

Memorandum

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

DATE: November 3, 2016

RE: **2016 York Region Transit (YRT/Viva) Ridership Statistics –
2016 Third Quarter**

This memorandum provides an overview of YRT/Viva ridership statistics for the third quarter (Q3) of 2016, representing the months from July to September 2016.

YRT/Viva's 2016 Q3 revenue ridership was 5.45 million, representing an increase of approximately 110,160 revenue riders or an increase of 2.1 per cent compared to Q3 2015.

There were 63 weekdays, 13 Saturdays and 16 Sundays/Holidays in both Q3 2016 and Q3 2015. There were 18 school days in Q3 2016 compared to 16 school days in Q3 2015, representing two additional school days in Q3 2016.

Weather

Total precipitation in Q3 of 2015^[1] was 148.9 millimetres, compared to 159.0 millimetres in Q3 of 2016^[1]. The average temperature was 20.2 degrees Celsius in Q3 of 2015^[1] and 17.5 degrees Celsius in Q3 of 2016^[1].

Employment

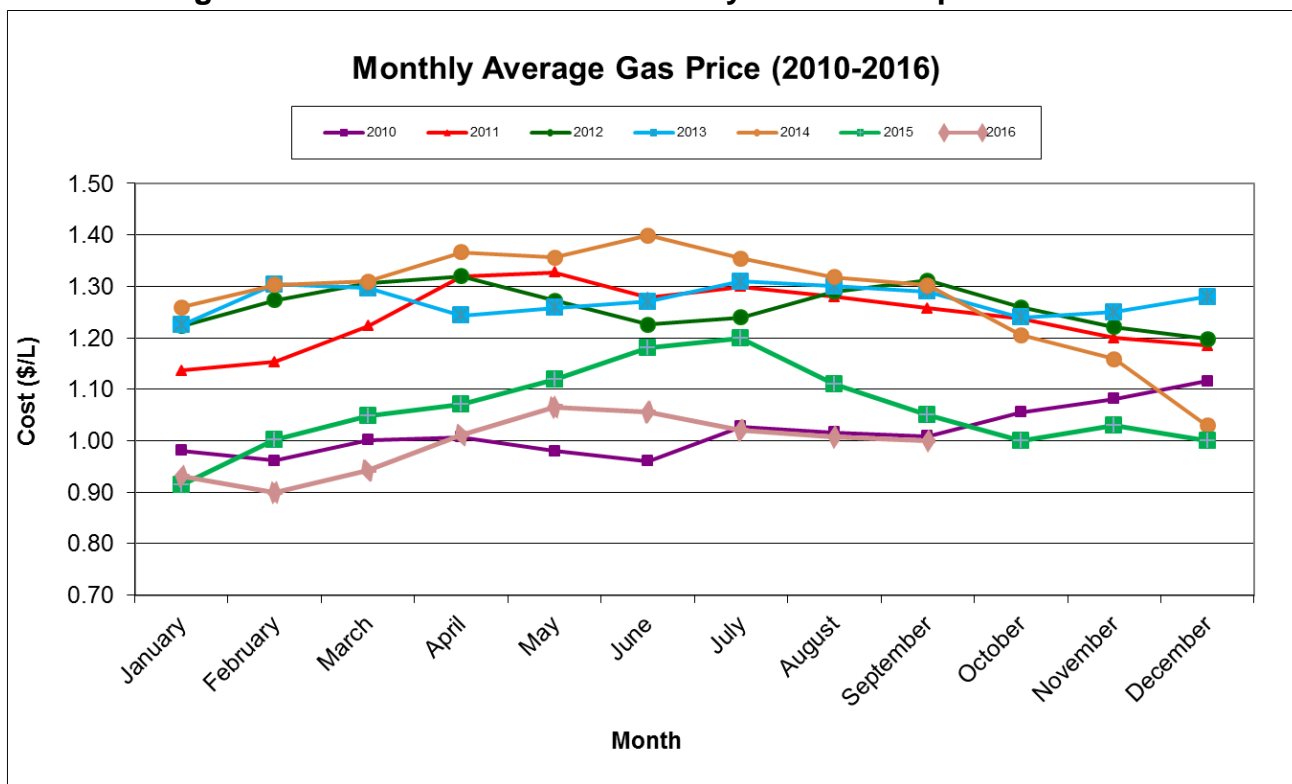
The national unemployment rate in Q3 2016 remained relatively stable compared to Q3 2015. The national unemployment rate in July 2016^[2] was 6.9 per cent, up 0.1 per cent from 6.8 per cent in July 2015^[2]. In August 2016^[2], the national unemployment rate remained stable at 7.0 per cent, compared to August 2015^[2]. In September 2016^[2], the national unemployment rate was 7.0 per cent, down 0.1 per cent from 7.1 per cent in September 2015^[2].

York Region is located within the Employment Insurance Economic Region of Toronto (Economic Region of Toronto) which saw a decrease in unemployment rates in Q3 2016 compared to Q3 2015. In July 2016, the Economic Region of Toronto recorded an unemployment rate of 6.7 per cent^[3], a decrease of 0.2 per cent as compared to 6.9 per cent in July 2015^[3]. In August 2016^[3], the Economic Region of Toronto recorded an unemployment rate of 6.3 per cent, a decrease of 0.3 per cent as compared to 6.6 per cent in August 2015^[3]. In September 2016^[3], the Economic Region of Toronto recorded an unemployment rate of 6.4 per cent, a decrease of 0.4 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent in September 2015^[3].

Gas Prices

Average gasoline prices decreased from \$1.12 per litre in Q3 2015^[4] to \$1.01 per litre in Q3 2016^[5], a decrease of \$0.11 per litre. This information is reflected in **Figure 1** which depicts historical gasoline prices since 2010.

Figure 1: Gas Prices between January 2010 and September 2016



Mobility Plus

Mobility Plus ridership increased 6.3 per cent from 93,784 trips in Q3 2015 to 99,644 trips in Q3 2016, an increase of 5,860 trips. This was due to additional riders being accommodated in the midday and evening hours, and additional Family of Service trips.

Conclusion

YRT/Viva will continue assessing ridership trends while making schedule adjustments to address customer concerns.

Staff continue to monitor the impact on transit service of the Viva rapidway and Spadina subway construction.

Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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Notes:

[1] Historical Climate Data, Toronto Buttonville Airport, Ontario. Retrieved from <http://climate.weather.gc.ca/>. Retrieved date: October 04, 2016

[2] Labour Force Survey. Jul 2016, Aug 2016, Sept 2016, Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/labour-travail/lfs-epa/lfs-epa-eng.htm>. Retrieved date: October 07, 2016

[3] EI Economic Region of Toronto – Unemployment Rates for the EI Economic Regions. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. Retrieved from <http://srv129.services.gc.ca/rbin/eng/rates.aspx?id=2016#data>. Retrieved date: October 04, 2016

[4] Fuel Price Data. (2015). Ministry of Energy. Retrieved from <http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/fuel-prices/?fuel=REG&yr=2015>. Retrieved date: October 05, 2016

[5] Fuel Price Data. (2016). Ministry of Energy. Retrieved from <http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/fuel-prices/?fuel=REG&yr=2016>. Retrieved date: October 05, 2016