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Cc: Judy Pfeifer[Judy.Pfeifer@metrolinx.com]; Vasie Papadopoulos[Vasie.Papadopoulos@metrolinx.com]; Malon Edwards[Malon.Edwards@metrolinx.com]; Ryan Bissonnette[Ryan.Bissonnette@metrolinx.com]
From: Vanessa Thomas
Sent: Tue 4/10/2012 6:43:23 PM
Subject: Media Inquiry - Nunziata's ARL Motion - Deadline: 3 p.m. today

Hi Erin and David,

Benn Spurr, reporter with NOW magazine, is writing an article about Nunziata's motion. She has some questions regarding a motion going before Toronto city council this week, which is calling for Metrolinx to add more stations to the ARL.

Below are his questions along with my proposed responses for your suggested edits and approvals:

Q. Is Metrolinx willing to consider adding more stations to the ARL?

For opening day, the Air Rail Link will connect Union Station and Terminal 1 at Toronto Pearson Airport, with two station stops at Bloor and Weston stations along GO's Kitchener corridor.

The design and project scope for the opening day of the service in 2015 has been determined and we are well into construction of infrastructure improvements along GO's Georgetown corridor that will support the ARL service as well as enhanced GO service within the corridor.

The goal with this service is to offer residents, tourists and business travellers with a high-quality connection to the airport that is fast, reliable, convenient and comfortable.

The estimated 25-minute total trip makes this service an attractive option for people and it makes it a viable alternative to driving and parking or riding a taxi to the airport. Adding more stations stops along the ARL route will increase the total travel time,

making it a less attractive option.

The ARL will provide quick and easy access to Toronto's downtown core and Toronto Pearson and fill a significant transportation gap in airport-to-downtown travel throughout the region. The ARL service is expected to eliminate 1.2 million car trips in its first year of operation alone.

For those communities throughout Toronto outside of the ARL route, there is also several existing localized transit and private shuttle options to get to and from the airport. The localized transit and private shuttle options service various neighbourhoods and areas across the Toronto area.

If pressed: The premise of the ARL project is to provide fast service to the airport with minimal number of stops. Currently, each one-way trip is scheduled to take approximately 25 minutes, adding additional stops would add to the length of each trip, therefore taking away from the purpose of the service as being direct and express.

Q. Some have suggested that at a minimum, it would be logical to add a link to the Eglinton Crosstown. Is Metrolinx open to examining that?

Connecting to the Eglinton Crosstown LRT line is an important future consideration for the Air Rail Link.

The design process is continuing on the Eglinton Crosstown, which has a completion date of 2020. The update to the approved Eglinton Crosstown LRT Environmental Assessment will look at the two potential station locations at Weston Road and Jane. We are in the preliminary planning phases of the environmental assessment, which will include ongoing public consultations. Working with the community is an important part of this project – the first public consultation period for the Environmental Assessment will begin in fall 2012.

This area around Eglinton Avenue and Black Creek Drive is essential to the Eglinton

Crosstown LRT project. This area is also identified in our regional transportation plan, The Big Move, as a mobility hub. Consideration would also be given to bus interchange facilities around the Eglinton and Black Creek location.

If pressed about Eglinton Crosstown station locations: We are in the preliminary planning phases of the environmental assessment which will help determine the exact location of those stations along the Crosstown line. The EA is the update to the approved Crosstown LRT EA.

Q. During the recent debate over transit on Eglinton, Finch, and Sheppard, Metrolinx made clear that it wanted council's input on transit planning in Toronto. Should council reach a position on the ARL, would Metrolinx take it under consideration?

We are listening to city councillors, and various members of the community, in respect to the Air Rail Link. We are also continuing to engage with representatives from the City of Toronto and across the GTHA to ensure that the ARL is completed on time and on budget.

Q. Would it be possible to operate the ARL on both an express and local basis? For example, have some trains make several stops, while others go directly from the airport to Union Station?

At this time, the plan is for the Air Rail Link to connect Union Station and Toronto Pearson Airport with two station stops at Bloor and Weston stations.

The design and project scope for the opening day of the service in 2015 has been determined and we are well into construction of infrastructure improvements along GO's Georgetown corridor that will support the ARL service as well as enhanced GO service within the corridor.

There remains a important future considerations to connect with the Eglinton

Crossstown.

Exclusion per Committee Direction

Metrolinx is currently conducting detailed market research to ensure that the ARL service is competitive with the cost of a taxi ride to the airport.

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His deadline is 3:30 p.m. today. If you're able to provide edits and feedback by 3 p.m. today, that would be appreciated.

Thanks,
Vanessa

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