



TO: Mayor, Members of Council and Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Alan Brown, Director, Engineering

DATE: June 26, 2013

Re: **Stouffville GO EA Study**

GO Transit is undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study for the Stouffville railway corridor from Kennedy GO Station in Toronto to Unionville GO Station in Markham. The study will identify the appropriate infrastructure improvements of the corridor needed to improve the quality of service offered to customers and provide new transit options in the eastern GTHA.

We met with GO and their consultant to discuss a number of issues we have with the scope of their study. Highlights of the meeting and GO's position are as follows:

- In Big Move and Next Wave documents, the service expansion for this corridor is from Union Station to Mount Joy Station whereas the EA study area is from Kennedy to Unionville Station. Staff requested GO to expand the scope of work and study area to Mount Joy Station to define transit improvements on this corridor to 2031. GO is only looking at midterm transit improvements (2021) and will not extend the study to Mount Joy Station at this time.
- GO will look at service improvements north of the Unionville Station based on the existing rail system.
- Markham Council on May 1, 2012 requested Metrolinx consider the I-Metro-E concept as part of their EA study. Metrolinx is not prepared to include a review of the electrification of this corridor at this time. Metrolinx indicated that they did an electrification study for all GO corridors in 2010 and this corridor is not suitable for electrification within the next 15 years.
- Ridership forecast projections for this EA would be for the mid-term horizon which is 10 to 15 years. We requested GO to extend the study time horizon to 2031 to be consistent with the Provincial growth horizon and to ensure transit requirements in this corridor can be defined. GO indicated that the long term horizon (2031) will be reviewed as part of another EA from Unionville Station to Mount Joy in the future.
- We asked GO to review anti-whistling requirements in Markham as part of this EA, however, as they are not undertaking a full study north of

Unionville Station, where we have the noise issues, I doubt we will be able to get GO to address this issue fully.

- The first public information meeting (PIC) has been scheduled at Angus Glen Community Centre on June 20th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to provide an overview of the study. As they did not coordinate the public meeting with the impacted Councillors schedule, GO is going to provide a meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. so staff and Councillors can attend.
- The second PIC is to be scheduled for Fall 2013 and GO will finalize the EA study by December 2013.
- We will ask GO to undertake a presentation to DSC this fall before the 2nd public information meeting.
- The EA will be filed in Spring 2014.

A draft resolution for consideration at the June 26, 2013 Markham Council meeting is attached.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

DRAFT MOTION

(2) Stouffville GO EA Study

- 1) Whereas in the Metrolinx's Big Move (2009) and Next Wave (November 2012) documents, full day, 2 way service expansion for the Stouffville GO Line corridor is to be from Union station to Mount Joy station as part of the 15 year plan for Regional Rapid Transit;
- 2) Whereas Markham Council on May 1, 2012 requested GO Transit to consider electrification for this corridor and establish a steering committee and working group.
- 3) Whereas GO Transit is undertaking an EA study area for this line from Kennedy station to Unionville station;
- 4) Whereas staff have requested GO Transit to revise their study Terms of Reference to include, Unionville station to Mount Joy station and a 2031 horizon year for the EA Study.

Be it resolved that;

- 1) GO Transit be requested to expand the scope of work and study area of their EA study to include the Unionville station to Mount Joy station section;
- 2) And that GO be requested to extend the EA study time horizon to 2031 to be consistent with the provincial growth horizon and to ensure transit requirements in this corridor can be defined;
- 3) And that GO consider the electrification for this corridor;
- 4) And that GO review anti-whistling requirements in this corridor as part of this EA study;
- 5) And that Gary McNeil-CEO of GO Transit, Rob MacIsaac –Chair of Metrolinx and B. Fish-Regional Chair of ROY be advised accordingly.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1 STOUFFVILLE RAILWAY CORRIDOR EXPANSION

Metrolinx, an agency of the Province of Ontario, is helping transform the way the region moves by championing and delivering mobility solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) through its regional transportation plan, *The Big Move*. Our GO Transit division continues to expand and improve its services to provide more choices for travel across the GTHA, meet increasing customer demand and attract more transit users in the future.

THE STUDY

GO Transit is undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) and Preliminary Design for the Stouffville railway corridor from just south of Kennedy GO Station in Toronto to Unionville GO Station in Markham. The study will identify what infrastructure improvements are needed along the corridor to improve the quality of service offered to customers and provide new transit options in the eastern GTHA.

THE PROCESS

The project will be carried out as a Group “B” undertaking as outlined in the GO Transit - Class Environmental Assessment (as amended in August 2005). An Environmental Study Report (ESR) documenting the preliminary design work, the results of the EA process, anticipated environmental effects of the project and commitments to mitigation measures will be filed for public and agency review at the completion of the study. We will make these documents available to the public at that time.

Your participation is an important part of the process and we welcome your input. You are invited to attend any one of the **Public Information Centres** listed below. GO Transit staff and the study consultants will be on hand to answer questions and record your comments.

DATE: Tuesday, June 18, 2013
TIME: 7 pm – 9 pm
LOCATION: Agincourt Recreation Centre
31 Glen Watford Dr.
Toronto, Ontario

DATE: Thursday, June 20, 2013
TIME: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
LOCATION: Angus Glen Community Centre
3990 Major Mackenzie Drive E.
Markham, Ontario

All locations are wheelchair-accessible.

COMMENTS INVITED

Comments and information regarding this study are being collected to assist in meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The material will be maintained on file for use during the study and may be included in study documentation. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information, or to be added to the study’s master mailing list, please contact:

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Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez composer le (416) 869-3200 or le 1 888 GET ON GO (438-6646).

Metrolinx is working to provide residents and businesses in the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area with a transportation system that is modern, efficient and integrated. Find out more about The Big Move, Metrolinx's Regional Transportation Plan for the GTHA at www.bigmove.ca. Find out more about GO Transit, PRESTO, and Union Pearson Express, divisions of Metrolinx, at www.metrolinx.com.

