

Ring of Fire

- Next meeting of the Minister's Table on Ring of Fire is scheduled for September 25. MNDM intends to provide an update on the ROF project overall; MOECC intends to present Environmental Approval options for discussion.
- MOECC will be working with MNDM, MTO and MNRF in collaboration with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency as appropriate, to determine the path forward for the road EAs
 - Options include: 1) no individual EA; 2) individual EA; and 3) tailored process by regulation (would still include EA)
- MNDM is working to help coordinate other regulatory approvals as needed with the EA (e.g. permits to take water, work permits, entrance permits, Far North Act and Endangered Species Act requirements, etc.)
- MNDM continues to work with communities to support broadband connection application to the federal government's Connect to Innovate program. Federal conditional approval of applications expected in Oct. after which MNDM will work to finalize details of the provincial contribution and report back to TB/MBC for approvals prior to announcements.
- TPAs with Webequie, Nibinamik, and Marten Falls First Nations now in place to support technical studies to support proposed road infrastructure, among other ongoing initiatives in the region.
- MNDM continues to work with MOI to determine how to advance discussions with the Federal government to match Ontario's \$1 billion infrastructure investment in the ROF. The federal Building Canada Fund is no longer available as a funding mechanism.
- On August 21, 2017, the Premier made an announcement regarding Ontario's work in partnership with Webequie, Nibinamik, and Marten Falls First Nations to support communities to construct year-round access roads to their communities and to the proposed developments in the Ring of Fire.
 - Following the announcement there were several subsequent news releases from First Nations and industry, with most indicating support. However, the Eabametoong and Neskantaga First Nations' news release expressed their displeasure with Ontario supporting the work of Webequie and Marten Falls First Nations.
- MNDM and MIRR, and affected ministries, continue to work to finalize the language of the Statement of Joint Commitments through the Joint

Jurisdiction Working Group with Matawa First Nations – now targeted for completion Jan 2018

- On June 27, 2017, MNDM received approval to implement a willing partners approach to ROF infrastructure discussions, and conditional approval to enter into the Statement of Joint Commitments once finalized.
- Progress on work under the RFA has been limited while discussions at the Joint Jurisdiction Table continue.

Transit

RER procurement

- Procurement for enabling works ongoing until end of 2017 (13 AFP procurements and several traditional procurements).
- On June 14, 2017, Metrolinx issued the Notice of Commencement for the GO Electrification Environmental Assessment Transit Project Assessment Process.

Operator Procurement

- On July 21, 2017 Metrolinx issued an RFQ for RER operation and maintenance services
- On August 15, 2017, Bombardier filed an application with the Ontario Divisional Court claiming that Metrolinx unfairly prohibited them from bidding on this contract. Metrolinx indicated that it excluded Bombardier to avoid a conflict of interest, as one of the duties of the successful bidder will be to carry out an assessment of current operations and service providers.
- The litigation was adjourned on September 13, 2017, as Metrolinx informed Bombardier of the possible change in project delivery model and that, as part of that change, the opportunity to mitigate conflicts of interest of existing service providers would arise.
- On September 15, 2017, Metrolinx issued a notice that outlines possible changes to the RER Operations and Maintenance Request for Qualifications process. Metrolinx is considering a design/build/ finance/operate/maintain (“DBFOM”) project delivery model, and intends to extend the existing RFQ deadline by approximately four weeks. An Addendum to the current RFQ is planned to be issued in late fall.

Hydrogen

- MTO/Metrolinx updating RER procurement strategy and explore viability of alternative propulsion technologies (TB/MBC Fall 2017).
- On September 15, 2017, Metrolinx released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for concept design work to show how a hydrogen fuel cell system could be integrated into a Bi-level Electric Multiple Unit train. The Hydrail Feasibility Study is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2017.

Rail Rationalization

- Negotiations between Metrolinx and CN for Master Agreement on rail rationalization starting in September 2017 (TBC).
- EA for rail rationalization to begin in June 2018 (TBC).

Regional Transportation Plan

- On September 14, 2017, the Metrolinx Board of Directors adopted and published a draft 2041 updated Regional Transportation Plan. Final plan expected to be adopted in Dec 2017.

Cannabis

- On July 26, Cabinet approved of MTO's vulnerable road users submission, which included impaired driving:
 - Zero tolerance" for young, novice and commercial drivers.
- On September 6, Cabinet approved the Cannabis framework including for retail and distribution.
- On September 8, the government announced their framework to manage the federal legalization.
- On September 8, the Federal government [announced](#) over \$274 million to support policing and border efforts associated with the plan to legalize recreational marijuana use.
- Deputy Minister's Steering Committee ongoing meetings.
- On September 15, the New Brunswick (NB) government announced that it has created a new Crown corporation to oversee the sale of recreational marijuana, and signed deals with two suppliers. In addition, NB Finance Minister Cathy Rogers signed MOUs with Organigram and Canopy Growth Corp. to secure a supply for the NB market in time for the July 2018 launch.

- September 18, media reports that the City of Toronto's Licensing Committee is expected to recommend Council support the plan announced by Ontario and request support for enforcement and consult on issues including home grow.
- On September 18th, Ontario announced its proposed approach with respect to drug impaired driving.
- Legislation is currently tracking to LRC on October 16; CAB (bundle) Oct 26; Intro - earliest - Oct 27.
- Smoke-free Ontario / Electronic Cigarettes Act refresh tracking to HESP, Sept 26.
- On September 20, the Minister of Finance indicated that potential uniformity of pricing and taxation across Canada is being considered. A potential price point of \$10 per gram has been noted in recent media reports.

Energy Issues

LTEP Release

- Cabinet approved the 2017 LTEP initiatives and policy objectives of the IESO and OEB implementation directives (July 26), the LTEP frequency regulation (August 29), and the modelling outlooks (August 31).
- Approval of final LTEP document and OEB/IESO implementation directives tracking to October 16, 2017 LRC and Cabinet for week of October 30 public release.
- On September 21, Energy MO and PO will go through final changes. Energy is working to finalized the LTEP document quickly so it can go for translation and production.

QC-ON Electricity Trade

- Energy, working with IESO, is in discussions with Hydro Quebec (HQ) on an enhanced electricity trade agreement.
- Energy is working with the IESO and IO to undertake internal analysis on potential increases to imports from Quebec and the impact on nuclear refurbishments, Ontario Fair Hydro Plan (OFHP), the potential electricity market renewal commitment and other provincial priorities (e.g., climate change).
- On June 22, HQ tabled an initial offer for a revised energy trade.
- On August 11, the IESO provided HQ with a counter-proposal (i.e., 1,000 MW and 4 TWh/yr starting in 2025 for 10 years for \$46/MWh).

Energy reports that the IESO's proposal meets Ontario's policy objectives (i.e., reduces GHG emissions, provides Ontario ratepayers savings and makes best use of our existing electricity systems).

- In September, Ontario's Energy Minister wrote to his Quebec counterpart requesting a response to IESO's proposal by September 29.
- Energy is to report back to Cabinet in fall 2017 on the negotiations and updates on discussions with storage providers and other electricity sector participants.