

City of Mississauga  
**Corporate Report**



<p>Date: June 7, 2021</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works</p>	<p>Meeting date: June 23, 2021</p>

## Subject

**Hurontario Light Rail Transit Project Update**

## Recommendation

That the report titled "Hurontario Light Rail Transit Project Update" dated June 7, 2021 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, be received.

## Executive Summary

- City staff from several divisions continue to review design submittal packages from the contractor, Mobilinx, to ensure compliance for City infrastructure. To date, more than 600 design packages have been reviewed by City staff, and none of the prescribed deadlines outlined in the Project Agreement have been missed. For Permit, Licence and Approvals (PLA), the City has issued approximately 150 permits to date, which were all processed within the City's prescribed timelines.
- Construction of Hurontario LRT (HuLRT) was deemed essential under provincial health guidelines at the beginning of the pandemic and was allowed to continue during emergency measures. While much of the project's construction has focused on the north and the south sections of the corridor since the last update, it is anticipated that all of the work zones identified in Mississauga will have active construction by the fall this year. The project remains on track to be completed by fall 2024. To date, construction has resulted in a low number of complaints.
- Negotiations on an Implementation Agreement, which would define the City's roles and responsibilities during the construction phase of this project with Metrolinx, continues and is expected to be completed by the end of summer. In the fall, the project team expects to bring the Implementation Agreement for endorsement to Council.
- City staff are working with the City of Brampton to create a brand name and visual identity for the LRT system. That work will be ongoing through the summer with delivery to Metrolinx in the fall.

## Background

The previous update was provided to General Committee on July 22, 2020, through the report entitled, "Hurontario Light Rail Transit Project Update", dated July 8, 2020 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works. The report provided an update on construction and construction preparation to date.

While the province, through Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario, continues to lead the implementation of Hurontario LRT, the City of Mississauga continue to be active partners on the project, including the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel.

Mobilinx, the consortium of local and international companies that was awarded the contract to design, build, finance, operate and maintain HuLRT, is responsible for constructing the system on behalf of Metrolinx. Despite the emergency measures enacted due to the pandemic in March 2020, construction of public transit was permitted under provincial guidelines and local health measures. The project remains on track to be completed by fall 2024.

This report is intended to provide a summary of major activities and flag impending decision areas that will need to be addressed.

## Comments

### Design and Construction Update

#### Design

Since contract award in October 2019, City staff have been engaged with Metrolinx, Mobilinx, City of Brampton and Region of Peel on a number of areas to advance the design and construction of HuLRT. While the City's LRT Project Office is the primary conduit to the project, it continues to utilize the expertise of an extended team of subject matter experts in all departments to ensure the project is compliant for City infrastructure and is implemented in a timely manner.

With the Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) delivery model, this project provides unique opportunities and challenges for the design and construction. Unlike a traditional project, the AFP project is strictly required to follow unique processes and more importantly, timelines as established under the Project Agreement i.e. the agreement between Metrolinx, Infrastructure Ontario and Mobilinx.

As the design review process began in October 2019, the Mississauga portion of the project was divided into 6 Work Zones Packages for design purposes, covering 14 Work Zones. The design submittal stages include: 30% (preliminary), 50% (development), 90% (development), and 100% (construction).

To date, more than 600 design packages have been reviewed by City staff. This includes the majority of the Mississauga section of the LRT project at 50% and 90% design, or in construction. Staff is reviewing for compliance with the Project Specific Output Specifications (PSOS) document, which is part of the Project Agreement and describes what the owner wants in the project. City staff participated in developing the City infrastructure scope contained within

PSOS. Given the strict timelines outlined by the Project Agreement, staff have not missed a prescribed deadline despite ongoing pressures.

### Construction

Mobilinx started its activity on the corridor in March 2020, and under provincial guidelines, construction of transit projects was allowed to continue. Mobilinx created a Pandemic Response Plan for its office staff, site teams, and subcontractors.

Being the municipal planning authority and regulator, the City remains responsible for issuing various Permits, Licenses and Approvals (PLA) to permit the construction, especially for any construction activities within the City's road Right-of-Way. PLA includes, but is not limited to, Road Occupancy Permits, Tree Removal Permits, Utility Approvals, Site Plans, Building Permits, Licenses on City properties and various other applicable PLA as required. To date, the City has received and issued approximately 150 PLA applications within the City's prescribed timelines and another 50 PLA applications are currently under review. The City is working closely with Mobilinx to ensure completeness and accuracy of information on all applications.

As of May 2021, some highlights of what has been completed in preparation for the future roadway and tracks:

- 8km of centre median removed
- 350 subsurface utility investigations completed
- 560 surveys completed to measure catch basins and manholes
- 3km of underground telecom relocations
- 28km of new telecom cable installed
- 372m of stormwater pipes installed
- 23 temporary traffic signals installed and activated
- 22km of new hydro cable installed
- 11km of new gas main installed
- 1.1km of watermain pipes installed

Utility relocation and road works started north of Matheson last year and became a template for future works. Stage 1 works included the removal of centre median and the installation of temporary traffic signals. For most of the corridor, this allows for Stage 2 works, which includes four lanes of vehicular traffic – two in each direction – and the ability for the construction team to create a safe work zone for utility relocation and road works on one side of the roadway with temporary bus platforms. Once that is completed, Stage 3 occurs with the work zones and temporary bus platforms shifted to the other side of the roadway. Stage 4 works would include track works in the centre of the roadway, and that is expected to appear as early late this year in the northern parts of Mississauga. South of the QEW, Stage 2 works, which began in early June, meant two lanes of vehicular traffic – one in each direction – before the works are flipped for Stage 3 works. While working at the intersections, there will be some additional impacts on travel lanes, but efforts are made to minimize the impacts without compromising safety.

Additionally, works at Port Credit GO Station and the surrounding area began earlier this year to prepare the site for a future underground station. Crews have been excavating portions of the parking lots and preparing for the construction of the push box, the structure that will form as a tunnel underneath the Lakeshore West Corridor railway tracks. Construction of the separated

elevated guideway over Highway 403 is expected begin later this summer. In Brampton, construction continues at the future Operations Maintenance and Storage Facility (OMSF) just south of Highway 407. The OMSF is scheduled to be completed by 2022.

While construction and construction preparation has taken place all along the corridor at different times, it is anticipated that all of the work zones identified in Mississauga will have active construction by this fall. Lower vehicular traffic volume has been helpful to crews as they work along the corridor. As the province begins its recovery and reopening, it is anticipated that vehicular traffic volumes will increase, however, it is difficult to predict if and when pre-pandemic traffic volume levels return.

As construction continues and picks up as the project moves forward, Metrolinx will continue to act as the lead on communications with the City supporting with amplification where appropriate. To date, there have been a low number of complaints about construction works through Metrolinx's community relations office or through the City's LRT Project Office and 311.

#### Transit Service

Transit service has continued on the corridor during construction with the creation of temporary bus platforms. The LRT Project Office has been coordinating with MiWay so that stops are moved in a timely manner. All construction notices make note that works can impact transit services.

#### Implementation Agreement

It was the intention of Metrolinx, the Cities and Region to have Implementation Agreements in effect between each organization and Metrolinx ahead of contract award, as noted in the June 26, 2019 report to General Committee. But negotiations have continued past financial close.

The Implementation Agreement would cover the construction phase and the assumption of construction responsibilities by Metrolinx. While negotiations continue on a more formal agreement, Metrolinx has provided interim letters of commitment to cover areas such as permitting, insurance and indemnity. These interim letters provide commitments in those key areas until such time as the full agreement has been completed. A completed agreement for Council consideration is expected to be completed this summer and brought back to Council this fall for endorsement.

Additional agreements covering the operational period with Metrolinx and the City of Brampton will be negotiated in the future, and Council will be updated on progress.

#### Community Engagement and Communications

Metrolinx-led community outreach and communications continue to be a vital component to the project. In light of pandemic measures, most communications activities went virtual, including meetings with stakeholders, open houses and trade shows for local business. The communications team has maintained informing the public and stakeholders about upcoming construction works and has answered questions about the project progress. The communications team executed an in-person canvas of the corridor last fall that abided by public health measures to gain insight into the impacts of the project from those who live and

operate businesses. It expects to conduct two more canvasses this year, and two per year until the project is completed.

Construction Liaison Committees, which connect key groups along the corridor with the project team, continued with monthly updates, whether it was through a virtual meeting or email update. City staff participated in these meetings to listen to any concerns raised by residents or businesses in Mississauga South, Mississauga Cooksville, Mississauga Downtown and Mississauga North. The forum will continue to be a key resource as construction ramps up.

As noted earlier, complaints about the project have been low. While Metrolinx is leading the communications, 311 and Ward offices do receive some inquiries. They are either routed to the LRT Project Office or Metrolinx community relations for response depending on the nature of the inquiry. Complaints should be directed to Metrolinx community relations (peel@metrolinx.com or 416-202-7500).

### **Branding (Name and Visual Identity Development, Marketing and Launch Events)**

In conjunction with the City of Brampton, the HuLRT Project Office retained the creative agency, Barrett and Welsh, to support the cities with a brand name and visual identity development, as well as marketing and launch events support ahead of the opening the LRT system in 2024. As part of the Project Agreement, items such as marketing were assigned to the cities.

Currently, the project team is wrapping up its research phase of the project that will help inform the development of a name of the system, as well as its visual identity such as logo and line number. Development of these items will take place through the summer, and updates will be provided during the process, prior to delivery to Metrolinx in the fall.

## **Financial Impact**

There are no financial impacts resulting from this report.

## **Conclusion**

Construction of the Hurontario LRT continued along the corridor in Mississauga as the pandemic measures were implemented, enabling it to remain on track for completion by fall 2024. While different areas of the corridor has seen some construction, it is anticipated that all works zones identified in Mississauga will be under active construction by this fall to meet the timelines of the project. That will mean more impacts to residents and businesses as the City continues its recovery and reopening. Communicating those developments and impacts will be paramount as the project continues on its path to transform Mississauga and Brampton.

The City will continue to provide its input in reviewing the design as completed by Mobilinx, particularly impacting the City infrastructure. Being the municipal planning authority and regulator, the City will continue to work with Mobilinx to process various Permits, Licenses and Approvals to permit the construction activities.

Thus far, City staff has worked with well with Metrolinx and Mobilinx, and hopes to continue that in the months and years ahead.

Finalizing an Implementation Agreement with Metrolinx and getting Council endorsement on the construction phase this fall will be an important step in the project, as will other noticeable milestones and changes to the busiest corridor in the City.



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Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works

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