

REPORT FOR ACTION

Multi-Modal Transportation and Event Operations and Logistics Study

Date: January 19, 2024

To: Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer

Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina - Fort York

SUMMARY

Urban transportation is undergoing major transformations, driven in part by the emergence of new technologies. These changes are putting pressure on public streets to be used in new and unanticipated ways, while also presenting potential opportunities to improve the transportation system.

This report provides the findings and recommendations of the Multi-Modal Transportation and Event Operations and Logistics Study to the Board for consideration. Both studies provide recommendations that enhance pedestrian connectivity to and within Exhibition Place while optimizing event logistics for our tenants and show clients.

Attached in Appendix A of this report are WSP's findings and recommendations regarding the design of a reimagined pedestrian and event operations and logistics network.

Staff from WSP will deliver a presentation to the Board that summarizes the study and engagement activity and outline the design recommendations at its meeting of February 2, 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board approve of the final WSP recommendations in the attached Appendix A of this report.

2. The Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to finish Phase 2 Feasibility Study and initiate the design phase based on the WSP Phase 1 recommendations and the outcome recommendations from Phase 2 Feasibility Study and report back to the Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications to this report.

DECISION HISTORY

Exhibition Place's Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026 has goals that strive to "Exceed Client and Visitor Expectations" and "Promote Site Animation 365-Days a Year." These goals will be achieved through investing in infrastructure projects that activate the site through expanded passive and planned programming opportunities while providing welcoming pedestrian connectivity and wayfinding.

At its meeting on June 24, 2020, the Exhibition Place Board of Governors confirmed its support for the Exhibition Place Master Plan – Phase 1 Proposal. The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide a long-term framework for physical change at Exhibition Place while recognizing the unique attributes of the site.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EP11.23>

At its meeting on June 24, 2020, the Exhibition Place Board considered a report from the Chief Executive Officer, and directed staff to continue working with City Transportation staff on the development of a Transportation Flagship Innovation Zone partnership at Exhibition Place, and further directed the Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place, to provide a progress update on this initiative in the first quarter of 2021.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EP11.24>

At its meeting on September 30, October 1 and 2, 2020, City Council directed that the Board of Governors advance the next phase of the Master Plan study and identify the next steps and future study phases, including funding mechanisms for the Multi-Modal Transportation and Operations and Logistics Study listed in section 4.2 of Exhibition Place's Master Plan as potential areas for further study.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2020.TE18.42>

COMMENTS

Both the Multi-Modal Transportation and Event Operations and Logistics Study are identified as "Quick Start Initiatives" within the Exhibition Place Master Plan - Phase 1 Proposals Report. A central theme of the Master Plan report is enhancing site connectivity within Exhibition Place and its neighbouring communities. This involves

formalizing pedestrian pathways, particularly along the west side of the Food Building, that connect Exhibition Place to Liberty Village, Ontario Place, and future Ontario Line and GO stations.

The Study proposes a new transportation network that supports community and public access through the site in the planning for future transit investments and connectivity to Ontario Place. Recommendations from this plan will take vehicular movements, patterns, and Exhibition Place's working vehicles into consideration. The Event Operations and Logistics Study provides recommendations for goods movement, event vehicle marshalling, and vehicle staging.

Ensuring that the recommendations included the input of Exhibition Place's tenants, trade and consumer shows, and convention business clients, WSP conducted interviews with all major business stakeholders. Further engagement occurred with Exhibition Place staff, City Planning, and the community, assuring a thorough grasp and consideration of differing perspectives.

WSP has recently conducted several transportation and parking studies at Exhibition Place. In selecting a consultant, WSP was a practical choice because of its knowledge of Exhibition Place and chronicled experience, most notably the BMO Field Expansion Transportation Study (2006), Exhibition Place Parking Study (2015-2016), and TFC Transportation Management Plan (2019). WSP has also delivered studies for the City of Toronto, including the Freight & Goods Movement Strategy and Transportation Master Plan for the Finch West Area.

As part of the fact-finding methodology, WSP conducted several activities to understand Exhibition Place's existing transportation and event logistics network. This included site visits to assess current pedestrian connections and existing loading features, review operating procedures, and analysis of past studies and the set-up of the CNE fair.

WSP will deliver a presentation to the Board that summarizes the study and engagement activity and outline the design recommendations.

With the Board's approval of WSP's recommendations, the Exhibition Place team will initiate the search for a firm to complete Phase 2 Feasibility Study, start schematic design phase. The design process will involve engagement with various stakeholders, including staff, the public, tenants, show clients, the city, and the province. Upon completion of the draft schematic design, it will be submitted to the Board for review and feedback.

WSP

WSP is one of the world's leading engineering and professional services firms and provide strategic advisory, engineering, and design services to clients in the transportation, infrastructure, environment, building, power, energy, water, and mining sectors. Drawing on over 130 years of technical excellence and 67,000 worldwide and 150,000 active projects around the world, WSP offers a holistic approach to the transportation and infrastructure planning, design, and management.

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SIGNATURE

Don Boyle
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Final Report from WSP