

Thursday, April 19, 2007

For Immediate Release

2007 York Region Transit Budget

NEWMARKET – York Regional Council today approved The Regional Municipality of York's *2007 Business Plan and Budget* which includes \$166.6 million for York Region Transit (YRT) and Viva Rapid Transit allocated as follows:

- \$24.5 million in operating costs
- \$44.3 million York Region Transit capital costs
- \$97.8 million Rapid Transit capital costs, including Viva Rapid Transit

York Region Transit (YRT) Highlights

- 51,800 additional hours of YRT service for a total of 768,800 service hours
- Purchase of 21 new and three replacement conventional buses for YRT, three specialized buses for Mobility Plus service and four support vehicles
- Land acquisition costs for two sites for transit vehicle garages
- \$6 million in technology improvement and upgrades to conventional YRT buses and customer service-related systems
- Implementation of smart card technology in the Greater Toronto Area



Viva Phase 2 involves constructing centre-of-the-road lanes known as "rapidways", dedicated strictly to public transit.

Viva Rapid Transit / York Region Subway Extension Highlights

- Provide an additional 5,500 Viva rapid transit service hours, an increase of 2.2. per cent
- Preliminary engineering for the first stage of Viva Phase 2
- Acquisition of land for Langstaff transit facility
- Construction of Cornell bus terminal
- Purchase of 14 Rapid Transit Vehicles for Viva Phase 1
- Commencement of Viva Phase 1 enhancements, including a new station and queue jump lanes
- Spadina Subway extension, Year 1, including planning and design work

Traffic congestion is a complex issue and is a by-product of York Region's economic success. Recent funding commitments from the Provincial and Federal governments, coupled with York Region's ongoing commitment to public transit as shown in today's approved budget, will enable The Regional Municipality of York to bring tangible, practical transit solutions and improvements to the Region and our residents.

Last year, more than 17 million passengers chose to take YRT/Viva, allowing YRT/Viva ridership to climb 12.4 per cent and reflecting the highest ridership growth in the Greater Toronto Area. YRT and Viva provide local and rapid transit service across all nine municipalities of York Region and provide seamless connectivity across York Region, with easy connections to Toronto, Durham and Peel.

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

Media Contact: Ken Turriff, Corporate Communications, York Region
Phone: (905) 830-4444 / toll-free 1-877-464-9675, Ext. 1226
Cell: (905) 251-6415 / Email: ken.turriff@york.ca