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For Immediate Release

York Regional Council approves \$2.4 billion Budget for 2011 with continued investment in infrastructure and services

Additional savings from GTA Pooling and ODSP benefits taxpayers

NEWMARKET – York Regional Council today unanimously approved The Regional Municipality of York’s \$2.4 billion Business Plan and Budget which includes more than \$900 million in additional funding for capital projects and \$1.5 billion to maintain and operate York Region services.

“York Regional Council is committed to providing regional residents and businesses safe and vibrant communities through quality services and infrastructure,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “The 2011 Business Plan and Budget invests in the future and benefits all of our taxpayers by contributing to capital asset replacement reserves and moving ahead with important infrastructure such as water and wastewater projects.”

The 2011 Business Plan and Budget includes a 1.94-per cent tax levy increase, which represents approximately:

- \$23 increase for a home assessed at \$250,000
- \$37 increase for a home assessed at \$400,000
- \$56 increase for a home assessed at \$600,000

“York Region continues to benefit from a robust economy with solid housing starts and job creation,” said Town of Richmond Hill Mayor David Barrow, Chair of the Region’s Finance and Administration Committee. “The budget maintains and enhances value-added services throughout York Region’s nine local municipalities and contributes to the quality of life of York Region’s residents.”

The operating budget was supported by the following:

- \$13.2 million in additional savings from GTA Pooling (money collected by the Province of Ontario to help pay for Social Assistance and Social Housing programs in the City of Toronto)
- \$9.2 million in additional savings for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) with costs being uploaded to the Government of Ontario
- 3.1 per cent in assessment growth (an increase in the tax base resulting from new residential and commercial buildings).

Highlights of the **2011 Operating Budget** include:

- \$239 million for York Regional Police, including 28 additional police officers and 10 civilian staff
- \$193 million for Transportation Services, providing over 3,500 lane kilometres, 800 traffic signals and more than one million transit service hours
- \$141 million for Community and Health Services, including \$1 million contribution to the Housing Repair Reserve and \$3.2 million for multi-year plan initiatives
- \$40 million for Solid Waste Management, including a new Community Environmental Centre (CEC) in the Town of Richmond Hill, upgrading the Georgina Transfer Station to include CEC features; managing over 350,000 tonnes of solid waste in 2011 while maintaining one of the highest diversion rates in the Province
- \$30 million for Capital Asset Replacement to provide for future infrastructure requirements
- \$26 million for GTA Pooling, money collected from York Region to help pay for Social Assistance and Social Housing programs in the City of Toronto
- \$12 million for debt reduction

The 2011 Capital Budget will be paid through a combination of Provincial and Federal government support as well as Development Charges (DCs), which are one-time fees charged for developing a property.

Some of the new multi-year projects approved in the **2011 Capital Budget** include:

- \$245 million in Water infrastructure, including development of water supply projects with Peel Region and the City of Toronto
- \$229 million in Wastewater infrastructure, including the upgrade and refurbishment of York Durham Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant in the City of Pickering
- \$147 million in Roads, including widening of Bloomington Road from Yonge Street to Bayview Avenue and widening of Major Mackenzie Drive from the CPR rail line (approximately 1.5 kilometres west of Highway 27) to Highway 27
- \$114 million in Rapid Transit, including preliminary engineering for the Yonge Street Subway extension and construction of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Viva-subway Interface
- \$73 million in Conventional Transit, including the purchase of 47 conventional buses and implementation of PRESTO card fare payment system
- \$18 million in Housing, including a housing development in the Woodbridge community of the City of Vaughan
- \$9 million in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), including the replacement of 11 ambulances

York Region is responsible for the delivery of 13 core services to residents and businesses:

- York Regional Police
- Regional Transit (YRT/Viva)
- Emergency Medical Services
- Court Services
- Regional Roads
- Water and Wastewater Treatment
- Planning and Economic Development
- Long Term Care
- Solid Waste Management
- Public Health
- Family and Children's Services
- Social Assistance
- Housing

Standard & Poor's and Moody's investor services have consistently awarded York Region AAA credit ratings, partly in recognition to York Region's policy of allocating funds annually to reserves which allows the Region to service debt costs at more favourable interest rates, and translates into further savings for Regional taxpayers.

Please refer to accompanying Media Backgrounders for detailed information on:

- 1. Capital Budget Highlights**
- 2. Operating Budget Highlights**
- 3. Where Your Tax Dollar Goes**
- 4. GTA Pooling**
- 5. Regional Debt and DCs**

A media release on the 2011 York Regional Police budget is also attached.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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