



City of Hamilton Report for Consideration

To: Chair and Members
Public Works Committee

Date: July 7, 2025

Report No: PW20027(a)

Subject/Title: Metrolinx Transit Initiative Program

Ward(s) Affected: City Wide

Recommendation

That Council **APPROVE** the continued participation of the City of Hamilton in the Metrolinx Transit Procurement Initiative for Joint Transit Procurements facilitated by Metrolinx for the years 2024 to 2029, pursuant to a Metrolinx Multi-Year Governance Agreement and Terms of Reference in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor and content satisfactory to the General Manager, Public Works.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to request the authority for Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) to continue utilizing the Metrolinx Transit Procurement Initiative program's associated contracts through the approval of the multi-year governance agreement.
- In April 2020, Council approved Report PW20027, authorizing Transit to participate in the Multi-Year Governance Agreement (2020–2024) with Metrolinx.
- The original agreement with Metrolinx approved in Report PW20027, provided the option to extend for an additional five (5) year term (2024–2029). Metrolinx has provided notice that they are exercising their intention to extend the agreement.
- Participating in the Transit Procurement Initiatives contracts would be in accordance with Procurement Policy #12 for Cooperative Procurements.

Financial Considerations

There are no direct financial impacts associated with this report.

Background

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario created the Metrolinx Act of 2006 to improve coordination and integration of all models of transportation in the GTA. HSR has participated in Metrolinx facilitated Transit Procurement Initiatives programs since 2008 allowing transit to benefit financially from savings due to purchasing power provided by economies of scale, reduced staff resources through Metrolinx facilitated contracts, and reduce parts inventory overhead through standardized vehicle design and equipment.

In 2015, working with Metrolinx, HSR had the Compressed Natural Gas propulsion choice included in the program. With industry Transit Procurement Initiatives growth and additional market choices in propulsion systems, Metrolinx vehicle contracts now include such options as diesel, gas, compressed natural gas, and electric. They are now also offering supporting parts and service contracts for these propulsion choices. Some current examples of these contracts include, but are not limited to, battery purchasing, tire purchasing and parts.

Analysis

Metrolinx facilitated contracts are tendered and managed through Metrolinx which reduces staff time in transit and procurement, increases collaboration with other municipalities, and increases technical expertise for both contract development and technical specifications with contracts created for all bus sizes and propulsion types.

All bus purchasing contracts hold a requirement to be 51% or more Canadian content. With the introduction of tariffs, Metrolinx has adopted the Ontario issued Procurement Restriction Policy which helps further increase the Canadian content of vehicles.

When Transit chooses to enter into a purchase agreement under the Transit Procurement Initiative, Metrolinx will assess a program cost recovery fee between \$1,000 - \$40,000 depending on the product or service being purchased.

Participation in these joint procurements bring additional benefits such as the ability to leverage more favourable pricing from economies of scale and help create industry standardizations for specifications of products.

Transit currently operates a fleet of over 300 buses and supporting vehicles. By continuing to participate in the Metrolinx program, HSR can continue to maintain consistent vehicle specifications and leverage additional benefits such as extended warranty, thus reducing risk to HSR's operations and minimizing operational expenses.

The Procurement Division is in support of this report and the request for continued participation in this Policy #12 Cooperative Procurement opportunity.

Alternatives

Council could decide to exclude Hamilton from the Multi-Year Governance Agreement; however, staff do not recommend this direction as it will lead to additional costs for the City to manage the appropriate requests for proposals for the various bus manufacturers and related contracts for technology and equipment. Additionally, it will delay the purchase of buses and other equipment.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This recommendation aligns with the priority of Safe and Thriving Neighbourhoods – making sure people can safely and efficiently move around by foot, bike, transit, or car. Participation in Metrolinx joint procurements will allow Transit to purchase equipment and products that align with other Ontario municipalities giving the customer a more consistent and familiar transit experience.

Previous Reports Submitted

- [PW20027 Metrolinx Transit Initiative Program, June 3, 2020](#)

Consultation

N/A

Appendices and Schedules Attached

N/A

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