

Information Follow-up from the General Issues Committee on February 6, 2015:

A number of comments and requests for additional information were received at the February 6th GIC meeting. These comments/requests are highlighted below followed by explanatory notes.

Impact of Fare Increases on Seniors and the Vulnerable:

Emergency & Community Services brought a report to Committee on February 23, 2015 that recommends the affordable transit bus pass program be made permanent for those residents receiving social supports. The recommendation was subsequently approved by Council on February 25, 2015.

Public Consultation:

As part of formulating annual service plans, each year a “Town Hall” meeting will be held to advise citizens of proposed service changes/improvements and provide citizens with the opportunity to have input into same. Other forms of consultation can be considered as well.

Provincial Transit Projects

The following is the new list of the Big Move – Next Wave Projects along with project estimates as per Metrolinx Website:

Brampton Queen Street Rapid Transit	\$0.6 billion
Dundas Street Bus Rapid Transit	\$0.6 billion
Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit	\$0.5 billion
Electrification of GO Kitchener line and Union Pearson Express	\$0.9 billion
GO Lakeshore Express Rail Service – Phase 1 (including Electrification)	\$1.7 billion
GO Rail Expansion: More Two-Way, All-Day and Rush Hour Service	\$4.9 billion
Hamilton Light Rail Transit	(\$811M) \$1.0 billion
Hurontario-Main Light Rail Transit	\$1.6 billion
Downtown Relief Line	\$7.4 billion
Yonge North Subway Extension	\$3.4 billion
Grand Total	\$22.6 billion

The next wave decision is expected in the next few months. Metrolinx has confirmed business cases analysis is underway and decisions are expected to be made based on the results of this analysis.

Confederation GO Station

To date the Province of Ontario has purchased property in the vicinity. Metrolinx/GO staff have advised City staff that a park and ride and GO bus terminal will be constructed as an interim facility until train service is introduced. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2016. Further conversations will be had with provincial officials to discuss this project and the 10-year capital forecast.

Other Transit Related Reports:

Since 2010, a number of reports have been prepared by the City of Hamilton related to Rapid Transit and LRT most notably the McMaster Institute for Transportation & Logistics (MITL) report dated April 2012 entitled The North American Light Rail Experience: Insights for Hamilton and The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) report dated June 2010 entitled Hamilton B-Line Value Uplift and Capture Study. Both were appended to the Rapid Ready report.

While both reports differ and had different objectives, both highlight and investigate other municipal experiences across North America and try to highlight the appropriate set of circumstances that are important for successful transit and land use planning to occur in Hamilton so that maximum economic uplift can be realized and accurately quantified.

The recent studies from MITL and CUI have shown that LRT can have a positive economic impact along the developed corridor, but that this also requires, appropriate land use planning and more detailed analysis. This economic impact is based on a 15-year time horizon. The CUI report does suggest an expanded value capture and uplift study be conducted in the future based on several priority foundational projects (as defined by the City).