



York Regional Council Highlights

April 21, 2005

Fare payment processing agreement

York Region has entered into a three-year agreement with Moneris Solutions to process electronic payments for Viva, the Region's new rapid transit system.

Viva's Quick Start fare payment is based on a "proof-of-payment" system which requires passengers to purchase a ticket prior to boarding and retain it for authentication. Overall, the system will use:

- Terminal Ticket Vending Machines
- Ticket Vending Machines
- Ticket Validators
- Revenue Management Systems
- Customer Service Centres
- Communication Network

Moneris has the only interface that has a fully tested option for new client use, making it the ideal candidate for processing payments.

Eating Disorder Awareness Week recognized

Regional Council recognized May 8-15, 2005 as Eating Disorder Awareness Week. During this week, the organization *Eating Disorders of York Region* will be hosting an awareness evening to promote various books and other resources for people affected by eating disorders.

Accessibility Advisory Committee update

York Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) gave a progress update to York Regional Council, including:

- Web design revisions to accommodate persons with special needs
- Efforts to harmonize AAC recommendations with the Ontario Building Code
- A review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

Tax ratios established for 2005

York Region has approved property tax ratios for 2005, pursuant to section 308(5) of the Municipal Act. Council approved property tax ratios and tax rates for the 2005 taxation year as follows:



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Broad Property Class	Tax Ratios	Tax Rates
Residential/Farm	1.0000	0.510942%
Multi-residential	1.0000	0.510942%
New Multi-residential	1.0000	0.510942%
Commercial	1.2070	0.616707%
Industrial	1.3737	0.701881%
Pipelines	0.9190	0.469556%
Farmlands	0.2500	0.127736%
Managed Forests	0.2500	0.127736%

Council also approved tax reduction ratios of:

- 30 per cent for vacant and excess land
- 35 per cent for vacant industrial land
- 75 per cent for farmland awaiting development and residential, commercial and industrial classes

May is Community Living Month

Regional Council recognized May 2005 as Community Living Month. As part of the month, a provincial public awareness campaign will be launched, focussing on employment and how people with intellectual disabilities make valuable contribution to the workforce.

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority receives increase financing assistance

York Region will provide interim financing to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) for its \$3.2 million renovation and construction of its headquarters.

Council previously approved \$2.5 million for the LSRCA. The new amount reflects revised estimates for updated building specifications. The amount will be funded through debentures and repayable loans.

YRT ridership continues to be strong in February

York Region Transit (YRT) continued to post excellent ridership numbers in February, as overall passengers for 2005 increased by 13.7 per cent over the same time period in 2004.

YRT ridership for 2005 was just over 2.4 million passengers in February. Over the same time period in 2004, ridership was just over 2.1 million passengers.

YRT has posted 10 per cent or greater ridership increases every year since the service was amalgamated in 2001.



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Residual Waste Environmental Assessment

York Region will partner with Durham Region as a co-proponent on its Residual Waste Management Environmental Assessment (EA) Study. The EA is exploring new technology options to divert residual waste from landfills. It is hoped that by combining efforts, York and Durham Region will be able to find a more cost-effective solution to managing residual waste.

Council responds to Province's Draft Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Given the magnitude and importance of the Draft Growth Plan, Council requested a commenting extension of six (6) months to permit a detailed analysis of the proposed Draft Growth Plan, its implementation and required infrastructure.

Should an extension not be granted, Council endorsed a set of recommendations and actions, including withdrawal of its support for the growth plan. For details, please see [Report No. 4 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee](#).

Required Provincial Funding for 30-Year Infrastructure Projects and Immediate Infrastructure Needs

Council authorized the Regional Chair to inform the Province of Ontario of its concern regarding the disconnect between the recent Provincial Policy Plans including the Greenbelt Plan and the Draft Provincial Growth Plan and the lack of Provincial commitment to long term infrastructure plans and funding.

Council also wants the Province of Ontario to produce a 30-year Transportation Master Plans and 10-year capital plans to complement the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and that the following services/infrastructure be covered: Provincial highways, local and rapid transit funding, cross-boundary and boundary road funding, hospital and related human services funding, GO Transit and natural heritage implementation funding.

In the short term, Council wants the Province to make immediate commitments to infrastructure funding for the following critical road and transit infrastructure projects in York Region:

1. A Rapid Transit System in all four York Region Corridors.
2. Full funding of GO Transit Expansion Plan.
3. Highway 404, 427 and Bradford Bypass expansions.
4. New interchanges (12 new or modified interchanges) and widening for 400 series highway.
5. HOV lanes on 400 series highways.
6. Support and funding for Travel Demand Management and commuter parking lots.
7. Cross-boundary and boundary road improvements

For details, please see [Report No. 4 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee](#).



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Council asks Province to support plans and commit to timely approval process for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure projects

Council has requested that the Province of Ontario immediately endorse York Region's sewer and water master plans that outline how the Region will service the Provincially-approved imminent growth for York Region.

Council also requested that the Province immediately commit adequate resources to ensure timely environmental processes and permit approvals for the critical infrastructure projects identified in its Municipal Sewer and Water Master Plans.

For details, please see [Report No. 4 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee](#).

Overview of 2003 Tourism Economic research

Council received this report that provides analysis, highlights and statistics regarding the economic impact of tourism in York Region during 2003.

For details, please see [Report No. 4 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee](#) as well as a media release, "[York Region tourism rebounds thanks to aggressive recovery efforts](#)" on April 13, 2005

2005 York Region Visitors' Guide

Council received this report on the production and distribution of the 2005 York Region Visitors' Guide.

For details, please see [Report No. 4 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee](#) as well as a media release, "[York Region releases 2005 Visitors' Guide](#)" on March 31, 2005.

Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on indicators of progress for 2004

Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress is the third in a series of annual reports that communicate the Region's progress towards implementing *Vision 2026*.

Highlights of this year's report include:

- Launch of Viva
- Understanding Barriers: York Region's First Annual Accessibility Plan
- York Region Centres and Corridors Strategy, Making it Happen
- "The Road to Inclusivity: An Action Plan for York Region"
- "Preventing Homelessness In York Region: Taking the Next Steps"



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- Continued high quality of life (91% approval rating by residents)
- Overall satisfaction with York Regional government at 71% from a satisfaction level of 70% in 2003 and 66% in 2002.

Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress will be made widely available to public, stakeholders and staff.

Region enters new contract for handling household organic waste

York Region has entered into a six-month, \$1.2 million contract with GSI Environmental, starting July 4, 2005, for the haulage and processing of household organic waste. The timeframe coincides with the second phase of the Town of Markham's Mission Green pilot project to collect household organics for composting.

New transit services offered as part of 2005 YRT Service Plan

As a means of revising the York Region Transit (YRT) Five-Year Service Plan, York Regional Council has approved the 2005 YRT Service Plan. The plan recommends extra service to highly used routes, while reducing service to underperforming routes.

For more information on route changes, please visit www.yorkregiontransit.com

Information Technology Strategy & 5 Year Plan

Council approved the *Information Technology Strategy & 5 Year Plan* to align IT with Regional objectives contained in *Vision 2026*.

The Strategy and Plan, which is subject to annual budget approvals, is intended to:

- 1) leverage the use of technology towards a common vision;
- 2) reduce overall costs through effective technology deployment;
- 3) minimize departmental 'islands of technology';
- 4) monitor expected growth/plan infrastructure enhancements;
- 5) provide increased services to the public;
- 6) optimize the effective use of existing and future investments in ERP business systems such as PeopleSoft and GIS;
- 7) enable the Region to harness the untapped power and innovation of emerging technologies;
- 8) provide a focus for the Region's interaction with other local municipalities and the community; and
- 9) make the talent and skill of the Region's IT resources available to all departments.



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York Regional Forest certification renewed

The York Regional Forest was the first publicly-managed certified-sustainable forest in Canada, by the Forest Stewardship Council's SmartWood program and by the Rainforest Coalition. A compliance audit undertaken in March 2005, recommended a renewal of this certification by SmartWood and the Rainforest Coalition

Pedestrian Countdown Signal Display Implementation program

York Region has moved to install pedestrian countdown signals at 25 high pedestrian intersections throughout York Region at a cost of \$4,000 per intersection. The signals work in much the same fashion as conventional crossing signals, with the added benefit of a descending numerical countdown to indicate how much time is left to safely cross the intersection.

Next York Regional Council Meeting

The next York Regional Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the York Region Administrative Centre in Newmarket.

Compiled by Michael Kemp, Communications Specialist, York Region Corporate Communications, (905) 830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, ext. 1232. Email: Michael.kemp@york.ca 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.