

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2006



Contact: Becky Wickstrom
Media Affairs Manager
(202) 218-6736; bwickstrom@apwa.net

Regional Municipality of York public works professional receives national honor

Kansas City, Mo. – Kees Schipper, retired commissioner of transportation and works for the Regional Municipality of York, was recently named a 2006 Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year. He will be presented with the award during a celebration on Thursday, May 18, at Stage West, 5400 Dixie Road (Algonquin Room A), Mississauga, Ontario.

APWA selected 10 outstanding public works professionals from across the U.S. and Canada for their professionalism, expertise and career-long dedication and service. Marking the 47th year of the award, the honor is among the most coveted and prestigious presented by the Association.

Until his retirement in February 2006, Schipper oversaw the amalgamation of five conventional transit and seven specialized transit services for the disabled, formerly operated by the local municipalities in the Region, to form York Region Transit (YRT) in 2001. YRT has been hugely successful and led the country in conventional transit ridership growth, achieving average increases of 10 percent or greater each year. In 2005, YRT carried more than 15 million passengers.

Active in APWA for several years, Schipper also served on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Good Roads Association and has participated in several professional organizations including Professional Engineers of Ontario, Institute of Transportation Engineers, Transportation Association of Canada, International Municipal Signal Association, Ontario Traffic Conference and Canadian Urban Transportation Association. He conducted lectures on “Road Design” for engineering students at the University of Guelph over a period of two years and was involved in the production of *York Works*, a semi-annual Transportation and Works publication sent to every York Region household keeping residents apprised of works taking place in their communities.

For more information about the Top Ten award, contact Becky Wickstrom, (202) 218-6736 or bwickstrom@apwa.net. To see the Top Ten recipients from 1960 to 2005, visit APWA’s National Awards Program Web page at www.apwa.net/About/awards.asp?Display=top10list.

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 27,000 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, and has an office in Washington, D.C.

###