



REPORT FOR ACTION

Proposed Improvements to Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), Light Rail Transit (LRT) at Exhibition Place

Date: March 27, 2019

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Dianne Young, Chief Executive Officer

Wards: All Wards

SUMMARY

The Exhibition Place LRT loop and the Exhibition GO Station have been an area of congestion for users for quite some time. As the Exhibition Place grounds, Liberty Village, Ontario Place, The Bentway, Fort York neighborhood and other areas continue to grow, the current LRT loop and GO Station configuration will not support the future increased volumes using the TTC and requirements for west bound LRT.

The LRT streetcar track extension west to Dufferin received Environmental Approval in 2008 and the project has received City Council approval as recently as January 2018 as part of the Waterfront Transit Network Plan.

The TTC will attend the Board meeting and will provide a presentation on the proposed improvements/changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board request the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Toronto Transit Commission on any meetings or information related to the proposed improvements to the TTC and LRT at Exhibition Place.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no negative financial implications of receiving the report.

DECISION HISTORY

The Exhibition Place 2017 – 2019 Strategic Plan has a Public Space and Infrastructure Goal to improve all forms of access needs to and within the grounds by actively supporting the enhancement of public transit access to the grounds.

COMMENTS

During 2018 and over the past few months, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) has been in consultation with Metrolinx, City of Toronto Planning, City of Toronto Transportation and Exhibition Place staff on the 30% design for the expansion of the Harbourfront LRT that runs from Union Station to a terminating loop at the Exhibition Place TTC/GO station. This initial expansion design is to continue the Harbourfront LRT service from Union Station to Dufferin Street and then north, to connect to the King Street and Queen Street streetcar routes. The expansion will improve year-round TTC streetcar service to Exhibition Place, from both the east and from the west; will allow the removal of most TTC bus operations from inside Exhibition Place; will provide more operational flexibility and resiliency to the TTC; and will improve TTC-GO connections. The LRT expansion is the first phase of the proposed Waterfront Transit project endorsed by City Council on January 31, 2018.

Thirty (30%) LRT design and planning has to occur now, as the plan has to interface with many changes happening in the area and being undertaken by several different partners:

- the new GO Station and platform alterations by Metrolinx
- the removal and replacement of the overhead Gardiner deck by City Transportation
- the 1.4 meter elevation change requirement of the permanent Dufferin Bridge to facilitate the electrification of the tracks by City Transportation
- the replacement of the water mains running over the rail corridor by City Water
- the track extension connecting service between the Dufferin Loop and Exhibition Place, complete with new platforms on Exhibition Place grounds at Dufferin Street by TTC
- the protection for future west track expansion of the TTC to connect to the Etobicoke Lakeshore LRT by TTC
- the track replacement at the Dufferin Loop by TTC
- 2019 Master Plan development for Exhibition Place

Exhibition Place is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee working with strategic partners such as the Toronto Transit Commission, Metrolinx and City Planning to develop options for improving safety and the customer experience at the Exhibition TTC / GO Station and surrounding area. The report and the TTC presentation that will be provided at the Board meeting is an overview of the work that has been completed to date and recommendations being made to the TTC Board on the future upgrades. A Public Consultation with stakeholders will be scheduled after this report is accepted by the TTC Board.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Dianne Young
Chief Executive Officer