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PROVINCIAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR 'PLACES TO GROW' – STATUS UPDATE

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated August 26, 2009, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council request the Province to expedite its review and study of the following facilities with funding commitments:
 - Yonge Street Subway
 - Bradford Bypass
 - Highway 427 extension to Major Mackenzie Drive
 - Completion of the GTA West Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA) study
2. Regional Council, through the Regional Chair, send a letter thanking the Province for its recent funding commitments for transportation in York Region.
3. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, Ministry of Transportation Ontario, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Metrolinx and to the Clerks of local area municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

- update Council on the progress of the various Provincially significant transportation infrastructure projects that are required to accommodate Provincial growth forecasts through *Places to Grow* within York Region,
- reconfirm the transportation projects that are outstanding and required to meet the Growth Plan forecasts, and
- provide a context for the draft Transportation Master Plan (TMP) update which will be finalized in Fall 2009.

3. BACKGROUND

Critical transportation infrastructure projects required in York Region to accommodate growth over next 30 years have been identified

On April 21, 2005, Council endorsed Clause 3 of Report No. 4 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, which identified specific infrastructure needs to accommodate growth over the next 30 years. By 2031, York Region is forecasted to have 1.5 million residents, 780,000 jobs and 510,000 households. This additional growth through *Places to Grow* legislation means there is a need for additional transportation infrastructure. In order to plan for projects that will accommodate provincially legislated growth, York Region identified specific transit, roads and highway projects, some of which require Provincial funding.

Critical infrastructure identified were:

- A rapid transit system in all four York Region corridors
- Full funding of GO Transit's expansion plan
- Highway 404, 427, and Bradford Bypass expansions
- New interchanges and widening for 400 series highways
- HOV lanes on 400 series highways
- Support and funding for Travel Demand Management and commuter parking lots
- Cross-boundary and boundary road improvements

On March 29, 2007, Council endorsed Clause 4 of Report No. 4 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, which provided the status of the critical infrastructure projects. Since that time, the Region has achieved many transportation goals and Council should be proud of their accomplishments in their ongoing implementation of these projects, which is advancing its city building vision.

Investment in rapid transit has been linked to economic growth for populations over one million

In addition to highway investments, it is a known fact that rapid transit is a requirement for economic growth for municipalities of one million people or more. With York Region reaching the one-million people mark during the summer of 2008, it is timely that this infrastructure is being successfully implemented at this time.

The Region's rapid transit system has made significant advancements over the years through development of the four Regional Centres of Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Newmarket (representing urban growth centres), which are linked by Regional Corridors.

Region's TMP consistent with Metrolinx's Regional Transportation Plan, and reinforces need for implementing infrastructure

York Region's Transportation Master Plan Update (TMP) identifies specific and critical transportation and transit infrastructure needed to implement the Province's *Places to Grow*. The Region's plan is consistent with Metrolinx's Regional Transportation Plan (released in 2009) and it further reinforces the need for required infrastructure to service the Region's growth. The TMP Update provides a more detailed assessment of transportation needs in the Region and makes some additional transit recommendations.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

There has been significant progress in the critical transportation infrastructure projects

Planning has been effective in the ongoing completion of critical transportation infrastructure. The draft Transportation Master Plan Update, which will be finalized in the Fall 2009, recognizes and plans for these projects. *Council Attachment 1* presents the status of critical transportation infrastructure projects and identifies the projects within the five-year, medium term (2021) and the long term (2031) timeframes.

The following road related projects have moved forward towards implementation or have been implemented:

- Roads and Highways:
 - Hwy 404 extension to Ravenshoe/Woodbine – under construction
 - Hwy 427 extension to Major Mackenzie – EA progressing to completion
 - GTA East/West Corridor - IEA initiated
 - Hwy 404 HOV lanes to Beaver Creek – completed
 - Hwy 400 HOV lanes from Major Mack to Hwy 9 – design underway
- Smart Commute – transferred to Metrolinx with support from MTO

Transit projects have been especially successful

Many of the transit projects outlined in *Attachment 1* are moving towards successful implementation through the Region's careful planning process with commitments by the Provincial and Federal agencies. The following transit projects highlight the Region's success:

- VivaNext (Viva Phase II) – \$1.4 billion
- Spadina subway – Federal, Provincial, and York Region funding– under construction

- GO Rail improvements – grade separations of Newmarket and Stouffville lines from CN York Subdivision

The Go Transit Expansion within the Region is continuing through Metrolinx initiatives, which is consistent with the Region's Transportation Master Plan approach.

Expediting review of outstanding critical projects and further funding commitment is necessary from the Province

The Region's ability to address the future growth and build on its transportation needs will require the Province to expedite the review, study and implementation of the following facilities with funding commitments:

- Hwy 427 extension to Major Mackenzie –funding commitment for construction
- Yonge Street subway – funding commitment needed
- GTA West Corridor IEA – expedite to allow land use planning to proceed
- Bradford Bypass – revise Provincial Growth Plans to include the project as reflected in the Ontario Municipal Board settlement for OPA 15 in the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

With the ongoing success of transportation infrastructure projects highlighted above, results are being achieved that Council should be proud of. Future accomplishments will follow with further commitment from the Province to implement outstanding critical projects as noted.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Region would like to thank the Province for their contribution and support for these infrastructure projects.

- VivaNext (Viva Phase II) – \$1.4 billion
- Spadina Subway – \$1.13 billion
- 404 Extension – \$250 million

The draft York Region Transportation Master Plan Update has estimated the cost to implement the transportation facilities necessary to meet the growth demands of Places to Grow at \$18.3 billion. While we applaud the recent Provincial and Federal government funding commitments, sustainable transportation funding remains a critical issue in York Region and the Greater Toronto Area in general. The on-going effort at Metrolinx to identify and develop alternative funding mechanisms to implement transportation projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area needs to be expedited in conjunction with the implementation of the Provincial Growth Plan.

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report, unless there are further Provincial and Federal funding commitments to implement these projects.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Region will see an additional 600,000 residents, 350,000 jobs and 225,000 housing units through to 2031 and additional transportation infrastructure is vital to successful growth management. The Region has been quite successful in advancing, as well as completing the critical transportation infrastructure needed to implement *Places to Grow* through careful planning in partnership with the various municipalities.

7. CONCLUSION

The Region has been successful in planning for the implementation of forecasted growth, legislated through *Places to Grow*, by identifying the critical transportation infrastructure projects. There have been considerable achievements by Council in implementing these projects and further accomplishments will be delivered through the Transportation Master Plan Update approaching completion in the Fall 2009. The Region would like to extend their appreciation to the Federal and Provincial governments for their recent funding commitments which assisted the Region in its implementation of some of these projects. Furthermore, the Region will need further commitments from the Province to implement the following outstanding critical projects:

- Yonge Street Subway
- Bradford Bypass
- Highway 427 extension to Major Mackenzie Drive
- Completion of the GTA West Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA) study

Commitments to these projects will ensure that ongoing transportation infrastructure needs are completed in a timely manner to accommodate additional growth.

For more information on this report, please contact Loy Cheah, Manager, Transportation Planning at (905) 830-4444, Ext. 5024.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report).

Transportation Infrastructure Needs Status Update

TRANSIT PROJECTS

RAPID TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• Transitways in all 4 York Region corridors	Short Term	✓✓
• Spadina subway to Vaughan Corporate Centre	Short Tem	✓
• Yonge subway to Richmond Hill Centre	Short Tem	-
• Maintenance facilities	Short Tem	✓
• Major Mackenzie Drive rapid transit corridor	Medium Term	-
• Leslie-Don Mills rapid transit line to Major Mackenzie Drive	Medium/Long Term	✓
• Jane Street rapid transit line to Major Mackenzie Drive	Medium/Long Term	-
• Bathurst-Dufferin Street rapid transit corridor	Long Term	-
• Steeles Avenue rapid transit corridor	Long Term	-

GO TRANSIT EXPANSION PROGRAM		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• All-day two-way service on 3 existing lines in York	Short Tem	✓
• Extension of Richmond Hill line to Aurora Rd	Short Tem	✓
• Union station upgrades	Short Tem	✓
• Implementation of GO BRT program	Medium Term	✓
• New service on Havelock and MacTier rail lines	Medium Term	-
• New stations, rolling stock, etc.	Medium/Long Term	-
• Take back municipal funding component for GO Expansion	Short/Medium Term	-

YRT EXPANSION OF SERVICE AND REHABILITATION OF EXISTING SERVICES		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• Maintenance facilities	Short Term	✓
• New and replacement buses	Short/Medium Term	✓

OTHER PROGRAMS		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• Transportation Demand Management – full Provincial participation in Smart Commute program	Short Term	✓✓
• Commuter parking lots – expansion and acceleration of Provincial commuter parking lot program	Short Term	✓

Legend: '✓✓' = COMPLETE; '✓' = PARTIALLY COMPLETE / ONGOING; '-' = NO STATUS

ROAD AND HIGHWAY PROJECTS

HIGHWAY 427 EXTENSION		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• Highway 7 to Rutherford/Major Mackenzie	Short Term	✓
• Further north to GTA West Corridor	Medium/Long Term	-

HIGHWAY 404 EXTENSION		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• Green Lane to Ravenshoe Road	Short Term	✓✓
• Ravenshoe Road to Glenwoods Ave	Short Term	-
• Further north and east to Highway 12	Long Term	-

BRADFORD BY-PASS		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• Highway 404 to Highway 400	Medium Term	-
• Highway 400 to Highway 427 Extension	Long Term	-

GTA WEST/EAST CORRIDOR (Identified in <i>Places to Grow</i>)		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• GTA East/West Economic Corridor	Medium/Long Term	✓

HOV LANES		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• Implement HOV lanes on Highways 400 , 404 and 427 within urban areas	Medium Term	✓

CROSS-BOUNDARY ROADS		
Project Description	Timing	Status
• 14 th Avenue at east end	Medium Term	-
• Major Mackenzie Drive at west end	Short/Medium Term	✓
• Markham By-pass extension connecting to Morningside Ave.	Medium Term	✓
• Steeles Avenue at east end	Short Term	-
• York/Durham Line	Short/Long Term	✓

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NEW INTERCHANGES or INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS		
Project Name	Timing	Status
• Highway 400 and Highway 7 – reconfiguration of interchange to accommodate Vaughan Corporate Centre	Short Term	✓
• Highway 400 & Lloydtown-Aurora Rd	Short Term	-
• Highway 400 and future mid-York east/west arterial road	Medium/Long Term	-
• Highway 400 and Steeles Avenue – ramps to and from the north	Long Term	-
• Highway 404 and Doane Road – new interchange	Short/Medium Term	✓
• Highway 404 and 16 th Ave – interchange reconstruction to widen bridge and convert to standard interchange design	Long Term	-
• Highway 404 and future north Markham east/west arterial road	Long Term	-
• Highway 404 and St. John’s Sideroad interchange reconstruction to widen bridge and convert to standard interchange design	Long Term	-
• Highway 404 and Mulock Road – ramps to and from the north	Long Term	-
• Highway 404 and Glenwoods Ave – new interchange	Short Term	-
• Highway 407 and 9 th Line – ramps to and from the south	Short/Medium Term	✓
• Highway 407 and Markham By-pass – ramps to and from the south	Medium Term	-
• Highway 407 and Martin Grove Road	Medium Term	-
• Highway 407 and Centre Street	Long Term	-
• Highway 427 and Langstaff Road	Short Term	-
• Highway 427 and Rutherford Road	Short Term	-
• Highway 427 and Major Mackenzie Drive	Short Term	-
• Highway 48 widening – Major Mackenzie Drive to Stouffville	Medium Term	-

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