



York Regional Council Highlights

January 17, 2005

York Region approves 2005 Business Plan and Budget

York Regional Council approved its \$1.5 billion 2005 Business Plan and Budget which includes numerous service enhancements for York Region residents. With a \$577 million capital budget component, taxpayers will benefit from improved community policing, transit, ambulatory, roads and solid waste management services.

The 2005 Business Plan and Budget includes a tax levy of 5.3 per cent. With an average assessed residential property valued at \$336,422, the tax levy translates into an additional cost of \$85 to homeowners and represents less than 23 cents a day per household. The total Regional tax amount per average residential property for 2005 is \$1,719.

Highlights include:

- **York Regional Police Services:** more than \$12 million (\$151 million budget total) that includes 67 new police officers and 35 civilian support staff
- **Viva Rapid Transit:** more than \$11 million (\$14 million budget total) that includes a new rapid transit bus service to commence September 2005
- **York Region Transit (YRT):** more than \$7 million (\$44 million budget total) that includes the replacement of 17 conventional busses and the purchase of 11 additional conventional buses, the addition of four new terminals and 20 new bus shelters
- **Roads Transportation:** more than \$3 million (\$54 million budget total) that includes over 90 kilometres of additional lane construction, approximately 60 kilometres of lane resurfacing, improvements to 12 bridges and 29 intersections
- **Solid Waste Management:** more than \$1.6 million (\$18 million budget total) that includes the opening of a new Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and a roll-out of Source Separated Organics (SSO) program



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York Region wants new funding deal with Government of Ontario

During its Council meeting and budget deliberations today, York Regional Council called on the Ontario Government for a new financial deal for York Region, including legislative and funding changes to address the growing fiscal gap between municipal needs and financial resources.

To initiate that process, Regional Council passed a motion to cap its 2005 GTA pooling contribution to three per cent over the 2004 rate of \$79.5 million.

Requested by the Province to submit \$86.7 million in 2005, Regional Council has only approved GTA pooling costs of \$82.4 million.

In its nine-page report, York Region's position "On a New Financial Deal: Advocating for Legislative & Funding Changes" made the following recommendations:

- the Province review the GTA pooling program as it relates to the Region's increasing financial contribution to the social assistance and housing programs
- the Province reaffirm its commitment to the cost-sharing agreement for the funding of EMS, both operating and capital expenditures at a 50:50 cost sharing agreement
- the Province enhance funding for transit services operating within the GTA
- the Province immediately remove the cap on its share of the Ontario Works administrative costs and return to a 50:50 cost sharing agreement
- the Province immediately initiate the process to amend the *Development Charges Act, 2001* in several key areas

YRT ridership increases more than 14 per cent in 2004

York Region Transit (YRT) increased its ridership by more than 14 per cent in 2004, marking the fourth consecutive year of ridership increases greater than 10 per cent since YRT was formed in 2001. Additionally, 2004 marked the first year that YRT's cost-recovery ratio exceeded 50 per cent.

Total YRT passengers for 2004 exceeded 13.8 million riders.



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York Region awarded Project of the Year by OPWA

The Regional Municipality of York has received the Ontario Public Works Association's (OPWA) prestigious Project of the Year Award (Environment category) for the Sutton Water Pollution Control Plant in the Town of Georgina.

The award was based on a number of criteria, including:

- Good construction management techniques and completion of the project on schedule
- Safety performance
- Community relations
- Demonstrated awareness for the need to protect the environment during the project
- Unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions
- Additional conditions deemed of importance to the public works agency

The design/build contractor for the project was AWS Engineers and Planners Corporation (formerly Axurix North America). AWS was chosen following an extensive technical and cost evaluation process.

Long Term Care Supportive Care Proposal

Regional Council approved the submission of a proposal to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) for the designation and funding of supportive care beds at the Newmarket and Maple Health Centres. Staff were authorized to negotiate and execute agreements to operationalize the program.

Patient Lifting Funding Agreement

Regional Council approved the receipt and expenditure of \$136,364, a 100 per cent one-time grant, from MOHLTC for the purchase of patient lifting equipment and delivery of lifting and transfer education programs under the Provincial Patient Lift Initiative.



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Proposed Official Plan Amendment for Sharon and East Gwillimbury

Regional Council adopted Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 47. The Commissioner of Planning and Development Services was authorized to give notice of modification and approval of Official Plan Amendment No. 122 to the Official Plan of the Town of East Gwillimbury, subject to 28 modifications.

The Commissioner of Planning and Development Services and Commissioner of Transportation and Works were authorized to prepare a report for Planning and Economic Development Committee on the timing of the provision of Regional servicing to Sharon and the timing of the preparation of a Servicing Master Plan for the extension of the YDSS to East Gwillimbury. The report will include short and long term requirements for water and sewer infrastructure, and the impact of the timing of this infrastructure on the phasing of development for the communities of Sharon, Holland Landing, and Queensville.

YRT modifies Free Ride Policy

Beginning March 1st, York Region Transit (YRT) will offer free transit rides to people with visual impairments and their attendants, who are members of approved York Region organizations. The move follows recommendations of the Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee to expand the existing policy, which already permits free rides for uniformed emergency personnel.

The policy is one of several initiatives the Region is undertaking in response to Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA).

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The contents of this summary are intended to be for information purposes only. Actual text of Council resolutions and official copies of reports to Council can be obtained from the York Region Web site at www.york.ca under Regional Council.