



January 2007

# York Regional Council Highlights



The Regional Municipality of York



## York Region Transportation priorities for 2006-2010

York Regional Council today received a report outlining transportation priorities for the new Council term, which runs until 2010. Combating traffic congestion is the foremost transportation priority, with an emphasis on:

### **Building and maintaining a sustainable transportation infrastructure, including:**

- Road improvements supportive of VIVA, YRT, GO, HOV, and intensification
- Intersection improvements
- Intelligent Transportation Systems improvements to better manage traffic flows
- Road improvements supportive of York's employment areas
- Community-focused road improvements featuring improved integration with surrounding communities (main streets, not highways)
- Minimizing new impacts to environmentally sensitive areas (Oak Ridges Moraine, Rouge Park)

### **Traffic safety, including:**

- Review of speed limits and pedestrian traffic signal needs
- Red light camera implementation
- Advocacy for photo radar

### **Management of existing assets, including:**

- Piloting the development of a roads asset management financial model for the more than \$2.4 billion Regional roads system

## York Regional Water and Wastewater priorities for 2006-2010

York Regional Council today received a report outlining water and wastewater priorities for the new Council term, which runs until 2010. The water and wastewater priorities will focus on:

### **Legislative compliance, including:**

- Changes in staffing, practices and resource allocation to ensure continued compliance with emerging regulations under these Safe Drinking Water Act, Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act

### **Timely project delivery, including:**

- \$1.3 Billion in water/wastewater infrastructure to deliver 70 projects over the next four years, including the expansion of the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, "twinning" of southeast collector sewer, and water supply projects with Peel and Toronto

### **Sustainable infrastructure, including:**

- Approximate value of existing assets \$2.5 Billion; varying age from 60 years or less
- Development of a comprehensive infrastructure renewal plan for \$2.5 billion in water and wastewater assets

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## **Free pass to access transit for York Region residents over 100 years old**

York Regional Council today approved a motion to issue a free pass to access any transportation service offered by York Region, upon request, by any individual who reaches the age of 100.

## **YRT applies for funding to assist with terrorism-specific security plan**

York Region Transit (YRT) has made an application to Transport Canada for funding to develop a terrorism-specific security plan and threat risk assessment.

The draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* contains funding in the amount of \$150,000 for the security plan design and assessment. If successful with the application process, the Region would receive \$112,500 (maximum subsidy of 75 per cent of cost) in funding from Transport Canada, resulting in a net cost to the Region of \$37,500.

## **York Regional Council passes resolution asking the federal government to declare Canada smoke free**

York Regional Council today passed a resolution asking the Government of Canada to declare itself a leader in smoke-free legislation and enact legislation to make all public places and indoor workplaces in Canada smoke-free.

Nine countries around the world already have comprehensive smoke-free laws: Ireland, Norway, New Zealand, Italy, Sweden, England, India, Uganda and Bhutan. France will implement smoke-free workplaces beginning February 2007 and smoke-free restaurants beginning January 2008.

In Canada, all provinces and territories have some form of legislation that prohibits and/or restricts smoking in public places and workplaces, with the exception of the Yukon Territory.

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2005* prohibits smoking in enclosed workplaces and enclosed public places in Ontario.

On October 26, 2000, York Regional Council enacted a *By-Law to Regulate the Smoking of Tobacco in Public Places and Workplaces in the Regional Municipality of York*.

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## **York Region calls for fair funding for human services**

York Regional Council today endorsed a resolution asking the federal and provincial governments to acknowledge and address the funding shortfall in York Region for community social services and to develop a more appropriate funding arrangement for these vital services.

Both the federal and provincial governments have said they intend to establish a new financial deal for municipalities. This resolution asks the senior levels of government to let funding for social services reflect population size, growth patterns, actual need and other characteristics such as immigration figures.

York Region welcomes an average of 35,000 new residents a year and will reach a population of 1.5 million residents over the next 20 years. In addition, the Region's population is becoming more diverse and its median age is rising.

The full extent of these demographic changes were detailed in York Region's 2006 report entitled *Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region*. Between 1991 and 2001, the number of recent immigrants coming to York Region increased by 132 per cent while non-immigrants increased by 31 per cent. The data also showed that immigrants increasingly are coming directly to York Region from their countries of origin, rather than starting the integration process in another part of the country before moving here.

Currently, funding is allocated primarily on the basis of historical patterns, not actual needs based on population and demographics. There is increasing pressure on community social service agencies to meet the Region's growing needs.

## **York Region asks senior levels of government to adopt the recommendations of the Strong Communities Coalition**

York Regional Council endorsed a second resolution brought to Council today by York Region's Human Services Planning Coalition. The resolution requests senior levels of government to adopt the recommendations of the Strong Communities Coalition, an alliance of the United Ways of Oakville, Peel, York, Durham and the GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance.

The Strong Communities Coalition published a report on October 24, 2006 entitled *Growing Pains: An Urgent Message from the Strong Communities Coalition*. The report stated that the four regions – Durham, Halton, Peel and York are undergoing a "population surge" and that the GTA/905 "is not only growing, it is aging at twice the provincial rate and increasingly is culturally and socio-economically diverse." The report adds that "new immigrants have accounted for half of Ontario's annual population growth over the past 10 years. Peel and York have the second highest volume of new immigrants in the country."

The report suggests that there is an increasing services funding gap in the GTA/905 area due to these demographic changes. York Region has monitored the funding gap in human services funding since 2001. The gap for social services in 2003-2004 was \$173 million.

For hospital services, the funding gap grew from \$338 million in 2002-2003 to almost \$453 million in 2006-2007.

The gap in hospital funding is projected to reach \$480 million in 2007-2008. Over the five-year period from 2002 to 2007, the funding gap for hospital services in York Region, as compared to the rest of the province, is estimated to be almost \$2 billion.

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## **York Regional Council approves feedback on the province's proposed methodology for developing a built boundary for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**

York Regional Council today approved a staff report outlining the key provisions of the *Technical Paper on a Proposed Methodology for Developing a Built Boundary for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Built Boundary Technical Paper)*, released by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal (PIR) on November 27, 2006. Council directed staff to submit the report to the province as York Region's feedback on the province's built boundary methodology.

The report explains the province's methodology used to determine the built boundary (the limit of a developed urban area) and presents York Region's feedback to the province. PIR has completed and mapped the first three stages of the four-stage methodology for mapping the built boundary and aims to make the final built boundary reflect what is actually on the ground. There are some areas to be further investigated and addressed in the final, stage-four refinement of the built boundary, including the Parkway Belt West Lands and Cornell Centre.

Staff will continue to work with PIR in consultation with the areas municipalities to review the methodology and to delineate the final boundary.

## **Public meeting held to discuss Aurora's urban area boundary**

Pursuant to Section 17(15) of the *Planning Act*, York Region's Planning and Economic Development Committee held a public meeting to inform the public and receive comments regarding a request by the Town of Aurora to amend the official plan of The Regional Municipality of York to expand the Region's "Urban Area" boundary.

Known as the 2C lands, the 445 hectare parcel of land located north of Wellington Street and east of Bayview Avenue is the last parcel of land in Aurora that is not currently designated for urban uses.

Deputations were received from: Klaus Wehrenberg, resident, Town of Aurora; R. Hodgson, on behalf of 721312 Ontario Limited; and Chris Barnett, Davis & Company LLP, on behalf of Aurora 2C Landowners Group.

Council directed staff to receive and review comments from the public and report back again.

## **March 2007 is Red Cross Month**

York Regional Council will recognize March 2007 as Red Cross Month. The Canadian Red Cross is engaged in a variety of activities to help others, including disaster management, international aid, first aid and CPR, swimming and boating safety and homecare services.

# York Regional Council Highlights

## 2007 Business Plan and Budget tabled

The Regional Municipality of York today tabled its draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* for York Regional Council which proposes numerous service expansions and enhancements for roads, transit and police services to help keep pace with York Region's growing population and our resident demand for value-added services. The \$1.76 billion draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* includes a proposed 5.3-per cent tax levy.

The draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* has now been referred to the following Regional committees for review:

- Transportation and Works – Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>
- Planning and Economic Development – Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>
- Finance and Administration – Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>
- Solid Waste Management – Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>
- Community Services and Housing – Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>
- Transit and Rapid Transit – Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>
- Health and Emergency Medical Services – Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

Following reviews by the committees, the Finance and Administration Committee will receive further budget recommendations at its meeting on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Final *2007 Business Plan and Budget* recommendations are scheduled to be considered for approval and adoption by York Regional Council on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Changes to the Ontario Municipal Act

York Regional Council received for information a report on amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001* which has potential implications for the Region's operations and administration.

The report identifies issues on which staff will seek further direction from Council in order to implement new legislative requirements regarding accountability and transparency, in-camera meetings, By-law enforcement and the Retail Business Holidays Act.

## Next Regional Council meeting

The next meeting of York Regional Council will take place on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the York Region Administrative Centre, located at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket.

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The contents of this summary are 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](http://www.york.ca) under Regional Government.