

REPORT FOR ACTION

Ontario Line Early Works - Presentation by Metrolinx

Date: February 4, 2021
To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
From: Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer
Wards: All Wards

SUMMARY

Announced by the Province of Ontario in 2019, the proposed Ontario Line is one of four priority transit projects Metrolinx is leading for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The line will be the largest single expansion in Toronto's subway history, helping to ease congestion on existing transit lines throughout the city, and bring transit to underserved neighbourhoods.

The Ontario Line will bring nearly 16 kilometres of much-needed subway service to Toronto to make it faster and easier for hundreds of thousands of people to get where they need to be each day.

The line will stretch across the city, from the Ontario Science Centre in the northeast to Exhibition Place in the southwest.

Current plans for the Ontario Line include 15 stations including 6 interchange stations, and over 40 new connections to GO train lines and existing subway, streetcar, and bus lines.

Staff from Metrolinx will be attending the Board meeting of February 19, 2021 to do a power point presentation on the design and progress of the Ontario Line development to date for the benefit of the Board Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

DECISION HISTORY

The Exhibition Place 2017-2019 Strategic Plan has a focus on Public Space and Infrastructure, which includes an objective to identify the linkages to future public transit and road networks.

There is no previous Decision History on this matter

COMMENTS

Certain construction activities referred to as Early Works are components of the Ontario Line Project that are anticipated to be ready to proceed before completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, such as rail corridor expansion, utility relocation or bridge replacement or expansion, as defined in O. Reg. 341/20.

Early Works Reports provide a description of the early works and alternatives considered, document local environmental conditions, and outline early works-specific environmental impacts, mitigation measures, monitoring activities, potentially required permits, and approvals and other components.

Ontario Line Early Works are being advanced where the Project interfaces with other concurrently planned transit projects such as GO Expansion), and where portions of the alignment run in parallel to the existing Lakeshore East and Lakeshore West GO rail corridors.

Advancing work in these areas provides planning, design, and implementation efficiencies for the interfacing projects, and will facilitate timely implementation of the Ontario Line project and coordination of GO Expansion plans at Exhibition Station. These Early Works will set the groundwork for other construction, and reducing risk of construction delays to the main P3 contracts by completing the joint corridor work in advance of the main contracts.

At this time, the following Ontario Line Early Works being presented, focus on Exhibition Station, and include an extension to the existing passenger tunnel; opening an unused tunnel entrance building; installation of a temporary pedestrian bridge; a new north platform and accompanying shift of the northern two GO tracks; and utility relocation and protection.

Early Works construction is expected to begin in summer 2021, pending the selection of contractors, and be completed in mid-2023. Metrolinx continues to share detailed designs with Exhibition Place staff for review and will be providing updates on timelines

and working collaboratively to put mitigations measures in place for any anticipated impacts so that visitors can easily access events throughout the construction phase.

Early Works will be followed by construction of a new concourse and other project infrastructure, including a connection to Ontario Place. Metrolinx has committed to involve Exhibition Place staff early in the design phase of these elements, working closely with the TTC and City staff.

The draft Exhibition Station Early Works Report outlined the purpose of Early Works, a description of local environmental conditions, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation measures. Feedback on the draft report was accepted from November 30, 2020 - January 5, 2021, and has been incorporated in the final report, which was released on February 1, 2021. Below is the Link to the Metrolinx report

<https://www.metrolinxengage.com/en/content/ontario-line-early-works-exhibition-station>

Exhibition Place staff will report back to the Board to provide with updates on the status of the Ontario Line Transit project as warranted.

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SIGNATURE

Don Boyle
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