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Town of Aurora

## Memorandum

Planning and Development Services

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**Re: Maintenance of the Aurora GO Station Building**

**To: Heritage Advisory Committee**

**From: Carlson Tsang, Planner/Heritage Planning**

**Date: November 2, 2020**

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### Recommendation

1. That the memorandum “Maintenance of the Aurora GO Station Building” be received for information.

### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Heritage Advisory Committee with information regarding the maintenance of the Aurora GO Station building, which is a Provincial heritage building designated under Part III of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### Background

On September 14, 2020, the Heritage Advisory Committee received a delegation from a resident expressing concerns over the lack of maintenance of the Aurora GO Station building at 121 Wellington Street East (see Attachment 1), which is currently owned by Metrolinx. The property is designated under Part III.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as being of Provincial significance.

Staff advised the Committee that the Town’s Heritage Property Standard By-law 5489-13 does not apply to Part III.1 designated properties, and that the maintenance of any provincially owned heritage buildings is not within the jurisdiction of the Town. The Committee directed staff to investigate what mechanism is currently available to protect the Aurora GO Station building; and whether it is possible to designate the property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for further protection.

### **Part III.1 Designated Properties**

Part III.1 designation applies to heritage properties owned by the Crown in right of Ontario or prescribed public bodies. These provincial heritage properties are exempt from the provisions of Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and hence are not subject to designation by municipalities. However, they are subject to “the Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (S&Gs)” prepared by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport as per Section 25.2 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The S&Gs establishes comprehensive standards for the identification, protection and care of provincially owned heritage properties.

Section D.2. of the S&Gs states that ministries and prescribed bodies shall retain and maintain the visual setting and other physical relationship that contribute to the cultural heritage value of a provincial heritage property. However, there is no reference as to which authority is responsible for enforcing these standards. Town Staff have reached out to the Ministry for clarification. The Ministry indicated that the standards were established based on a “self-regulating” mechanism. The Ministry is not responsible for any enforcement duties. Any non-compliance with the S&Gs should be reported to the prescribed body that owns the property for appropriate action.

### **Maintenance Work by Metrolinx**

Town Staff contacted Metrolinx regarding concerns over the deteriorating condition of the Aurora GO Station building. Metrolinx advised that they are aware of the situation and that a tender process is underway to retain a contractor to perform maintenance work on the Aurora GO station building.

The maintenance work is scheduled to begin as early as Spring 2021. Scope of maintenance and rehabilitation work on this contract includes, but is not limited to, addressing the exterior paint of the building including wood cladding, trim and decorative elements. It also includes wood repair where needed on the exterior of the building. The intent of this work is to ensure building integrity is maintained, particularly through the exterior painted coatings in this contract. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and report back to the Heritage Advisory Committee as soon as more updates become available.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Photos of the Aurora GO Station Building