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For Immediate Release

## **York Regional Council approves \$4.9 billion 2010 Business Plan with no tax increase for York Region taxpayers**

*Budget invests in infrastructure, maintains services, contributes to reserves, reduces debt*

**NEWMARKET** – York Regional Council today approved The Regional Municipality of York’s \$4.9 billion Business Plan and Budget which includes more than \$3.5 billion for capital projects and \$1.4 billion to maintain and operate York Region services.

The budget includes no tax increase for 2010. The operating budget also contributes nearly \$23 million to the Region’s capital asset replacement reserves for future repairs to infrastructure, plus \$12 million towards paying down the Region’s debt. The budget includes no fare increases for YRT and Viva in 2010.

The 2010 Capital Budget will be paid through a combination of Provincial and Federal government support as well as Development Charges (DCs), which are one-time fees charged for developing a property.

“York Region’s 2010 Business Plan and Budget reflects York Regional Council’s commitment for investment in infrastructure and meeting the service needs of more than one million residents across all nine area municipalities,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “As we emerge from a global economic recession, our budget ensures that York Region remains among the most robust places to do business and raise a family in the GTA.”

“Our business plan provides tax relief for all York Region taxpayers while meeting York Region’s budgetary pressures in a sound and fiscally responsible manner,” said Town of Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, Chair of the Region’s Finance and Administration Committee. “This budget maintains high quality services for our residents, contributes to reserves for future infrastructure replacement needs, focuses on managing our debt and achieves a zero tax levy increase for taxpayers.”

Some of the major multi-year projects approved in the **2010 Capital Budget** include:

- **\$1.8 billion for Water and Wastewater**, including expansion of the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant in Pickering and expansion of the York Durham Sewage System Southeast Collector
- **\$1.1 billion for Rapid Transit**, including construction of the TTC Spadina subway extension to the City of Vaughan Corporate Centre and Yonge Street subway extension concept design and preliminary work
- **\$256 million for Roads**, including several major road widening projects and intersection improvements throughout York Region
- **\$83 million for York Region Transit (YRT)**, including the purchase of 25 new and 46 replacement conventional buses
- **\$80 million for Solid Waste**, including construction of a jointly owned and operated Source Separated Organics (Green Bin processing) facility with the County of Dufferin
- **\$71 million for Housing**, including the construction of 123 affordable housing units
- **\$27 million for York Regional Police**, including construction of the new Investigative and Support facility in the Town of Aurora
- **\$20 million for Information Technology (IT)**, including the purchase and upgrade of IT and telecommunications equipment at Regional offices and facilities
- **\$11 million for Property Services**, including the rehabilitation of several existing Regional buildings and facilities

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- **\$8 million for Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**, including replacement of 10 ambulances and 6 paramedic response vehicles
- **\$700,000 for Long Term Care**, including the purchase of additional resident beds and lifts for the Newmarket Health Centre and Maple Health Centre

The operating budget was supported by \$13.2 million in additional savings from GTA Pooling (money collected by the Province of Ontario to help pay for Social Assistance and Social Housing programs in the City of Toronto) as well as 2.7 per cent in assessment growth (an increase in tax base resulting from new residential and commercial buildings).

Highlights of the **2010 Operating Budget** include:

- **\$223 million for York Regional Police**, including 31 additional police officers and 11 civilian staff
- **\$171 million for Transportation Services**, providing over 3,500 lane kilometres, 785 traffic signals and over 1 million transit service hours
- **\$128 million for Community and Health Services**, includes Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Long Term Care, Public Health, Employment and Financial Support, Family and Children's Services, Housing and Strategic Services Integration and Policy, including \$1 million contribution to the Housing Repair Reserve
- **\$40 million for GTA Pooling**, money collected from York Region to help pay for Social Assistance and Social Housing programs in the City of Toronto
- **\$39 million for Solid Waste Management**, includes a \$1 million contribution to reserves for future infrastructure requirements; managing over 352,000 Tonnes of Solid Waste in 2010
- **\$23 million for Capital Asset Replacement** to provide for future infrastructure requirements
- **\$12 million for debt reduction**

York Region is responsible for the delivery of 13 core services to residents and businesses:

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

Standard & Poor's and Moody's investor services have consistently awarded York Region AAA credit ratings, partly in recognition to York Region's policy of allocating funds annually to reserves which allows the Region to service debt costs at more favourable interest rates, and translates into further savings for Regional taxpayers.

Please refer to accompanying Media Backgrounders for detailed information on:

1. Capital Budget Highlights
2. Operating Budget Highlights
3. Where Your Tax Dollar Goes
4. GTA Pooling
5. Water/Wastewater Rates

A media release on the 2010 York Regional Police budget is also attached.

For more information on the 2010 Business Plan and Budget, click on the Budget Banner at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)