



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Eglinton LRT Transit Project Assessment

Date:	November 23, 2009
To:	City Council
From:	City Manager
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT Transit Project Assessment Study as outlined in the attached report which was considered and approved by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) on November 17, 2009. The report also seeks authorization for staff to submit the Environmental Project Report to the Ministry of the Environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project Assessment Study and authorize the submission of the Environmental Project Report (EPR) to the Ministry of the Environment.

Financial Impact

This recommendation carries no new financial impact on the City's budget. The Province of Ontario will fund 100% of the announced \$4.6 billion for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT. City Council has approved \$164.4 million to cover Transit City costs to the end of 2009. Further funding for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT is included under Transit City Approved Priority Projects shown "below the line" in the TTC 2010-2014 Capital Program, as approved by the TTC on September 24, 2009.

An Interim Funding Memorandum of Agreement is currently being finalized between the City, the TTC and Metrolinx to recover Transit City costs incurred to the end of 2009.

DECISION HISTORY

On November 17, 2009 the Toronto Transit Commission considered and approved the attached report 'Request for Approval of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT Transit Project Assessment Study', including a recommendation to forward the report to the City Manager with a request to submit a report directly to the November 30/December 1, 2009 meeting of Council.

COMMENTS

In the Spring of 2008, the City of Toronto and Toronto Transit Commission initiated preliminary planning for a Transit Project Assessment Study for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT line. The Transit Project Assessment is conducted in accordance with the Transit Projects Regulation of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA). Under this Regulation, transit projects such as Eglinton Crosstown LRT are exempt from the requirements under Part II of the *Act*. The new Regulation has created a process which allows for an assessment of potential environmental impacts to be completed and approved within six months.

The attached report provides background and status information, a summary of the consultation process, results of the Transit Project Assessment Study and the rationale supporting the various elements of the recommended preferred design for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT line.

The request from the Toronto Transit Commission for a report directly to Council was made in order to secure Council authority by the end of 2009 in order to receive Ministry of Environment approval and meet construction start dates in mid-2010.

Additionally, on November 17, 2009, the Toronto Transit Commission requested City staff to prepare an information report to be submitted to Council on the left turn prohibition/U-turn facilities being considered as part of the design of the Eglinton LRT.

CONTACT

Lynda Taschereau, Strategic and Corporate Policy, City Manager's Office (392-6783),
ltascher@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Joseph P. Pennachetti
City Manager

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Letter of Transmittal from the Toronto Transit Commission to the City Manager (November 19, 2009).

Attachment 2: Toronto Transit Commission Report (November 17, 2009): 'Request for Approval of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT Transit Project Assessment Study' including the 'Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit Draft Environmental Project Report Executive Summary'.