

Clause 2 in Report No. 7 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on April 23, 2015.

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Transportation Master Plan Update and  
Advisory Task Force

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated March 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Transportation Services, with the following amendment to Recommendation 2:

2. The Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force be comprised of the following members:

Regional Councillor Armstrong  
Mayor Dawe  
Regional Councillor Ferri  
Regional Councillor Jones  
Regional Councillor Rosati  
Mayor Scarpitti  
Regional Councillor Spatafora  
Regional Councillor Taylor  
Regional Councillor Wheeler

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force as outlined in this report.
2. Council appoint the Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force members.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate a copy of this report to the local municipalities.

## 2. Purpose

This report describes progress on the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update and seeks Council approval for the Terms of Reference establishing an Advisory Task Force (Task Force) to provide feedback to York Region staff in the development of regional transit and transportation policies as part of the Transportation Master Plan Update.

## 3. Background

York Region is planning for growth and infrastructure needs through a coordinated Municipal Comprehensive Review and infrastructure master plan updates

Amendment 2 to the Growth Plan has identified population and employment forecasts for York Region to 2041 of 1.79 million people and 900,000 jobs. Consequently, a Municipal Comprehensive Review is underway that will assess the current Regional Official Plan policies and growth plans and identify changes needed to address Amendment 2 forecasts and emerging issues. To support the Municipal Comprehensive Review, infrastructure master plan updates are being undertaken for transportation and for water and wastewater. These long-range master plans are being coordinated to ensure the existing community, growth and infrastructure needs are assessed and decisions made in a comprehensive way.

The Transportation Master Plan Update will address emerging issues and expand new policy directions

The Transportation Master Plan Update is York Region's blueprint to address the mobility needs of those living and working in York Region over the next 25 years. It guides planning and investing in the Region's transportation network, including Regional roads, York Region Transit (YRT/Viva), rapid transit (vivaNext), cycling and walking. The Transportation Master Plan was originally approved in 2002, and a Transportation Master Plan Update was adopted by Council in 2009 to provide a 'pedestrian and transit-first' approach to address capacity deficiencies and meet growth demands.

In 2013, Council endorsed staff to proceed with an update to the TMP to provide recommendations for infrastructure improvements to accommodate forecasted growth to 2041. The TMP will refine and update policies on trip reduction, active transportation, transit and the road network to account for emerging issues/opportunities, address outstanding questions on infrastructure and develop a robust financial analysis to support implementation of the TMP. The

recommendations of the TMP will inform the 2017 Development Charges Bylaw update.

Regional coordination will play a bigger role in the development of transportation policies

York Region is a rapidly evolving municipality and its changing land-use and development form are influencing how and where people travel. Expansion of the urban boundaries and intensification within existing urban areas has impacted travel patterns, mode choice preferences and the overall number of trips in the Region.

Changing demographics and economic factors also influence the Region's urban structure and transportation choice, resulting in the need for continued coordination of transportation services between the Region and its local municipalities, provincial agencies and neighbouring municipalities, such as the City of Toronto and Peel Region. The implementation of rapid transit facilities and provincial initiatives that are inter-municipal/regional, such as the Yonge Subway Extension to Richmond Hill, Regional Express Rail (two-way, all-day GO rail service), Highway 427 extension and the GTA West Corridor, will require additional commitments and agreements with different levels of government and agencies. York Region's role and continued advocacy in the development of these initiatives could result in the acceleration of planning studies.

The Transportation Master Plan is scheduled for completion in early 2016

The TMP study process is divided into four stages. Each stage includes public engagement and consultation with local municipalities and provincial agencies. These stages are outlined as follows:

- Stage 1: Understanding what is happening in York Region - The purpose of this stage was to assess trends in existing conditions and challenges.
- Stage 2: Determining transportation priorities and opportunities - In this stage, transportation priorities for all modes will be identified. In addition, new policy directions will be explored to support multi-modal strategies.
- Stage 3: Creating transportation solutions for tomorrow - This stage includes recommendations on a future road, transit and pedestrian and cycling network in addition to recommended policies for the Regional Official Plan.
- Stage 4: Implementing the TMP - This stage is focused on the development of an investment strategy for the recommended

transportation network, prioritization of the network and the development of performance measures.

Stage 1 of the TMP Update is complete and included a series of public open houses in November 2014. Public engagement was coordinated with the Municipal Comprehensive Review and the Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update. Future coordinated public open houses are planned for June and October 2015.

The Transportation Master Plan Update is scheduled for completion in early 2016.

#### 4. Analysis and Options

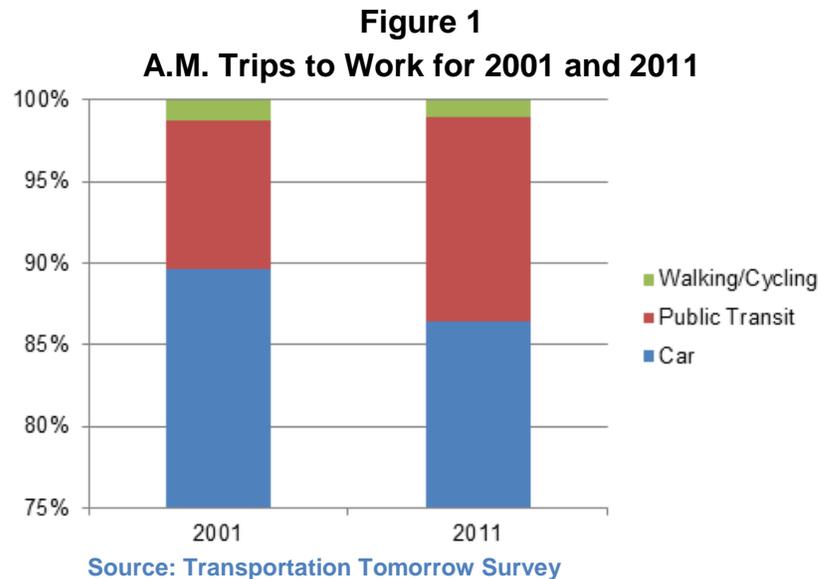
Travel patterns are changing, with a higher percentage of York Region trips remaining within York Region

Stage 1 of the TMP examined trends within the Region. Figure 1 shows the transportation mode share of trips to work for 2001 and 2011. There has been an increase in the transit mode share which can be attributed to the transit infrastructure investment by the Province and the Region. As more transit infrastructure is implemented, it is expected that the transit ridership will continue to grow. Since the development of York Region's first TMP in 2002, rush hour trips have increased by 30 per cent, adding more than 100,000 new cars to the Region's road network during peak periods. More of these trips are also remaining within the Regional boundaries and more trips are being made by transit.

The four Regional growth centre municipalities have experienced a 51 per cent increase in a.m. internal trips within each municipality between 2001 and 2011.<sup>1</sup> During the same time period, employment growth in each of the four municipalities has increased by 34 per cent. This trend suggests that a proportion of people may be adjusting their travel patterns to bring their origins and destinations closer together.

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<sup>1</sup> 2011 Transportation Tomorrow Survey



Transit is becoming a more attractive option for York Region residents

Annual transit trips on YRT/Viva have more than doubled since 2002, from 8.4 million to 22.4 million in 2014. Transit is becoming a more attractive option, especially for residents commuting to downtown Toronto. However, until now, transit ridership has remained low for residents who work within the Region. This trend is concerning given the rise in the number of residents working in the Region, but is expected to improve with current rapid transit plans in York Region over the next four years. Despite indications of continued auto dependency, the share of residents holding transit passes rose from four per cent to eight per cent during this same period. Improving access to transit and completing walking and cycling networks will enhance service levels and provide sustainable alternatives to help reduce auto trips.

Consultation on the Transportation Master Plan Update has generated feedback from more than a 1,000 people to date

Hearing directly from our residents and business community is an integral part of understanding Regional transportation service needs. In addition to using traditional approaches to engage the public, such as public open houses, the Region retained MetroQuest, a Canadian company specializing in public engagement software. MetroQuest developed an interactive online engagement tool that helps identify public perceptions on transportation issues and priorities.

The online tool was available to the public from October 1, 2014, through to February 20, 2015. It gave residents the ability to provide input in an interactive way from the comfort of their home or via a mobile device. The MetroQuest tool

also gave residents the opportunity to pinpoint issues directly on a map so that concerns around traffic congestion, parking, transit, walking, and cycling could be identified. This online tool was accessible on the york.ca website and at community centres and libraries throughout the Region. The results below are consistent with past Environics surveys that have identified traffic congestion as a top concern for York Region residents:

- Congestion remains top of mind for residents – 81 per cent of respondents rated congestion management as their first or second priority out of eight priorities
- Improving transit remains a priority – 87 per cent of respondents supported continued expansion of the Viva network
- Intelligent Transportation Systems, intersection improvements and road widening are seen as potential solutions for improving traffic flow in the Region
- An integrated local and regional sidewalk and cycling network is needed to better support transit ridership and promote pedestrian mobility. There is greater preference for off-street cycling facilities than on-street bike lanes

The online tool will be refreshed for further public engagement on policy directions and infrastructure alternatives in June 2015.

Council, on February 25, 2015, requested staff develop Terms of Reference for a transportation task force

The Stage 1 trend analysis and public feedback identified a number of key policy areas that require further examination as part of the TMP. These include:

- Creating a finer grid road network – increasing the density of the Regional road network by completing missing links, considering mid-block flyovers of 400-series highways, freeway interchange ramp extensions and developing the major collector road network in partnership with local municipalities and provincial agencies
- Building future corridors – defining which conditions trigger High Occupancy Vehicle lanes, reserve bus lanes and six-lane cross-sections
- Integrating provincial initiatives – prioritizing regional infrastructure to support Province-led transit investment such as the Yonge Subway Extension and GO Transit Regional Express Rail

## Transportation Master Plan Update and Advisory Task Force

- Defining boulevard jurisdiction – clarifying the Regional role in building and maintaining sidewalks, cycling facilities and lighting on Regional roads
- Developing a Regional parking strategy – to optimize the Regional and Provincial investment in YRT/Viva and rapid transit and to encourage transit ridership by using transportation demand management (TDM) measures
- Protecting and accommodating goods movement - designating a goods movement network

Each of these policy areas are complex and involve inter-regional/municipal coordination. To further develop these policy areas, a framework for a Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force is being established to inform the policy development and decision-making in the TMP Update and help guide policies as part of the Municipal Comprehensive Review. The mandate of the Task Force is outlined in the attached Terms of Reference (Attachment 1).

The Task Force membership will be comprised of members from and appointed by Regional Council

Draft Terms of Reference (Attachment 1) have been prepared to reflect the purpose and objectives of the Task Force. The Task Force will meet at critical milestones in support of the TMP Update. The Task Force will be supported by representatives from Transportation Services, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, Corporate Services and Finance with membership comprised of appointees by Regional Council. The intent of the membership is to provide a diverse representation of interests. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Task Force will occur in May 2015, prior to the June public open houses. The term of the Task Force would coincide with the completion of the TMP Update.

Link to key Council-approved plans

This report supports implementation of the Region's Transportation Master Plan and its objective to support the Region's growing population and employment. In addition, this report supports the Corporate Strategic Plan 2015-2019's strategic priority areas to strengthen the Region's economy and manage environmentally sustainable growth. The goals of providing interconnected systems for mobility and developing livable cities and complete communities, as stated in Vision 2051, are also supported by this report. Achievement of these goals will provide a network of complete streets, move our economy and manage congestion.

## 5. Financial Implications

The TMP Update is scheduled for completion in early 2016 and will include capital and operating cost estimates for each recommendation. This information will be used to inform the fiscal impact analysis and background study work required to update the Development Charges Bylaw in 2017

## 6. Local Municipal Impact

Local municipalities are being consulted extensively as part of the TMP Update. Additional public consultations are planned for June and October 2015. The Task Force will advise York Region on matters concerning inter-regional/municipal initiatives. The Task Force will work with all stakeholders to ensure that local and regional objectives are considered in the development of new policies. Consultation through local municipal staff will continue as part of the TMP Update.

## 7. Conclusion

The Transportation Master Plan Update is underway to address emerging issues and infrastructure requirements for population and employment growth to 2041. Results from public feedback confirm that more focussed policy development is required to integrate inter-regional and municipal perspectives. A Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force will help assist staff in the development of key policy areas within the TMP and serve to provide direction of future initiatives resulting from these policy areas.

For more information on this report, please contact Stephen Collins, Director Infrastructure Management and PMO, at ext. 75949.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

March 27, 2015

Attachment (1)

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

# Terms of Reference

## Council Advisory Task Force: Transportation Master Plan

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>What will the Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force do and why?</b>
<p>The Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force (TMP Advisory Task Force) is an advisory body to Council to provide feedback to York Region staff in the development of regional transit and transportation policies as part of the Transportation Master Plan Update.</p>	
<b>Background</b>	<b>Why was it created?</b>
<p>To support the Municipal Comprehensive Review and in coordination with the Regional Official Plan Review and the Water and Wastewater Master Plan, York Region is updating its Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The TMP will refine and update current transportation policies in the Regional Official Plan. Some key policy areas requiring consideration by the TMP Advisory Task Force will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boulevard jurisdiction</li> <li>• Finer grid network</li> <li>• Corridor evolution (HOV lanes, Reserve Bus Lanes, etc.)</li> <li>• Regional parking</li> <li>• Goods movement</li> </ul> <p>Integration with major provincial initiatives such as all-day 2-way GO rail service, new freeways and subway expansion</p>	
<b>Team Composition</b>	<b>Who is on the Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force?</b>
<p>The TMP Advisory Task Force will be composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Councillor Armstrong</li> <li>• Mayor Dawe</li> <li>• Regional Councillor Ferri</li> <li>• Regional Councillor Jones</li> <li>• Regional Councillor Li</li> <li>• Regional Councillor Rosati</li> <li>• Mayor Scarpitti</li> <li>• Regional Councillor Spatafora</li> <li>• Regional Councillor Taylor</li> <li>• Regional Councillor Wheeler</li> </ul> <p>The TMP Advisory Task Force will be supported by representatives from senior management and the following departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of the CAO</li> <li>• Transportation Services</li> <li>• York Region Rapid Transit Corporation</li> <li>• Environmental Services</li> <li>• Corporate Services</li> <li>• Finance</li> </ul>	

# Terms of Reference

## Council Advisory Task Force: Transportation Master Plan

<b>Term of Membership</b>	<b>How long is the commitment for the Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force?</b>
The TMP Advisory Task Force term is anticipated to coincide with the completion of the TMP Update and initial development of the policies to support the TMP Update implementation.	
<b>Decision-Making</b>	<b>How does the Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force make decisions?</b>
The TMP Advisory Task Force is an advisory body to Council. Decisions will be made by Regional Council.	
<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>How will the Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force work together to meet its purpose?</b>
TMP Advisory Task Force members will attend meetings.	
<b>Meeting Logistics</b>	<b>When does the Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force meet?</b>
<p>The TMP Advisory Task Force will meet at critical milestones to support the TMP Update. The proposed agenda for the meetings of the TMP Advisory Task Force is as follows:</p> <p>May 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of Stage 1 TMP trend analysis and public and municipal feedback on key themes</li> <li>• Identification of key policy areas and alternative solutions</li> <li>• Review of transportation network priorities for each transportation mode</li> </ul> <p>September 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of Stage 2 TMP public feedback on network scenarios and priorities</li> <li>• Presentation of recommended TMP polices and transportation networks</li> <li>• Funding strategies for implementation of the TMP</li> </ul> <p>November 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of draft Development Charges By-law considerations to accommodate TMP network priorities</li> <li>• Presentation of draft scope of work and action plan for implementation of transportation policies</li> </ul> <p>Quarter 1 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of final recommendations of the TMP Update</li> <li>• Presentation of final scope of work and action plan for implementation of transportation policies</li> </ul> <p>Quarter 2 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final meeting of the TMP Advisory Task Force</li> </ul>	

# Terms of Reference

## Council Advisory Task Force: Transportation Master Plan

<b>Accountability</b>	<b>What needs to be done and by whom?</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Regional Clerk, in consultation with Transportation Services, will solicit agenda items and prepare meeting agendas and minutes</li><li>• TMP Advisory Task Force input will be integrated into TMP consultations and guide staff recommendations</li></ul>

Note: These Terms of Reference for the Transportation Master Plan Advisory Task Force were approved by Regional Council at its meeting held on April 23, 2015.

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