



## York Regional Council – November 17, 2011

### ***Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer tables draft business plan and budget for 2012***

The Regional Municipality of York's Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer Bill Hughes tabled a draft 2012 Business Plan and Budget that proposes a \$1.6 billion operating budget and \$1.2 billion capital budget for 2012. The 10-year capital component totals \$8.2 billion.

Among the items under consideration include:

- York Regional Police – 34 additional uniformed officers and 12 additional civilian staff
- Emergency Medical Services – 10 additional paramedics, two additional logistics technicians and staff for four rapid response units
- Forestry – Funds for managing invasive species
- Community and Health Services – Funding for emergency shelter programs and an enhanced level of child care subsidy
- Transit – Funds to support a transit fare subsidy pilot project and additional service hours

To help fund growth and service enhancements, the draft budget proposes a 1.8 per cent increase to the tax levy, representing an additional \$38 for a residential property assessed at \$450,000.

The plan will be reviewed by all Standing Committees of Council throughout the month of December before it is forwarded to the Finance and Administration Committee in January 2012. An updated draft business plan and budget is expected to be presented to York Regional Council on Thursday, January 26, 2012 for approval.

### ***Collision statistics help to identify road safety programs***

York Regional Council received a report on Regional road safety over the past 10 years. Following are highlights of statistics on collisions:

- Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of accidental death and the third-leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations in York Region
- There is a higher risk of collisions occurring between November and February
- The majority of collisions on York Region roads are rear-end collisions at signalized intersections
- Data suggests 55 per cent of collisions are due to driver error
- Despite a drop in overall roadway fatalities, pedestrian fatalities are increasing
- Pedestrians are particularly at-risk of a collision in the fall during the transition from daylight time to Eastern Standard Time

This information will be used to assist York Regional Police in developing road safety programs.

### ***York Region and York Regional Police launch pedestrian safety campaign***

York Regional Police and The Regional Municipality of York have teamed up to launch a new Pedestrian Safety Campaign that advocates respect between motorists and pedestrians in an effort to reduce the number of collisions, injuries and fatalities on York Region roads.

To encourage pedestrians to increase their visibility to motorists, Regional staff are distributing reflective key chains and working with York Regional Police on a number of related initiatives, including:

- A revised speed limit policy
- High-visibility zebra crosswalk markings at intersections
- Pedestrian countdown signals
- Increased pedestrian crossing time at traffic signals
- Audible signals for pedestrians with low vision

Transportation Services staff will report back to Regional Council in April 2012 with information on red light cameras, photo radar and the Road Watch program.

### ***Vision 2051 draft available for comments and input***

York Regional Council has endorsed a draft of Vision 2051, a publication that presents a picture of what people want The Regional Municipality of York to be like in 40 years, and directed staff to circulate it widely for further comments and input.

The Vision 2051 draft was developed through extensive internal and external consultation, including input from Regional Council, residents, Regional stakeholders, partners and staff through a number of discussion sessions and an internet-based consultation program.

The draft is posted on the Vision 2051 webpage and is available through Facebook and links through Twitter. Print copies are available to anyone who requests them, and will be circulated to our nine local municipalities.

For more information or to request a copy of the draft of Vision 2051, please visit [www.york.ca/vision2051](http://www.york.ca/vision2051) or call 905-830-4444, ext. 1532.

### ***York Small Business Enterprise Centre assists entrepreneurs***

York Regional Council endorsed an overview of 2011 activities and the proposed 2012 program initiatives of the York Small Business Enterprise Centre. The Centre assists entrepreneurs in the creation and development of new businesses in the six northern municipalities of the Region – in the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket, Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury, Georgina and the Township of King.

Following is a summary of 2011 activities based on third quarter results with projections to year end:

- 419 clients received business consulting advice, 115 new businesses started-up, 15 businesses expanded and 200 jobs were created
- Business development events, including 43 seminars, workshops, networking events, an annual conference and a series of six conferences, attracted more than 1,800 participants
- 13 group consultations were held on “How to Start a Small Business,” attended by 105 participants
- 23 youth entrepreneurs in York Region earned revenue and provincial grants totalling \$219,000 through the Summer Company Program, a provincial program delivered by the centre
- 22,442 entrepreneurs in total participated in the Centre’s 2011 activities

During the past three years, the Centre has provided assistance to more than 1,500 entrepreneurs resulting in 445 new businesses, 111 business expansions and 832 jobs created. More than 3,500 existing business owners and prospective entrepreneurs attended educational forums and workshops, a Green Business entrepreneur network was established and 57 youth created successful companies.

### ***York-Simcoe cross-boundary transportation study to commence***

York Regional Council endorsed a framework for staff of The Regional Municipality of York and Simcoe County to analyze transportation needs across the York-Simcoe boundary. The results will be used as input to the Province's Simcoe Area Transportation Study, which is underway and expected to be complete by the end of 2012.

The transportation needs and traffic congestion in the area south of Lake Simcoe was first examined by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation in 1979, followed by two additional studies in 1984 and 1989. The 1989 study identified the long-term need for a Provincial highway north of Bradford, linking Highway 400 to the Highway 404 extension (the Bradford Bypass).

Yonge Street is the only major road crossing of the West Holland River that is east of Highway 400, north of Highway 9 and south of Lake Simcoe, spanning a distance of 16 kilometres. The increase in road-based freight transport between Highway 400 and Highway 404 has intensified. Currently, trucks use York Region and local roads throughout the Region to make this connection.

The Ministry completed an Environmental Assessment for the Bradford Bypass in 2002 and is protecting the corridor even though it wasn't included in the Provincial Growth Plan. York Region staff will work with the Province, Simcoe County and local municipalities to ensure that the Bradford Bypass is included in a future update to the Growth Plan.

### ***2011 York Region Cordon Count tracks growth in travel***

York Regional Council received a report on the findings of the 2011 Cordon Count Program, an important transportation planning tool that highlights changes in travel behaviour in The Regional Municipality of York. The 2011 findings are compared to results for 2001 and 2006, the two prior years this study has been undertaken with the University of Toronto.

Travel data collected includes the number of people and vehicles crossing key points such as municipal boundaries, railway crossings, highways and rivers. The 2011 data shows growth in transit usage, vehicular traffic and person trips over the 10-year period from 2001 to 2011.

Analysis of the change in travel patterns from 2001 to 2011 is presented in the 2011 Cordon Count Bulletin. Following are highlights for 2011:

- All day transit ridership increased from 4.2 per cent of all trips in 2001, to 5.4 per cent in 2006 and 7.2 per cent in 2011
- In 2011, 400-series highways (Highway 400, 404, 427 and 407) carried 42 per cent of all traffic in and out of York Region, compared to 38 per cent in 2001 and 2006
- Highway 407 accounted for 51 per cent of the traffic crossing the York-Peel boundary and 35 per cent of the traffic crossing the York-Durham boundary in 2011
- Travel across the Toronto boundary remains the most significant with almost 75 per cent of all person trips
- Between 2001 and 2011, the number of people going to Toronto increased 20 per cent (35,600 trips) and coming from Toronto increased 14 per cent (17,700 trips) during the morning peak period

The 2011 Cordon Count Bulletin is available on the York Region website while a detailed database can be accessed through the University of Toronto website at [www.dmg.utoronto.ca](http://www.dmg.utoronto.ca)

### ***York Regional Council approves 2012 service agreement with GTMA***

York Regional Council endorsed a new 2012 International Marketing Services Agreement and approved funding for the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance (GTMA) in the amount of \$100,000 for the coming year, subject to Council's approval of The Regional Municipality of York 2012 budget.

The GTMA provides international investment attraction services on behalf of the municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area. The GTA municipalities have a formalized funding agreement with the GTMA and are in negotiation with the GTMA on changes that would result in enhanced municipal engagement, additional investments and ultimately a more equitable distribution of results across the GTA.

### ***Climate change adaptation initiatives will reduce risk and ensure resilient communities***

York Regional Council received a summary of a Draft Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan that focuses on the potential effects of climate change and how The Regional Municipality of York can prepare for them. A workshop will be held to obtain feedback on action areas proposed in the draft plan.

York Region has experienced many impacts of climate change, including intensive storms such as the 2009 tornado in the City of Vaughan, as well as heat waves, drought and flooding.

Local municipalities and our partners have important roles to play in addressing climate change adaptation because of the essential and vulnerable systems we manage that our communities depend on for quality of life and economic prosperity.

The draft Action Plan focuses on vulnerability and risk reduction, emergency preparedness and greater collaboration between Regional departments and partner agencies. The workshop will focus on best management practices, partnerships and priority actions.

A draft Action Plan will be presented to Committee and Council in early 2012.

### ***Multi-year plan progress report approved***

York Regional Council has released a progress report of the first year of *Investing in our Communities: A Multi-Year Plan for the Community and Health Services Department*.

The plan positions the department to better manage the changes resulting from The Regional Municipality of York's growing, aging and diversifying population. It highlights key service issues and challenges facing York Region.

### ***York Region EMS to develop response time plan***

York Regional Council has endorsed a work plan to develop an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Response Time Plan, required by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care by October 2012 to meet the *Ambulance Act*.

A response time plan will provide a basis to explore innovative delivery and paramedic practices when addressing community needs for both emergency and non-emergency care.

York Region EMS will report back to Regional Council at key milestones over the next year to review options and seek approval of a plan.

### ***York Region EMS to assess and expand scope of service***

York Regional Council approved an approach to expand York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for non-acute 9-1-1 calls.

Nearly one of every three calls for paramedics through 9-1-1 is from a patient in a non-acute condition, such as minor trauma, abdominal pain, psychiatric emergency and sore throats.

Regional staff will assess alternate paramedic models of care and determine the most appropriate model for future delivery. Staff will report back to Regional Council on progress of the strategy and next steps.

### ***Ontario Works innovative workforce development helps participants stay employed***

York Regional Council endorsed a report expressing support for Ontario Works' innovative workforce development programs that are designed to increase long-term employment and develop a model to address participant needs.

Recipients of benefits must participate in employment assistance activities such as employment placement, assisted job search and job-specific skill training. In 2010, The Regional Municipality of York assisted more than 1,300 residents to become employed and exit the Ontario Works program.

### ***New 18-year life cycle approved for YRT/Viva fleet***

York Regional Council has approved the extension of the YRT/Viva bus life cycle from 12 to 18 years.

Extending the average life cycle to 18 years will result in nearly \$20 million in capital cost saving over the next 10 years. The extension is required after the loss of provincial funding that formerly assisted in the purchase of replacement vehicles.

Some vehicles will continue to be retired at the 12-year mark and those being extended to 18 years will receive necessary refurbishments. There are 330 conventional and 116 rapid transit buses in the YRT/Viva fleet.

### ***York Region updates Sewer Use Bylaw***

York Regional Council has approved an update to the current Sewer Use Bylaw to address evolving Provincial legislation and better regulate and protect York Region sewer infrastructure.

The new Sewer Use Bylaw was drafted in consultation with all nine local municipalities and industry representatives. Among the changes are improved administration and flexibility, improved enforcement powers and improved protection of infrastructure and the environment.

Included are new provisions for the installation and replacement of food grinders – with all prohibited one year after the enactment of the Sewer Use Bylaw.

### ***York Region appoints Risk Management Officials to comply with Clean Water Act***

York Regional Council has approved the appointment of a Risk Management Official and Risk Management Inspectors under Part IV of the *Clean Water Act*.

The *Clean Water Act*, a result of the Walkerton Inquiry, promotes the protection of drinking water through mandatory and voluntary actions. Municipalities and their corresponding conservation authorities are required to undertake assessments to identify threats and vulnerable areas relative to municipal drinking water sources. The appointment of a Risk Management Official and Risk Management Inspectors will assist York Region in safeguarding the quality and quantity of our municipal drinking water supplies.

### ***York Region modifies Hauled Wastewater Program policy***

York Regional Council has endorsed a new Hauled Wastewater Program policy to regulate the discharge of hauled wastewater to receiving facilities. New rules establish registration requirements and procedures for wastewater haulers to ensure prohibited materials are not disposed at York Region facilities.

Modifications to the Hauled Wastewater Program policy include requirements for haulers to register annually, provide samples from every load and pay disposal fees according to an updated schedule. Facility operating hours will also move from a 24-hour operation to regularly-scheduled business hours.

### ***York Region approves Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer enhancement agreements***

York Regional Council has authorized enhancement agreements with the Town of Markham, City of Pickering and the school boards in York and Durham Regions to create long-term community benefits resulting from the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer construction.

Among the approved enhancements:

- \$400,000 to City of Pickering and Town of Markham school boards for environmental scholarships
- Included within \$8 million to the City of Pickering is \$100,000 for Durham Region public and Catholic school boards for “greening projects” for the schools in proximity to the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer route
- In addition to \$6 million in enhancements for Bob Hunter Memorial Park, the Town of Markham will receive \$1 for community improvements, including trail construction and parkland upgrades

### ***Next regular meeting of York Regional Council***

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, December 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

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**Compiled by:** *Tim Paleczny, Corporate Communications Specialist, York Region*  
*Phone: 905-830-4444, Ext. 1238, 416-297-9696 or Toll free 1-877-464-9675*  
*Cell: 905-251-6413 Email: [tim.paleczny@york.ca](mailto:tim.paleczny@york.ca)*