

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Rapid Transit Public Private Partnership Steering Committee

FROM: Mary-Frances Turner, Vice-President
York Region Rapid Transit Corporation

DATE: November 23, 2005

RE: Requests for a Vivastation at Chalmers Road

Since the launch of Viva service in September, we have received requests from several York Region residents and municipal councillors to provide additional stops on the Viva system. A number of these requests pertain to a Vivastation at Chalmers Road. I have responded in several letters to requests for Chalmers Road stops, explaining the status of Chalmers Road within the context of ultimate plans for the Viva network and reasons why Chalmers is not currently a stop nor will be added as a stop at this time as follows:

Viva Phase One

- The earliest Viva network planning positioned Chalmers as a stop that would be added after the *Quick Start* program, depending on development and timing.
- A detailed analysis of population patterns, commercial development, major arterials and traffic patterns, and intersecting north and south local YRT routes, concluded that there had to be a Vivastation at Bayview. Valley Mede also provided an opportunity to connect with local YRT routes.
- Viva operates much like a subway system, with stops located every one or two kilometres at major intersections or destinations.
- Viva is a rapid transit service that complements York Region Transit (YRT) service and in no way replaces the local service. Since people live and work all along Viva routes, the local YRT service has far more stops, picking up and dropping off passengers at and between Vivastations.
- As the new transit system matures, we will continue to take steps to ensure that schedules between the two services are as complementary as possible, providing a system that benefits the greatest number of people.

- Growing congestion has and continues to be a real issue on the rapid transit routes and service will be jeopardized in this initial phase by adding stops throughout the Region.
- The Viva Phase One budget has been expended and there is no flexibility to implement additional stops at this time.

Viva Phase Two

- A Vivastation at Chalmers Road is planned for Viva Phase Two, and the stop is outlined in the Environmental Assessment that is currently with MOE.
- Viva Phase Two includes the construction of dedicated rapid transit lanes, but the timetable will be determined by the availability of government funding.
- Once dedicated lanes proposed in Viva Phase Two are in place, our ability to add stops will be much more feasible.

MFT:DD

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