



John Tory  
Mayor

December 4, 2014

Executive Committee Members,

The SmartTrack plan is a cornerstone of my election platform. Moving forward on SmartTrack requires an informed public debate and City Council's direction to proceed with this vital transit expansion initiative. An analysis of the SmartTrack plan to consider its public policy and cost/benefit implications, based on sound and objective evidence is the necessary first step in its delivery.

During my first meeting with Premier Wynne we agreed that the City of Toronto must work closely with the Province when considering and implementing SmartTrack which we both see as complementary to the Province's vision for transit in our region. Both Premier Wynne and I were pleased to confirm to the public following our meeting that our respective officials are already working together to identify these implications and collect the relevant facts and evidence.

The SmartTrack plan depends on the success of the provincial Regional Express Rail (RER) plan and their 2014 Budget commitment to transform the regional transportation system by providing significant new travel choices across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. A committed working relationship and collaboration across city and provincial officials is required to integrate the SmartTrack plan with the Metrolinx RER initiative.

With the support of City Council, I will be formally asking the City Manager to work with my office to coordinate a review of the SmartTrack plan in close collaboration with the Toronto Transit Commission and the Provincial Government and its agencies. The review will require appropriate resourcing to expedite various studies, including planning and environmental assessments, business case, and system integration analysis. All resulting evidence and options will be brought forward to Council for their deliberation.

The SmartTrack plan also depends on successful partnership and collaboration with the federal government and Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area municipalities. City, Provincial and Federal investments in transit expansion must be aligned with economic development strategies, both in the city and the region. This is the vision that we must communicate and advance with provincial and federal government and regional municipalities with the goal of creating a long term partnership to finance and implement this vital transit expansion plan. With City Council's support, I will be working to enhance our intergovernmental relations to advance the SmartTrack initiative.

To immediately move forward on the SmartTrack initiative, I am recommending the attached actions for Executive Committee's consideration.

Mayor John Tory

## **Recommendations:**

The Mayor recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager, in collaboration with the Toronto Transit Commission and the Provincial Government and its agencies, to bring forward an interim report to the January 22, 2015 meeting of Executive Committee to provide an accelerated work plan for a review of the SmartTrack and Regional Express Rail plans, including the required planning, environmental assessment, business case analysis, and implementation schedule;
2. City Council authorize the City Manager to retain the following specialized services to support the review of the SmartTrack plan:
  - a. the University of Toronto to support the planning analysis and required transit modeling;
  - b. Strategic Regional Research Associates for assessing development scenarios along the SmartTrack alignment; and
  - c. Third party peer reviewers of all SmartTrack analysis;
3. City Council amend the 2015 Interim Estimates report (EX1.6) to include additional funding of up to \$750,000 in the 2015 interim capital estimates, reflecting 50% of the Transit Expansion Initiatives capital project to conduct the various studies, and analyses, as outlined in Recommendation 1 and 2; and
4. City Council authorize the City Manager to engage provincial and federal officials and Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area municipalities as needed to review the SmartTrack and Regional Express Rail implementation plans and to pursue required partnership funding.