

REPORT FOR ACTION

Ontario Line Update - Presentation by Metrolinx

Date: November 24, 2022

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 15.6 kilometres of much-needed subway service to Toronto to make moving around the city better, faster, and easier than it is today.

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

The Ontario Line will have 15 stations including 6 interchange stations, and over 40 new connections to GO train services and existing subway, streetcar, and bus services.

Staff from Metrolinx will be attending the Board meeting of December 9, 2022 to do a power point presentation on the design and progress of the Ontario Line project 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 2022-2026 Strategic Plan has a Goal to Solidify Position as a Leading Convention and Event Space, and having an updated new infrastructure such as the Ontario Line in place to ensure Exhibition Place has the Transportation network in place to support this goal is important.

Metrolinx last provided an update to the Board on this project on October 29, 2021.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.EP20.7>

COMMENTS

Certain construction activities referred to as Early Works are components of the Ontario Line Project that began before completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, such as rail corridor expansion, utility relocation, 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, 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.

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 and 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 at Exhibition Station officially broke ground in March 2022. Metrolinx continues to share detailed designs with Exhibition Place staff for review and will be providing updates on timelines. Staff are working collaboratively to put mitigation 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 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 was 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 updates on the status of the Ontario Line Transit project as warranted.

Staff from Metrolinx will be attending the Board meeting of December 9, 2022 to do a Power Point presentation on the design and progress of the Ontario Line development to date for the benefit of Board Members.

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SIGNATURE

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