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## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM32.24	ACTION			Ward: All
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#### **The Missing Link: Extending the Finch West LRT to the Kitchener GO Line - By Councillor Michael Ford, seconded by Councillor Stephen Holyday**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

#### **Recommendations**

Councillor Michael Ford, seconded by Councillor Stephen Holyday, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Executive Director, Transit Expansion Office and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, in consultation with the Toronto Transit Commission, to report to Executive Committee in fourth quarter of 2021, through the forthcoming Transit Priorities Report, on the feasibility of expanding the Finch West LRT south to connect to the Kitchener Go Line.

#### **Summary**

New and enhanced investments in transit infrastructure continue to be a top priority for the City of Toronto, particularly due to the associated economic and social benefits. The extension of the Finch West LRT to the Kitchener Go Line is another opportunity to build on progress already underway for connecting many diverse communities in Northwest Toronto to the rest of our city.

The Finch West LRT is a critical transit project here in our City's Northwest and will greatly enhance transit connectivity for residents in the City of Toronto. The LRT line will run from Finch West Station (Finch Avenue West and Keele Street) to the terminal stop at Humber College, comprising 18 stops, 11 kilometres of rail and connections to TTC's Line 1, and York and Peel Region local transit. Work on this project is well underway, with the Highway 400 bridge replacement at Finch Avenue West already completed and road widening and utility work currently in progress. The project is scheduled for completion in September 2023.

In 2019, the Government of Ontario announced its partnership with Woodbine Entertainment to build another key piece of transit infrastructure in Northwest Toronto: the new GO station on the Woodbine lands. Funded entirely by the Woodbine Entertainment Group, this project will be constructed at no cost to taxpayers. The future Woodbine GO station will sit on the 684-acre site at 555 Rexdale Boulevard. With GO Transit currently operating from Union Station to Kitchener GO Station along the Kitchener Rail Corridor, this project will provide a new stop

along this line, which will provide accessible and efficient transit for Etobicoke residents and commuters across the broader region.

Linking the Finch West LRT to the future Woodbine GO station is an extension already identified in the Official Plan, however, it requires further study. This extension would entail an estimated 2.5 kilometres of additional rail and would link where the line currently ends at Humber College and Etobicoke General Hospital to the existing Kitchener GO line. This additional transit linkage would further complement the broader vision of transit revitalization already underway in the region, which includes tunneling the Eglinton West Crosstown Extension and connecting this line along with the Kitchener Rail Corridor to Toronto Pearson International Airport. Altogether, these projects would help connect more residents to institutions of higher education, employment opportunities, entertainment and amenities, and many other critical services that are provided in Northwest Toronto. Overall, this connectivity would drive further economic growth, revitalization and prosperity for North Etobicoke and the broader region.

This proposed extension would not only enhance the unique benefits of both of these transit projects, but it would also complement the broader revitalization already underway in North Etobicoke. This includes the current Woodbine Entertainment Complex expansion, which comprises the casino expansion on the northern portion of the site, new hotel and restaurants amenities, a 5,000-seat auditorium and parks and open space. Future phases of the development on the 684-acre site will also present opportunities for: residential housing, commercial and office space, more jobs, expanded parks and open space, sports and entertainment uses, and more.

Altogether, these transit projects and expansive developments currently underway will create countless jobs and limitless economic opportunities for thousands of residents in North Etobicoke.

This Motion is requesting the Executive Director, Transit Expansion and the Chief Planner and Executive Director of City Planning, in consultation with the Toronto Transit Commission, to report back in the fourth quarter of 2021 through the Transit Priorities Report with details on what an extension of Finch West LRT to the Kitchener GO Line would look like, the feasibility and associated benefits of additional transit connectivity in the region, and how an extension like this could fit into the overall planning context of the area.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM32.24