



Thursday, May 15, 2014

## York Regional Council – May 15, 2014

### **Regional Council audio streaming now available**

Live streaming of York Regional Council begins with today's meeting of Council. Residents who are not able to attend the monthly meetings have the opportunity to tune in, get engaged and learn more about the local government process and decisions. The audio feed is accessible at [www.york.ca/live](http://www.york.ca/live)

For those unable to attend or stream Regional Council meetings, agendas and minutes are also available online at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) under Council.

### **Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer tunnelling operation complete**

York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch today announced the completion of the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer tunnelling operations. The new Southeast Collector will permit inspection and rehabilitation of the existing 40-year-old infrastructure and provide critical backup to allow inspections and repairs to be made to the existing Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer.

Earlier this week, members of Council had the opportunity to descend 25 metres into a construction shaft to see the final tunnel boring machine in operation.

Southeast Collector facts noted:

- Project has been underway for more than 10 years
- Construction has been ongoing for 33 months
- Total length of the tunnel is 15 kilometres
- There are 16 construction compounds and 19 shafts

Chairman Fisch thanked members of Council and staff for their commitment to this project.

### **York Region recognizes Pride Week, June 14 to 22, 2014**

Pride Week will be recognized in York Region June 14 to 22, 2014.

This year marks the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pride Week in York Region and recognizes the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities living in York Region.

For event information, please visit [www.yorkpridefest.com](http://www.yorkpridefest.com)

## **York Region Crossing Guard Appreciation Day recognized**

York Regional Council will recognize Wednesday, September 10, 2014 as York Region Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.

School crossing guards work in all types of weather and play a vital role in the safety of York Region's school children.

York Region has a comprehensive traffic and pedestrian safety plan in place to ensure everyone remains safe on our roads. The various initiatives can be found at [www.york.ca/trafficsafety](http://www.york.ca/trafficsafety)

## **Kennedy Road at Herald Road changed to an all-way stop**

York Regional Council approved an [all-way stop at the intersection of Kennedy Road and Herald Road](#) in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

An all-way stop will help improve traffic safety in the intersection.

## **Work continues on Make Rental Happen campaign and Fair Access partnership pilot**

The Human Services Planning Board (HSPB) of York Region began implementation of two shared actions in 2013, moving forward with the *Make Rental Happen* collaborative advocacy plan and the Fair Access partnership pilot project.

The *Make Rental Happen* initiative engages all levels of government, private sector and community in the creation of more private rental housing options. A public awareness social media campaign was launched to coincide with National Housing Day in fall 2012. This led to the launch of an international post-secondary student challenge earlier this year to create innovative rental housing concepts. A *Make Rental Happen* Housing Symposium and the student challenge awards ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 20.

The Fair Access partnership pilot project will help create more space for low and moderate income families to access recreational and cultural programs by piloting an affordable after-school program delivered by Georgina, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Markham. The program will move forward this fall.

The inaugural term of the HSPB ends in 2014. The recruitment process for the Board's second term will begin later this year.

## **Funding allocated for construction of four Richmond Hill Housing and Community Hub units**

York Regional Council approved the allocation of \$585,252 in 2014 for the construction of four transitional units at the Richmond Hill Housing and Community Hub.

The funding is provided through the joint federal and provincial government Investment in Affordable Housing program – a four-year program that began in 2011. The Region's total share of the program funding is \$22,172,978, which has been used on several housing projects across the Region over the past four years.

## **York Region to contribute more than \$12.7 million to hospital construction**

York Regional Council approved a total capital contribution of \$12.7 million to hospital construction under the Memorandum of Understanding with four local hospitals in York Region.

The Hospital Capital Funding agreement provides potential funding of at least \$12 million per year from now through 2031.

York Region has a long history of hospital expansion support, providing \$51 million up to the year 2000, and an additional \$62.4 million from 2001 to 2009.

## **Regional accessibility activity update**

York Regional Council received an update on the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005*, Regional activities to support the legislation as well as the recruitment of members for the next term of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC).

York Region strives to be an accessible and inclusive environment, following the legislated requirements of the AODA. Building on the success of previous years, a number of accessibility achievements were completed in 2013, including:

- Accessibility training for more than 3,550 staff, volunteers and agents
- Hosting of a National Access Awareness Week public celebration
- Participation in the Province of Ontario's YouTube video highlighting the York Region accessible trail as a best practice model

Current members of the YRAAC will complete their term in 2014. Recruitment activities will begin in September, with the new advisory committee appointed by York Regional Council next year.

York Region has also received a \$35,000 grant from the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario's EnAbling Change Grant Program to develop an accessibility self-assessment tool for organizations. The tool will be developed for use by organizations across Ontario, and will establish the Region as an accessibility champion and best practice innovator.

## **York Region's transportation assets are in a 'good' state of repair**

York Regional Council today received the Transportation and Community Planning [2013 State of Infrastructure Report](#) showing York Region-owned roads, transit and traffic management systems are meeting and, in many cases, exceeding current and future service needs.

Transportation infrastructure is routinely maintained and upgraded as needed to increase their lifespan and reduce costs for taxpayers.

The Regional Municipality of York operates and maintains approximately \$2.1 billion worth of Region-owned transportation infrastructure assets.

## York Region prepares for 2015 Pan American/Parapan American Games

York Regional Council endorsed the [2015 Pan American/Parapan American Games Strategic Framework for Transportation](#) for the City of Markham and the City of Vaughan.

The framework includes a games route network to be established with dedicated lanes to provide priority access to venues for athletes, officials, media and high occupancy vehicles (HOV). YRT/Viva will provide additional conventional and specialized transit services during the Games.

The report also outlines the necessary bylaws to carry out and enforce the transportation strategy within York Region, including parking restrictions along Regional roads.

The City of Markham was selected as the location to host golf, water polo, badminton and table tennis. York Region is preparing to manage traffic in the City of Vaughan due to its proximity to the York University venue site.

The Games will run from July 10 to August 15, 2015 and are expected to be the largest multi-sport event ever held in Canada. There will be an estimated 1.4 million spectators involving 7,000 athletes from 41 nations with 500 events and 51 competitive sports.

### 2011 to 2015 Strategic Plan Year Three Progress Report

The Regional Municipality of York released its [third year report](#) on the 2011 to 2015 Strategic Plan showing significant progress on the four-year plan. Eighty-six per cent of the key performance measures are progressing as or better than expected.

The [From Vision to Results: 2011 to 2015 Strategic Plan](#) identifies the critical steps over this term of York Regional Council to meet the long-range vision for York Region.

The 2013 highlights include:

- Decreasing child care fee subsidy waitlist by 28 per cent for eligible families
- Increasing York Region employment opportunities through creation of 22,800 new jobs
- Reaching a record 22.7 million YRT/Viva revenue transit riders
- Doubling Facebook and Twitter followers on the York Region, YRT/Viva and VivaNext accounts
- Implementing a new Regional Fiscal Strategy approved by Council to reduce debt requirements

The focus on the final year of the plan includes maintaining the progress to date, enhancing areas not currently trending in the desired direction and developing a draft 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan. The 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan will include multi-year budget integration and be presented to Council for consideration in early 2015.

To view a copy of the 2013 Year Three Progress Report, previous year progress reports and the Strategic Plan, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

### York Region Police Services Board to host national conference

The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board will host the Canadian Association of Police Governance's 26th annual conference.

The conference, taking place August 2015, provides attendees the opportunity to network, learn and discuss various aspects of public safety and police governance.

The Canadian Association of Police Governance is an national organization dedicated to excellence in police governance in Canada. Since 1989, the Association has worked diligently to achieve the highest standards as the national voice of civilian oversight of municipal police.

## **York Regional Council approves transit operation and maintenance contracts for YRT/Viva**

York Regional Council today awarded three contracts for [transit operations and maintenance of YRT/Viva transit services](#). The contracts are as follows:

- Viva Bus Rapid Transit service to Tok Transit Limited for \$212 million over the next seven years, from September 2015 to September 2022
- Extension of the contract with Tok Transit Limited for conventional transit operations and maintenance service for York Region Transit's North Division for \$55.4 million over the next four years, from April 2016 to April 2020
- Extension of the contract with Miller Transit Limited for conventional transit operations and maintenance service for York Region Transit's Southeast Division for \$229 million over the next seven years, from October 2016 to October 2023

Benefits of these contracts include service continuity, labour stability, staggered contracts and an estimated annual saving of \$750,000.

All YRT/Viva contracts are due to expire between 2015 and 2016. In 2014, the YRT/Viva system consists of more than 125 routes and is expected to carry an estimated 23.5 million revenue passenger trips.

### **YRT/Viva Enforcement and Security Report details activities in 2013**

York Regional Council received the [2013 YRT/Viva Enforcement and Security Annual Report](#) outlining all Special Constable activities occurring throughout the year.

YRT/Viva Enforcement and Security section personnel travel the YRT/Viva system to monitor the correct use of fares and compliance with Viva's proof-of-payment system. They also monitor riders' behaviour on YRT/Viva vehicles and properties to ensure the safety, security and comfort of all customers.

Enforcement and security activities in 2013 include:

- Increased fare revenue recovery by monitoring data, cash and ticket deposits into conventional vehicle fare boxes
- Assisted with the launch of the Highway 7 rapidway
- Participated in activities pertaining to the 2013 Special Olympics Ontario Summer Games

### **Roadway improvements on Bathurst Street proceeding early 2015**

York Regional Council approved continuation of [road improvements on Bathurst Street between Green Lane West and Highway 11](#) in the Township of King and Town of East Gwillimbury starting early 2015.

Road improvements will address transportation deficiencies in the northern part of York Region and benefit road users and local communities.

For these road improvements, it is necessary to implement the appropriate public highway designations for the realigned section of Bathurst Street. An all-way traffic stop at the Bathurst Street and Holland Landing Road intersection and a speed limit reduction, from 80 to 60 kilometres per hour, on Bathurst Street south of Highway 11, will be introduced.

### **York Region standing committees record major accomplishments**

York Regional Council received individual reports from each of the five standing Committee of the Whole sections highlighting some of the major accomplishments, events and successes during the 2010-2014 term of office. The full reports are available [online](#).

## **Long-term yard waste composting agreement reached**

York Regional Council today approved a new [long-term yard waste composting agreement](#) with Miller Waste Systems for yard waste composting services at the Bloomington Yard Waste Depot in the Town of Richmond Hill.

The new contract will address seasonal fluctuations, such as those experienced with last December's ice storm and related debris plus additional odour control at the facility. The cost for the new contract will remain at 2014 rates.

## **Environmental Services infrastructure assets in good condition**

York Regional Council today received the [Environmental Services 2013 State of Infrastructure Report](#), providing an overview of infrastructure for all branches within the Environmental Services Department. Infrastructure assets totalling \$3.7 billion are owned and maintained through four lines of business: water, wastewater (sewage), solid waste (garbage and recycling) and forestry. The report grades infrastructure using four criteria that includes reliability, capacity, soundness and financial.

Overall, all departments report good standings while some, due to upgrades and new services, report significant improvement over previous reports. Forestry assets are now included after the Forestry and Natural Heritage branch was moved to Environmental Services in 2012.

## **2013 Growth and Development Review report provides positive outlook for York Region**

York Regional Council received for information the [Growth and Development Review 2013](#) report which provides a snapshot of key development and demographic indicators in York Region and competitiveness of York Region's economy.

Highlights include:

- York Region's population reached 1,130,400 in December 2013 and there were an estimated 548,000 jobs
- York Region recorded the second highest share of residential building activity in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area
- York Region ranked eighth nationally for industrial, commercial and institutional construction

Monitoring economic trends allows York Region to assess the competitiveness of its economy and evaluate and respond to changes in the economic climate.

## **Water Financial Plan approved by Regional Council**

York Regional Council today approved a [Water Financial Plan](#), a requirement of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*. The plan outlines the processes in place to ensure long-term financial stability of York Region's drinking water system as well as plans for funding new infrastructure.

All owners of drinking water systems must obtain a license for the operation of their system. The *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* requires a declaration of the financial plan prior to a license renewal.

## **Town of East Gwillimbury gains servicing capacity through sustainable development standards**

York Regional Council today authorized water and wastewater servicing capacity of up to 1,535 units be released to the Town of East Gwillimbury for developments in Queensville, Holland Landing and Sharon.

For the capacity to become available, East Gwillimbury Council endorsed the [Town's Sustainable Development Incentive Program Implementation Guidelines](#).

## York Region's Broadband Strategy to boost connectivity across all municipalities

York Region's [Broadband Strategy](#) presented to Regional Council today identifies areas of strength, including municipal partnerships, plus areas in which improved high-speed connectivity is required.

The need to increase high-speed connectivity across York Region was identified as a key priority in the Region's Economic Development Action plan and by local municipalities and stakeholders. During the strategy's consultation process, actions were identified that could improve connectivity for residents, businesses and the public sector.

The actions were organized into three specific categories:

- Education and advocacy: Government, development industry and property management engagement
- Municipal process: Helping integrate connectivity into planning processes
- Infrastructure investment: Improving connectivity for public sector stakeholders, while encouraging improvements in service delivery, research, collaboration and economic development

York Region is Canada's second-largest Information and Communications Technology cluster and number one on a per capita basis.

### Work Plan provides road map for Regional planning

York Regional Council received for information a [proposed work plan for the next Regional Municipal Comprehensive Review](#).

The Regional Municipal Comprehensive Review will involve a number of studies to be undertaken in 2014 and 2015. The Regional Municipal Comprehensive Review will consist of the following two main tasks:

1. Updating of the Region's population and employment forecasts by local municipality to 2041
2. Review of Regional Official Plan policies

The review will involve a number of studies over the next two years, with many supporting new population and employment forecasts to 2041.

The forecast will receive input from the following projects:

- Employment land and major office inventories
- Residential inventory and intensification analysis
- Regional land budget and associated studies, including a retail trends study
- Cemetery land needs study
- Regional Official Plan policy review
- Long-term fiscal impact analysis

## **More than 1,100 hectares of land protected through Environmental Land Protection and Preservation Program**

York Regional Council today received an update on the [Environmental Land Protection and Preservation Program](#).

The Regional Municipality of York Greening Strategy ensures greenlands are under a greater level of protection through its goal to protect core natural areas and restore linkages.

York Region is located within some of the most significant and environmentally sensitive geological landforms in Ontario, including the Oak Ridges Moraine. In the years following the adoption of the Greening Strategy in 2001, properties totalling 1,105 hectares with a combined value of \$66 million have been protected. This includes 318 hectares which are now part of the York Regional Forest.

York Region has been honoured by both the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada for its ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.

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

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, June 26 at 9:30 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

**Compiled by:** Barbara Moss, Corporate Communications, The Regional Municipality of York  
905-830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, ext. 71237 Cell: 905-505-5775 [barbara.moss@york.ca](mailto:barbara.moss@york.ca)