



REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Supplementary Report - Engagement with the Province on Toronto's Transit System - Q1 2019 Status Report

Date: March 26, 2019

To: City Council

From: City Manager

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This supplementary report responds to Executive Committee's request for the City Manager to report directly to the March 27 and 28 City Council Meeting with additional details regarding the public consultation plan. This report also provides an update on correspondence received by the Province on March 22nd and March 26th, with respect to transit expansion and ongoing discussions on roles and responsibilities under the Terms of Reference (ToR).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost of resources and support for the consultation resulting from engaging with the Province on the Toronto Transit System, as outlined in the February 12, 2019 ToR, is estimated at \$350,000. The budget is for Stage 1 of the Review and is included in the City Manager's recommendation to allocate \$2 million from the Capital Financing Reserve Fund XQ0011 (See Recommendation #1, EX3.1).

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its March 21, 2019 meeting, Executive Committee requested the City Manager to report directly to City Council at its meeting on March 27 and 28, 2019 on the following:

- The date of the first consultation meeting and timetable for future consultations;
- A plan to advertise the consultations to the public to ensure maximum attendance and awareness;

- The feasibility of providing updates through social media or emails to keep residents up to date on the issue; and
- The feasibility of including a meeting with stakeholders in the consultation plan.

Report Link:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EX3.1>

COMMENTS

Status of Discussions with the Province

The City and TTC held a technical briefing with provincial officials from the Ministry of Transportation, Infrastructure Ontario and Metrolinx on March 8, 2019 in which the City and TTC provided a comprehensive overview of the transit expansion program. The purpose of the briefing was to ensure senior provincial staff were informed on the current status of projects. The scope of the briefing provided the following:

- An overview of Line 1 capacity and TTC State of Good Repair requirements. This work is foundational to address safety concerns and growth on the network.
- The Relief Line and Bloor-Yonge Station Improvement projects were highlighted; both projects are required to help address Line 1 capacity.
- Update on projects that are ready to proceed to procurement and construction—the Line 2 East Extension (L2EE) and SmartTrack Stations Program;
- Update on projects currently in planning and early design phases – Eglinton East LRT extension, Waterfront Transit Network, and the Eglinton West LRT extension (Toronto Segment).

During the briefing, the City and TTC also advised that information presented was in the process of being updated as part of a report to City Council and the TTC Board.

On March 22, 2019, the City Manager received a letter from the Province's Special Advisor to Cabinet - Transit Upload and the Deputy Minister of Transportation. This letter is included as Attachment 1. The letter outlines the Province's interests in specific transit expansion projects, which are identified as Provincial priorities (i.e. Line 2 East Extension, Relief Line South, Eglinton West LRT, and Yonge Subway Extension). The letter describes the Province's interest in assuming responsibility for planning, design and delivery of the four projects, and outlines potential changes in scope. The Province's letter also referenced the March 8th technical briefing and included statements which did not accurately reflect the content and discussion of the briefing (e.g. cost estimates for Line 2 East Extension and Relief Line South).

On March 25, 2019, the Steering Committee as described under the ToR, met and discussed the Province's March 22nd letter. The City and Province had a productive discussion and clarified where the Province misunderstood information presented in the March 8th technical briefing on transit expansion projects. The Province also confirmed a commitment to the process outlined in the ToR to review the alignment of transit responsibilities between the parties.

A second letter from the Province was received on March 26th. The Province confirmed in the letter an interest to continue discussions "*on an accelerated basis, with respect to how transit responsibilities for the priority expansion projects may be distributed between the orders of government.*" The Province confirmed that statements in the March 22nd letter, reflect the Province's "*sense of urgency, but should not be taken as being suggestive of changes to the process under the ToR.*"

The letters are being presented to City Council for information. The City has an interest in continuing to advance transit expansion in Toronto, and establishing a constructive dialogue with the Province to advance priority projects. The process outlined under the ToR will be utilized to continue to inform the Province on the City's interests and priorities.

A full update on the transit expansion program will be presented to the April 9th meeting of Executive Committee and April 11th meeting of the TTC Board.

Public Consultation Plan

As described in EX3.1, a public consultation plan has been developed to ensure meaningful public input into Stage 1 of the Review as described in the joint ToR. City staff have developed this plan in consultation with the TTC and are currently in discussions with the Province regarding their participation in the consultation process.

A variety of consultation methods will be used throughout this review, including third party research, a series of public meetings, tele-town halls, webinars, pop-up events at subway stations, an online survey, and an Expert Advisory Panel. The Expert Advisory Panel will include representation of a diversity of perspectives across key stakeholders, including the transit-user and labour relations perspectives. In addition to these methods, it is feasible to hold an additional meeting to engage other stakeholders in the consultation plan. City staff, in consultation with TTC, will explore opportunities to include additional stakeholder perspectives that aren't captured in the Expert Panel.

The first consultation meeting is being planned for May, subject to the status of the technical work on options development, analysis, and evaluation. The information produced as part of the ongoing work on options analysis is an input to the public consultation process. The public will be informed of the timing of public meetings well in advance of the first meeting. At least one meeting will be held in each community council area.

Third party public consultation expertise has been retained to ensure the consultation is meaningful and robust. A comprehensive communications and promotions strategy will ensure maximum public awareness to encourage attendance and participation in the consultation. The communications plan will include, but is not limited to print, digital, and social media. It will also include outreach to multilingual audiences.

The Strategic Communications Division will provide regular updates through a variety of channels including media relations, social media and the City's website, to keep

residents up-to-date on the issue. In addition, an internal communications strategy will provide information to 311, members of Council, City staff and agencies, as required.

Public consultation will continue throughout the Review, with additional consultation activities for Stage 2 of the Review, and any subsequent phases to be established and undertaken as the review progresses.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Chris Murray
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - March 22, 2019 letter from Special Advisor to Cabinet - Transit Upload and Deputy Minister of Transportation

Attachment 2 - March 26, 2019 letter from Special Advisor to Cabinet - Transit Upload and Deputy Minister of Transportation