

Summary Status Table in Response to the Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

*Metrolinx – GO Station Selection (Section 3.06, 2018 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's (OAGO)
Ministry of Transportation*

Committee's Recommendation	Completed undertaking	Outstanding undertaking
Recommendation 1 Should Transit-Oriented Communities opportunities be identified, the Ministry of Transportation should conduct its own assessment of whether or not the Kirby and Lawrence East GO stations should be built, and whether these stations would benefit the regional transportation network.	As announced in the 2019 Budget, Ontario is moving forward with a new kind of partnership with the private sector through a Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Program to optimize transit infrastructure investments and increase transit ridership. Under the TOC approach to delivering new GO stations, the Province will partner with developers to deliver transit infrastructure that is integrated into the structure of a broader development site. TOC partnerships will reduce the capital costs incurred by the Province in delivering new GO stations and will support provincial priorities by connecting more homes and jobs to transit. In some cases, the Province will partner with existing developers nearby the proposed site to deliver a station using the TOC approach (e.g. Mimico and Woodbine station) and in other cases development partners would be sought and selected through a competitive process. Should potential TOC opportunities be identified, including any potential GO TOC opportunities at Kirby and Lawrence, the ministry will assess these opportunities and take them through applicable government decision-making processes.	Currently N/A. Should Metrolinx identify potential TOC opportunities, MTO will assess the opportunities and advance them through applicable government decision-making processes.

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Recommendation 3 The Ministry of Transportation should provide information about how the Transit-Oriented Communities program works, including how exactly stations are chosen and prioritized.	The Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) program is meant to place more housing and jobs near or at transit stations along the routes of the province's four priority subway projects. Benefits of the program include: • Increasing transit ridership and reducing traffic congestion • Increasing housing supply (including affordable housing) and jobs • Catalyzing complete communities based on good planning principles • Offsetting the cost of station construction which would save taxpayers' money • Stimulating the economy through major projects for years after COVID-19 In February 2020 and May 2020 respectively, the Province of Ontario entered into Memoranda of Understanding on Transit-Oriented Development with the City of Toronto and York Region. In July 2020, the <i>Transit Oriented Communities Act</i> was passed, which will rethink the relationship between transit, housing, and commercial spaces and enable more timely construction of vibrant communities around transit stations along the routes of the Province's four priority subway projects. In December 2020, the <i>Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act</i> received Royal Assent, which enables the use of regulation to extend the measures of the <i>Transit Oriented Communities Act</i>. This includes provincial transit initiatives beyond the GTA, including GO Rail expansion and Light Rail Transit projects. The Ministry of Transportation has a webpage for the Transit-Oriented Communities program on the Ontario.ca website (www.ontario.ca/page/transit-oriented-communities) that provides an overview of the program for all interested parties. Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario are the provincial agencies that are the key delivery partners for the TOC program, including working with developers on site-specific proposals. Metrolinx leads TOC projects located with the GO heavy rail network or in-delivery Metrolinx light rail projects, and Infrastructure Ontario leads TOC opportunities related to the "New Subway Transit Plan for the GTA".	Currently N/A

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	Through the Metrolinx link on the Ontario.ca Transit-Oriented Communities webpage, individuals are directed to the Metrolinx Transit-Oriented Communities Program webpage (Transit Oriented Communities - Projects Metrolinx). This Metrolinx page provides more information on the intake process for third parties that are interested in partnering with Metrolinx on a given Transit-Oriented Communities project for the GO heavy rail or LRT program. Should Metrolinx identify potential TOC opportunities (supported by a positive business case for new stations), MTO will assess the opportunities and advance them through applicable government decision-making processes. For new stations, existing stations, and entrance connections, once the agreements are executed between the third party and Metrolinx, the third party will then develop and construct the project in accordance with the agreements and proceed to project handover upon completion. Infrastructure Ontario, as agency lead for Transit-Oriented Communities for the priority subways projects, maintains a webpage providing an overview of its work along with links to updates on current TOC proposals (Transit-Oriented Communities - Subways Infrastructure Ontario.ca). In addition, interested parties are linked from the Ontario.ca TOC page to Infrastructure Ontario to connect with the agency by email to discuss TOC as it relates to the New Subway Plan for the GTA. As Infrastructure Ontario identifies potential TOC opportunities, MTO will work with MOI to advance them through applicable government decision-making processes.	

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Recommendation 8 The Minister of Transportation should consistently provide Metrolinx with letters of direction outlining the Minister's decisions.	The Ministry of Transportation accepts the Committee's recommendation. Letters of Direction (LODs) serve as accountability mechanisms, which may be issued by the Minister of Transportation on any aspect of the <i>Metrolinx Act</i> (as per section 31 of the <i>Metrolinx Act</i>, 2006). The directives are formal governance tools employed by the Minister to increase accountability and provide transparency on government priorities. In order to facilitate Metrolinx's delivery of provincial priorities in accordance with government direction, MTO has increased its use of LODs in order to provide clear direction pertaining to the Minister's decision(s) and expectation(s). The Ministry will continue to provide Metrolinx with LODs to ensure enhanced accountability and transparency around decision-making.	The Ministry of Transportation has fully implemented this recommendation.