



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Eglinton Connects Planning Study

Date:	April 28, 2014
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Toronto Public Library Board about a comprehensive review of Eglinton Avenue undertaken by the City of Toronto, which responds to the opportunity provided by the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) development along this major street. The intent is to create plans that will guide a long-term redevelopment process, which will span 20 years or more. As part of this study, an assessment of community services and facilities including public libraries, in the neighbourhoods along Eglinton Avenue has been undertaken.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the 2014 operating or capital budgets resulting from this report. Any future impacts resulting from this study will be subject to future budget reviews and approvals.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In 2009, City Council approved a Transit Project Assessment Study for the proposed LRT along Eglinton Avenue.

The Eglinton Connects Planning Study was undertaken to develop a vision for the future of Eglinton Avenue between Jane Street and Kennedy Avenue. Status Reports were provided to the City in 2012 and 2013.

As well, in December 2012, the City began a review of services and facilities along Eglinton Avenue. The Library was asked to participate in this review along with other City Divisions, Agencies and Boards. Library services and facilities serving the neighbourhoods in the study

area were reviewed, items in the Board's ten-year capital plan were identified, service opportunities and gaps were identified and future growth-related opportunities were assessed.

The Final Directions Report considered at the April 10, 2014 Planning and Growth Management Committee meeting was adopted with amendments and will be considered by City Council on May 6, 2014:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.PG32.4>

The Community Services and Facilities review is found in Appendix G of volume 2:

<http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20Of%20Toronto/City%20Planning/Urban%20Design/Eglinton%20Connects/April4%20Update/Community%20Services%20Facilities%20Appendix%20G.pdf>

The intent of the review is to create plans that will guide a long-term redevelopment process, which will span 20 years or more.

COMMENTS

Community services and facilities are essential components of neighbourhood vitality and play a valuable role in supporting growth and development. The study area was divided into 12 segments with differing demographic and socio-economic characteristics. A community services and facilities assessment was undertaken for the eight segments in six Focus Areas and one Mobility Hub with greater development potential in order to facilitate this review (Attachment 1). The Focus Areas/Mobility Hub and the corresponding segments are:

Mount Dennis Mobility Hub in Segment 1;
West Side Focus Area in Segment 2;
Dufferin Focus Area in Segment 3;
Bayview Focus Area situated on the borders of Segments 6 and 7;
Laird Focus Areas in Segment 8;
Don Mills Focus Area in Segment 9; and
Golden Mile Focus Area in Segment 11.

To participate in this study, Library services and branches serving each area were reviewed and projects in the Board's 10-year capital plan were identified. Service opportunities and gaps were identified and future growth-related opportunities were assessed.

As an overall strategy to enhance access to Library services and facilities for area transit users, the creation of offsite digital kiosks in Crosstown Stations is suggested for further exploration. These kiosks would act as a Library self-service outlet for commuters, providing access to the Library's online services and loans of popular material.

Public realm and streetscape improvements appropriate to specific areas are recommended for future consideration.

In terms of long-range library planning associated with future development, the following reviews and assessments are recommended:

- In the West Side, Bayview and Golden Mile Focus Areas, future assessments are recommended to determine optimal locations for undersized branches (St. Clair/Silverthorn, Amesbury Park, and Evelyn Gregory branches in West Side; Mount Pleasant Branch in Bayview and Eglinton Square and Kennedy/Eglinton branches in Golden Mile) in the Areas and opportunities for co-location in city-owned facilities to optimize service delivery and improve access for existing and future residents.
- In the West Side and Dufferin Focus Areas, the need to incorporate the lower level at Barbara Frum Branch currently used for community and recreation services into the operations of the library is identified to meet service needs in the future. This was also identified in the Lawrence Allen study and will be contingent upon the future development of new community and recreation facilities in the local community.
- In the Laird and Don Mills Focus Areas, the need to redevelop or expand the Flemington Park Branch in association with a redevelopment or expansion of the existing Dennis R. Timbrell Resource Centre is identified to address existing and anticipated future population growth and service and programming gaps effectively. Parks and Recreation has also identified this Centre for future consideration.
- In the Don Mills Focus Area, consideration of future upgrades or expansion of the Don Mills Branch is recommended to address anticipated growth.

The recommendations regarding Toronto Public Library services and buildings in the community services and facilities study will be reviewed as development along Eglinton Avenue proceeds and will be helpful in identifying future development funding opportunities to support library services. The strategies identified will be subject to future planning and budget approvals by the Library Board and Council.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Eglinton Connects – Location of Segments and Focus Area