

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: June 24, 2014

SUBJECT: ADJUSTMENTS TO TTC SERVICES AFFECTED BY
CONSTRUCTION OF THE EGLINTON-CROSSTOWN LRT

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board forward this report to Metrolinx, and Councillors Di Giorgio, Colle, Palacio, Mihevc, Stintz, Matlow, Parker, Robinson, Minnan-Wong, Thompson, and Berardinetti, noting that changes to TTC services are being made wherever possible to offset the effects of construction of Metrolinx's Eglinton-Crosstown LRT line.

FUNDING

This report has no effect on the TTC's operating or capital budgets. The agreement between the TTC and Metrolinx requires Metrolinx to compensate the TTC for additional operating costs that are incurred because of construction.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on April 30, 2014, the Board received a request from Commissioner Heisey:

"That TTC staff report back at a future Board meeting on the impact of the Crosstown Eglinton Line construction on bus service and passengers and what TTC's plan is for addressing it."

This report responds to that directive.

DISCUSSION

As with every major capital project, construction related to Metrolinx's Eglinton-Crosstown LRT has significantly affected the reliability of TTC services. Roadway restrictions related to construction activities, the movement of large construction vehicles and materials, and the unpredictability of the resulting general traffic congestion, are collectively reducing the reliability of service along Eglinton Avenue.

In response, the TTC has been adjusting service schedules and increasing the number of buses on affected bus routes to mitigate these negative effects. On the 32 EGLINTON WEST route, which serves Eglinton Avenue west of Yonge Street, between six and eleven buses have been added, depending on the operating period. Implementation of these service changes began in January 2013 and, have been gradually increased as construction effects change.

Starting in May 2014, similar changes have been made to the routes east of Yonge Street, on 34 EGLINTON EAST, 51 LESLIE, 54 LAWRENCE EAST, 56 LEASIDE, and 100 FLEMINGDON PARK. Up to eight buses have been added in the morning peak period, and seven buses in the afternoon peak period, to maintain service reliability. Associated schedule changes to compensate for construction-related delays, and to produce more accurate schedules, have also been made on all routes. Route management and supervision have also been increased on all services that operate on Eglinton Avenue.

Temporary route changes have also been made on the 90 VAUGHAN and 63 OSSINGTON bus routes. These temporary changes were required because of roadway closures or restrictions. The 63 OSSINGTON diversion ended in May 2014, and the 90 VAUGHAN route change will end in September 2014.

TTC staff will continue to closely monitor ridership and route performance, and will further adjust the affected routes as required. This may include temporary route changes in response to the effects of construction, splitting longer routes, or making other routing changes, where possible, to escape the worst of the traffic problems. These changes will only be made if staff are confident that they will make service better, overall, for customers.

Construction effects from major capital projects of this complexity are unavoidable. There is no practical way for the TTC to be given special privileges or road-space allocation along Eglinton Avenue. There are no parallel alternative roads close to Eglinton Avenue onto which affected services can be moved. Given these facts, there is no way to completely offset the effects of construction activity.

SUMMARY

TTC staff will continue to work closely with staff from Metrolinx and the City of Toronto to mitigate construction effects, and to improve service quality along the Eglinton corridor. The TTC is committed to providing the most-reliable service possible to customers and will continue working with all stakeholders to achieve this.
