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# HAMILTON LRT Community Benefits Overview

LRT General Issues Committee  
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# OVERVIEW

- Community Benefits Framework:
  - Background and Program Overview
- Community Benefits for Hamilton:
  - Key Players
  - Local Considerations and Elements
    - Local Employment
    - Local Procurement of Goods/Services
    - Other Benefits
- Next Steps and Process:
  - Tentative Schedule with Key Milestones

# BACKGROUND

- Metrolinx recognizes that its infrastructure investments should also provide benefits for the communities in which it works including local employment, training, apprenticeships, and local supplier and social procurement opportunities, where possible.
- The Eglinton Crosstown LRT project in Toronto was the first major infrastructure project in Ontario to include a Community Benefits Framework.
- Metrolinx has committed to including a community benefits program for the Hamilton LRT project.
- Metrolinx is committed to working with community groups, agencies and other stakeholders to build its community benefits program.
- Project Co will be required to submit a Community Benefits Liaison Plan and Apprenticeship Plan to Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario within three months of financial close.

# BACKGROUND

**The Community Benefits Framework for Metrolinx's Toronto Transit projects, beginning with the Eglinton Crosstown LRT will serve as a template for Hamilton's LRT project.**

## **What does a Community Benefits Framework look like?**

- Commits to local investment and procurement from businesses in Hamilton and along the project corridor
- Identifies opportunities to partner with local workforce agencies to hire workers in Hamilton and from historically disadvantaged and equity seeking communities
- Specifies working with the constructor and various subcontractors to maximize opportunities for apprenticeships

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR HAMILTON

- A Community Benefits Working Group will be established in Hamilton to draft a Community Benefits Framework
- The Community Benefits Framework/Plan will focus on two key areas:
  - Community Benefits Liaison Plan**
    - Local employment, procurement, social enterprise
  - Apprenticeship Plan**
    - Signed Community Benefits Declaration (with targets)
- There will be other benefits that accrue to the community outside of Project Co's contractual obligations

# KEY PLAYERS

- Metrolinx
- Infrastructure Ontario
- City of Hamilton
- Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development
- Community Groups/Stakeholders including:
  - United Way
  - Hamilton Community Foundation
  - Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction
  - Non-profit organizations
  - Post-secondary institutions
  - Neighbourhood groups
  - + *more as identified*
- Unions
- Local businesses, BIAs, Chambers of Commerce

# LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Key considerations as discussions begin and draft CB Framework is developed:*

- q What are the unique attributes, challenges and opportunities within Hamilton?
- q Who are the key community stakeholders that should be involved in this process and how will community input be structured?
- q Where is it possible to leverage connections with the community?
- q How do we ensure a balance of government, community partners and other stakeholders in the working group?
- q What are the preliminary methods and timelines for creating awareness and engaging the wider community in this process?

# LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

## **Key Goals:**

- Provide equitable opportunities that promote economic inclusion for all Hamilton residents (“local” is not just local to the LRT corridor)
- Connect diverse communities and youth facing barriers to employment, to apprenticeship and employment opportunities with the project
- Contribute to the development of a system of training and workforce development programs that can be inclusive and intentional in its outcomes

# LOCAL EMPLOYMENT (cont.)

## **Apprenticeship Plan:**

- Will focus on two separate streams:
  - Subcontractors
  - Direct-hire Project Co construction labour
- Supported through various Community Benefits initiatives and by leveraging partnerships with unions to promote apprenticeship opportunities
  - Work with local workforce agencies
  - Skills development workshops
  - Host various job fairs
  - School engagement

## ***Examples from Crosstown CB Plan:***

- ***CareerStart Program***
  - Offers meaningful employment opportunities to diverse youth currently facing barriers to employment and living in communities along the Project corridor
- ***Construction Pathway***
  - No single apprenticeship pathway for the construction industry existed – represented a barrier to success
  - Worked with major community stakeholders to guide implementation of workforce-development pathway for construction-related jobs in Toronto

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# LOCAL PROCUREMENT

- Committed to maximizing procurement opportunities for businesses and social enterprises
- Will include specific requirements related to Community Benefits commitments in service agreements and subcontracts
- Potential to utilize online portal as main vehicle to track local contractors, vendors, social enterprise groups and agencies interested in procurement opportunities
- Potential to host regular information sessions to provide individuals, small business owners, members of social enterprises, vendors, suppliers and other works-related contacts with opportunities to become involved in or benefit from the project

## *Example from Crosstown CB Plan:*

- **Partnership with the United Way's Social Purchasing Project**
  - Partnered with the United Way's Social Purchasing Project (SPP) – a joint initiative of United Way Toronto and York Region, and provincial and federal governments
  - Matches qualified social enterprises with procurement needs

# OTHER BENEFITS

- Renewed public realm
- Will work with neighbourhood associations to support implementation of Neighbourhood Action Plans
- LRT trains are clean and green with no emissions from the vehicle
  - Enhanced transit reduces air pollution and greenhouse gases      CLEANER AIR
  - Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility will be LEED Silver certified
  - Incorporation of Metrolinx's first [Sustainability Strategy](#) (2015-2020) where possible



Metrolinx Sustainability Goals

## ***Examples from Crosstown CB Plan:***

- **Community Artwork**
  - Commitment to community artwork on construction signage and hoarding

# NEXT STEPS

## TENTATIVE COMMUNITY BENEFITS SCHEDULE

Feb. 2, 2017	<i>RFQ released: proponents are required to demonstrate local knowledge, including community benefits</i>
Spring 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project Team determines community benefits partners who will be involved in drafting Community Benefits Framework (CBF) – who should be “at the table”</li></ul>
Spring 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community Benefits Working Group is created to ensure smooth coordination of activities identified in CBF</li><li>Project Team convenes community meetings with community benefits partners to help inform CBF as it's drafted</li><li>CBF for Hamilton and Terms of Reference for future CB Working Group meetings is finalized</li><li>Community benefits provisions are included in the Project Agreement</li></ul>
Summer 2017	<i>RFP released to selected bidders</i>
In-Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IO coordinates a Topic Meeting for proponents and seeks input from Metrolinx<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Community groups invited to present to proponents</i></li></ul></li></ul>
Summer 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Selection process/committee determines winning bidder (Project Co)</li></ul>
After Financial Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project Co submits Community Benefits Liaison Plan, and Apprenticeship Plan and Declaration to IO/MX for review/approval (<i>three months after financial close</i>)</li><li>Project Agreement is released</li><li>Community Benefits Plan is released publicly once approved</li></ul>
On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regular Community Benefits Working Group meetings are scheduled</li><li>Meetings, monitoring and reporting on Project Co Community Benefit obligations</li></ul>

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