Planning Act.

Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report have no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on March 21, 2007, the TTC endorsed the Toronto Transit City - Light Rail Plan as the basis and priority for rapid transit expansion within the City.

On April 1, 2009, the provincial government announced provincial funding for the Finch West Light Rail Transit line. This project is a part of the 15-year plan in Metrolinx's "The Big Move".

At its meeting of January 26 and 27, 2010, City Council approved the Etobicoke-Finch West LRT Environmental Project Report, which identified the need for an Official Plan Amendment to provide for the LRT alignment between the intersection of Highway 27 and Humber College Boulevard and the Humber College Campus.

www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/cc/minutes/2010-01-26-cc45-mn.htm

(Executive Committee, EX39.18, 2010)

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Provincial Policy Statement and Provincial Plans

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The PPS sets the policy foundation for regulating the development and use of land. The key objectives include: building strong communities; wise use and management of resources; and, protecting public health and safety. City Council's planning decisions are required to be consistent with the PPS.

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe provides a framework for managing growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe including: directions for where and how to grow; the provision of infrastructure to support growth; and protecting natural systems and cultivating a culture of conservation.

City Council's planning decisions are required by the Planning Act to conform, or not conflict, with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Official Plan

The Official Plan, Map 5 Surface Transit Priority Network, attached as Figure 1, includes transit priority segments along Finch Avenue West and Highway 27, but not west of Highway 27 on the south side of Humber College Boulevard to a terminal on the Humber College Campus. Figure 2, attached, shows the proposed LRT alignment, identifying the segment for which an Official Plan Amendment is required.

The Implementation section of the Official Plan contains policy 5.3.1.1 which states that all public works should conform to the Official Plan. This is in line with the Planning Act (R.S.O. 1990) Section 24 which states that where an Official Plan is in effect, no public works shall be undertaken that do not conform to the Plan. Therefore, an amendment to the Plan is necessary to allow for the possibility of a light rail transit line to connect to Humber College via Humber College Blvd.

COMMENTS

Provincial Policy Statement and Provincial Plans

The proposed Official Plan Amendment would be consistent with the PPS and would not conflict with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Official Plan

In order for the Etobicoke-Finch West LRT line to be constructed to Humber College, the Official Plan would need to be amended to address its Policy 5.3.1.1 and the Planning Act (R.S.O. 1990) Section 24 requirement for public works to conform to an Official Plan in effect. An amendment to Map 5 is necessary to provide for the alignment west of the intersection of Highway 27 on the south side of Humber College Boulevard to a terminal facility on the Humber College Campus.

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SIGNATURE

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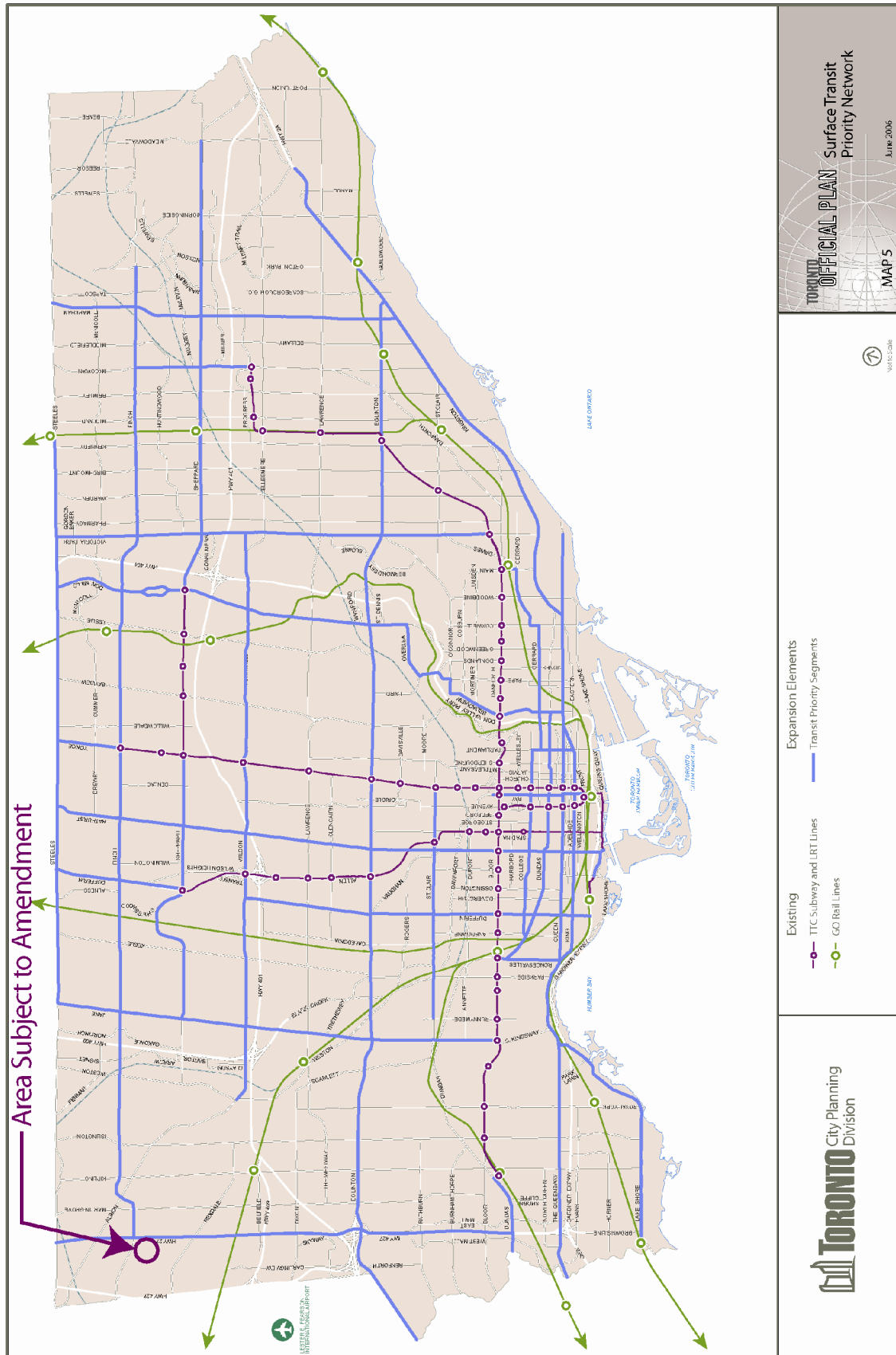


Figure 1

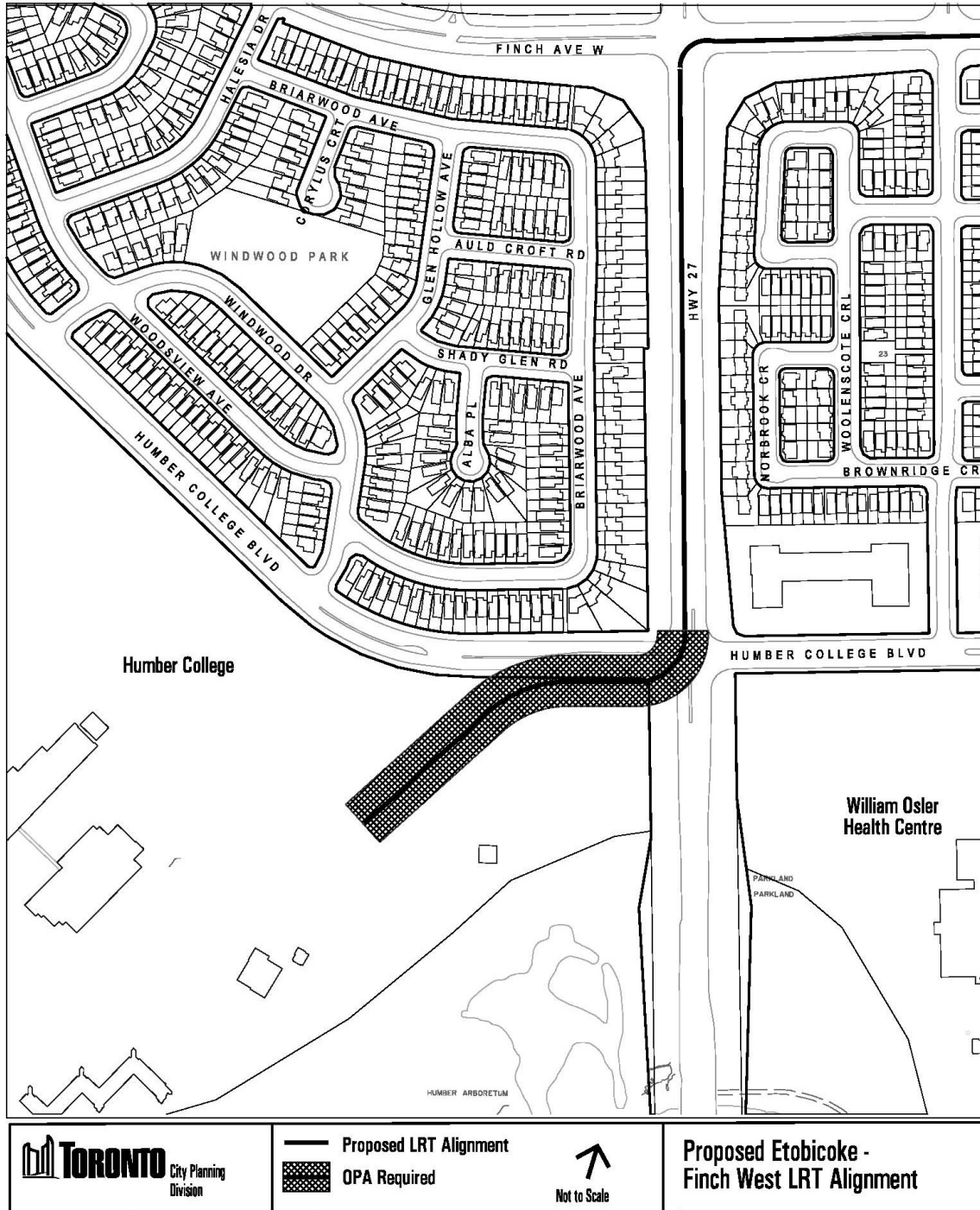


Figure 2