

From Bruce McCuaig, [Metrolinx] CEO & President in response to AG report:

I want to thank Auditor General, Bonnie Lysyk for her report.

I will be reviewing her advice and recommendations in the days ahead as we move forward in building future public transit across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area.

Metrolinx currently has several hundred projects in development or actively under construction across the GTHA.

The Auditor's report focusses on a small sample out of the many hundreds of projects Metrolinx is currently working on or has completed between 2011 and 2016. While there are clearly challenges with this sample of projects that have required significant management intervention with the vendors, all vendors must realize that poor performance is not acceptable and will lead to being disqualified when considered for future Metrolinx projects.

Metrolinx is proud of its record. We recently completed the west tunnel boring on the Eglinton Crosstown LRT on time and on budget and are currently engaged in planning and construction to expand rail service along Lakeshore West, Lakeshore East, and to Barrie, Kitchener, Milton, Niagara, Bowmanville and Stouffville. We are also developing LRT service for Hamilton, Mississauga and Brampton and the Finch and Sheppard lines in north Toronto.

Many of the concerns raised by the Auditor we are aware of and have been taking steps to correct. We have introduced a Vendor Performance Management System that will ensure we optimize value-for-money by incentivizing good contractor performance while considering past performance in awarding future work.

Metrolinx is proactively implementing the Certificate of Recognition (COR) program as a mandatory requirement on all construction procurements. COR is a leading industry safety standard that ensures a contractor has in place a comprehensive health and safety management system.

Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario will continue to work together on project delivery models that take into consideration the best of both traditional and AFP delivery models to ensure the best value for Ontario taxpayers. Keeping projects on time and on budget, while continuing to operate our services safely and efficiently is always our first priority. As the Auditor has noted, this can be a challenge in some cases. However, it is important to note of 275 completed construction projects over the last five years the average cost overage was less than four per cent (3.8%).

The Auditor General has made some excellent recommendations and we are prepared to respond to them.

Metrolinx overarching goal remains to continue to build public transit in an open, accountable and transparent process across the GTHA.