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For Immediate Release

The Regional Municipality of York tables 2007 Business Plan and Budget at York Regional Council

Draft budget features service expansion and enhancements

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York today tabled its draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* for York Regional Council. The document proposes numerous service expansions and enhancements for roads, transit and police services to help keep pace with York Region’s growing population and our residents’ demand for value-added services.

“York Region is rapidly approaching the 1 million population mark and Regional staff has worked hard over the past several months to ensure that this draft budget addresses our growth-related pressures and challenges,” said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “The tabling of the draft budget will start the deliberations process which will ensure York Region residents and businesses continue receiving the best services possible for their tax dollars.”

The \$1.8 billion draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* includes a proposed 5.3-per cent tax levy. The resulting impact for the average York Region home with an assessment value of \$372,000 would be approximately \$91 for the year or 25 cents a day.

“Growing communities require investments in infrastructure, transit, additional policing, public health and social services,” added Town of Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, Chair of the Region’s Finance and Administration Committee. “York Region taxpayers can be confident that York Regional staff will carefully scrutinize the draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* and we have a process now underway that will accomplish that.”

The draft budget outlines \$564 million for capital expenditures including costs required for the ongoing maintenance and replacement of existing assets as well as growth and service improvements.

Budget highlights include:

- Major road construction and improvement projects
- Expanded transit routes and new transit vehicles
- Additional police officers and civilian support staff
- Expanded water/wastewater facilities and additional capacity
- Continued implementation of the Source Separated Organics program (Green bins)

The Regional budget also includes approximately \$1.2 billion in operating costs required to maintain existing services. York Region is responsible for the delivery of 13 core services to residents and businesses:

- Arterial Roads
- Regional Transit (YRT/Viva)
- Water and Wastewater Treatment
- Social Assistance
- Solid Waste
- Public Health
- Police Services
- Long Term Care
- Social Housing
- Emergency Medical Services
- Planning and Economic Development
- Court Administration
- Family and Children’s Services

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

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

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

York Region follows a number of performance measurement activities for business planning and budgeting. York Region is a member of the Ontario Municipal CAO's Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI), a partnership project with 15 municipalities which share performance statistics and best practices, and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), which has established standardized reporting for budgets and financial statements.

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

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