

Staff Report

To **City Council**

Service Area Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Date Monday, September 10, 2018

Subject **Metrolinx Transfers**

Report Number CAO-2018-27

Recommendation

1. That City Council receive Report Number CAO-2018-27, entitled "Metrolinx Transfers".

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

On April 25, 2016, Report Number C-2016.27 was laid before City Council for consideration in a closed meeting. Report Number C-2016.27 outlined the City's options for repayment of its financial contribution to the 2013 extension of GO Transit rail services to Guelph. Report Number CAO-2018-27 provides City Council with an update on the implementation of the directions received by City staff as a result of Report Number C-2016.27.

Key Findings

- Guelph Central Station, the adjacent train platform, and the adjacent parking lot area (collectively, the "Train Station") were transferred to Metrolinx. The City's bus terminal (the "Transit Terminal") continues to be owned by the City. Please see ATT-1 for comprehensive mapping of the Train Station and Transit Terminal.
- The building located at 72 Farquhar Street, Guelph (the "Drill Hall") was transferred from Metrolinx to the City to help ensure the continued protection and restoration of the site's cultural heritage attributes.
- Metrolinx granted the City an encroachment onto its lands located at the rear of City Hall, which, when fenced, will permit City staff to safely perform routine inspections and maintenance of City Hall.
- The City's historical locomotive, "Locomotive 6167", rests on leased lands. The City's land lease for Locomotive 6167 was renegotiated to allow for a 2-year window to move Locomotive 6167 should Metrolinx ever require those lands for the expansion of "2-way, all-day" Go Transit rail service to Guelph. This replaces the previous 90-day window.

Financial Implications

The City has fulfilled its obligation to repay \$3.15 million to Metrolinx for extending its GO Transit rail service to Guelph.

Report

Background

Metrolinx is an agency of the Province of Ontario, which provides an integrated transportation network in parts of Southern Ontario.

In 2013, Metrolinx extended its Go Transit rail service through Guelph to Kitchener (the "Service Extension"). The cost of doing so was shared between Metrolinx and each of the municipalities that received service because of the Service Extension.

The City of Guelph's financial contribution to the Service Extension was \$3.15 million (the "Contribution Amount") and the City's deadline for repayment of the Contribution Amount to Metrolinx was extended to May, 2018.

On April 25, 2016, Report Number C-2016.27 was presented to City Council in a closed meeting and outlined the City's options for repayment of the Contribution Amount. As a result of Report Number C-2016.27, City Council directed City staff to complete a series of real estate transactions, which would act as "in kind" repayment of the Contribution Amount.

City staff are pleased to advise City Council that the contemplated real estate transactions are now complete, and that repayment of the Contribution Amount has been fully satisfied by the City.

This Report will provide City Council with a brief summary of the real estate transactions that were completed.

Train Station Transfer to Metrolinx

The Train Station has now been transferred to, and is operated by, Metrolinx. The Transit Terminal continues to be owned and operated by the City.

Metrolinx operates many transit stations across Southern Ontario, and is well-equipped to efficiently operate the Train Station.

A new lease between the City and Metrolinx provides the following benefits to the City and to the general public:

- Continued public access to the waiting room and restrooms located within the Train Station;
- Guelph Transit employees will have continued use of the driver's lounge in the Train Station; and
- The City will enjoy continued use of the Train Station's "technology room" to house the City computer and communications equipment, which is required for Transit Terminal operations.

The City has also been granted a permanent public access easement to the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) War Memorial, which is used each year for the Royal Canadian Legion's Remembrance Day Ceremony.

The Drill Hall Transfer to the City

The Drill Hall was constructed in 1866 for the use of Guelph's voluntary militia units, for hosting county agricultural shows, and as a general purpose community hall.

The Drill Hall was transferred from Metrolinx to the City to help ensure the continued protection and restoration of the site's cultural heritage attributes.

In addition to the transfer, Metrolinx provided the City with:

- a financial contribution of approximately \$675,000 to begin restoration and stabilization of the Drill Hall foundation. The City will be issuing an RFP for stabilization of the Drill Hall in August of 2018;
- an easement over the neighbouring Metrolinx "Kiss and Ride" parking area, which will provide the City with continued access for ongoing maintenance of the Drill Hall; and
- a license to use two (2) accessible parking spaces located in the "Kiss and Ride" parking lot.

A by-law to designate the Drill Hall pursuant to Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* is being brought before Council for approval at this Meeting of Council.

Business Development and Enterprise Services will be presenting a report to Council on December 17, 2018, which will outline some exciting possibilities for the future use of the Drill Hall.

City Hall

Metrolinx owns the rail corridor directly to the rear of Guelph City Hall. Metrolinx has granted an encroachment to the City within the corridor. When fenced, this encroachment will permit City staff to safely perform routine inspections and maintenance of City Hall without the need for expensive "flagging", or other permits from Metrolinx.

The City project to fence the encroachment is already underway.

Locomotive 6167

The historic Locomotive 6167 is located on the south side of the Metrolinx rail corridor, adjacent to Farquhar Street (see ATT – 1). It is owned by the City, but rests on lands leased from Metrolinx.

The City's land lease for Locomotive 6167 was renegotiated to allow for a 2-year window to move Locomotive 6167 should Metrolinx ever require those lands for the expansion of "2-way, all-day" Go Transit rail service to Guelph. This replaces the previous 90-day window.

Financial Implications

The City has fulfilled its obligation to repay \$3.15 million to Metrolinx for extending its Go Transit rail service to Guelph.

Consultations

The following City staff members have been consulted in the preparation of this Report:

Cathy Kennedy, Manager, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations
Danna Evans, General Manager, Culture, Tourism and Community Investment
Antti Vilkkko, Acting General Manager, Facilities Management
Tara Baker, Treasurer, General Manager of Finance
Tara Sprigg, General Manager, Corporate Communications and Customer Service

Communications

A joint news release regarding the changes outlined in this Report will be provided by Metrolinx and the City.

Corporate Administrative Plan

Overarching Goals

Financial Stability
Service Excellence

Service Area Operational Work Plans

Our Resources - A solid foundation for a growing city
Our Services - Municipal services that make lives better

Attachments

ATT-1 Mapping of Train Station and Transit Terminal

Departmental Approval

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ATT - 1 Mapping of Train Station and Transit Terminal

