

TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE YONGE SUBWAY ADVISORY TASK FORCE
January 17, 2008

1.0 The Basis for Transit Integration and Transit-Oriented Development Measures in the Yonge Subway Corridor:

Transit-Oriented Development recognizes the relationship between how we grow and our ability to provide efficient and effective transit services. The principles are illustrated in York Region's, *Transit-Oriented Development Guidelines – City Building and Supporting Transit Through Good Design*, which was approved by Regional Council on September 21, 2006. The York Region Official Plan supports the application of TOD principles in its Centres and along Corridors supported by higher order rapid transit. Achieving Transit-Oriented Development in the Yonge Subway Corridor will be critical to the operational success of the subway extension in terms of the ridership it will serve to attract. In addition, it will help York Region and the local municipalities achieve their respective land use and development visions for the corridor.

In order to further the Yonge Street subway work The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force will be formed to act as a forum for stakeholder consultation to promote and support the goals and objectives of the Region and local Municipalities for the delivery of a comprehensive higher order transit network, intermodal connectivity and transit supportive development. The Task Force will also act as a forum for discussions with the City of Toronto stakeholders for the integration of transit facilities with the subway at the Steeles station and for consideration of an intermediate station at Cummer Avenue within the City boundaries. The operations of the Advisory Task Force will be guided by this Terms of Reference.

2.0 The Goal of the Advisory Task Force:

To support and promote Transit-Oriented Development in the areas adjacent to the Yonge Subway Extension, from Steeles Avenue to Richmond Hill Centre, in accordance with the policies, plans and guidelines of York Region and the local municipalities of Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham and to liaise with the City of Toronto on matters of mutual interest.

3.0 The Objective of the Subway Advisory Task Force:

To support the Yonge Subway Extension and the integration of the subway with the Viva Rapid Transit network, YRT, GO rail and GO 407 transit systems, consistent with the objectives of the York Region Official Plan and area municipality plans, through the application of the principles of Transit-Oriented Development, in order to:

- a) Achieve development densities adjacent to station sites that support a sustainable higher order rapid transit system, based on heavy rail (subway) and Viva rapid transit technologies;
- b) Benefit from the creation of attractive, well-designed, compact and pedestrian friendly communities;
- c) Achieve a diverse mix of land uses that contribute to the creation of vibrant communities;
- d) Realize the environmental and social benefits of developing communities consistent with the principles Transit-Oriented Development;

- e) Fulfill the potential of the Richmond Hill Centre as an “Urban Growth Centre” (*Places to Grow Plan* – June 2006) and a “Regional Centre” under York Region’s Official Plan;
- f) Take advantage of the opportunities emerging in the Greater Richmond Hill Centre and Langstaff areas on the north and south sides of the 407/Highway 7 Corridor to become the premier intermodal hub and transit oriented gateway in York Region;
- g) Integrate surface transit and subway support facilities in to the Steeles Avenue station district;
- h) Consider the location, function and character of potential intermediate stations along the Yonge Corridor between the Finch Avenue station and Richmond Hill Centre.

4.0 The Mandate of the Advisory Task Force:

It is the mandate of the Advisory Task Force to:

- a) Provide strategic support and assistance to York Region and the local municipalities in facilitating and implementing Transit-Oriented Development, in accordance with the respective municipal policies, plans and guidelines;
- b) Promote and support the efficient integration of Transit-Oriented Development and subway station sites with surface transit, commuter parking, passenger pick-up and drop-offs and pedestrian routes;
- c) Act as a forum for discussion for the purposes of issue identification and problem solving, and to partner with York Region and the local municipalities in the planning and implementation of required responses;
- d) Communicate the economic, financial, social, environmental and aesthetic benefits of Transit-Oriented Development to all sectors of society;
- e) Undertake specific tasks, in partnership with the municipalities, to support or advocate Transit-Oriented Development, including working with external agencies, landowners and senior levels of government to address such matters as funding or planning/development issues affecting the implementation of Transit-Oriented Development;
- f) Liaise and consult with City of Toronto stakeholders and support the free-flow of information between municipalities.

5.0 Primary Focus:

The Yonge Subway Advisory Task Force will primarily focus on three areas of interest along the Yonge subway alignment:

- The Intermodal Gateway at Richmond Hill Centre and the adjoining Langstaff areas;
- Transit facilities and transit-oriented development integration within the Steeles station district;
- The consideration of intermediate stations along the subway corridor in addition to Steeles and Richmond Hill Centre.

Areas of interest may also include properties within a convenient (5 to 10 minute) walking distance (400 - 500 metres) of the station sites.

6.0 Relationship to the Municipal Planning (*Planning Act*) Processes:

The Advisory Task Force will operate independently from the on-going municipal planning processes and will not affect the planning processes carried out by York Region and the local municipalities. The Advisory Task Force will not be a commenting body to either the Region or the municipalities in matters relating to development applications or initiatives pursued under the *Planning Act*. Technical comments relating to station integration with surface transit facilities and Transit-Oriented Development will be provided by the staff of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation.

7.0 Advisory Task Force Membership:

The Advisory Task Force will be composed of:

- The Regional Chair who shall be ex officio;
- Two (2) appointees from York Region, who shall be members of Regional Council;
- Two (2) appointees each from the City of Vaughan, Town of Richmond Hill and Town of Markham who shall be members of Municipal Council;
- One (1) non-elected member, who represents local stakeholder interests, may be appointed by the Region and each Municipal Council.

The appointments shall be at the sole discretion of the respective Councils.

8.0 Chair:

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Committee members at the inaugural meeting for a term of two years.

9.0 Term:

Members of the Advisory Task Force will serve concurrently with the terms of Regional/Municipal Council. Such appointments shall expire at the end of term for both Councils.

10.0 Remuneration:

Not Applicable.

11.0 Meetings:

The Advisory Task Force will meet not less than quarterly throughout the calendar year. The quarterly meetings will be established annually at the first meeting of each calendar year. More frequent meetings may be required from time to time. Such meeting dates will be set by the Chair in consultation with the Task Force members.

12.0 Reporting:

Minutes of the Advisory Task Force meetings will be recorded and forwarded to the appropriate Committees/Councils of York Region and the local municipalities for their consideration and action as necessary.

13.0 Administration and Technical Services:

Administrative (Secretariat) Services will be provided by York Region. Technical support will be drawn from the staff of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, York Region and the local municipalities, as required.