



Office of the Chair

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

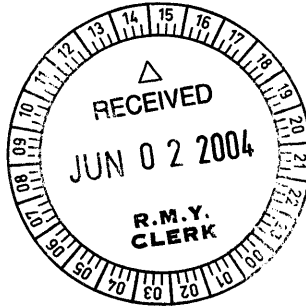
FILE No. -

P34

May 25, 2004

Resolution No. 2004-541

Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1



Dear Mr. Kelly:

Subject: Notice of Motion from Councillor Pat Saito Regarding Funding of GO Transit

I am writing to advise that Regional Council approved the following resolution at its meeting held on May 13, 2004:

Whereas the responsibility for operation of GO Transit was downloaded from the provincial government to the Greater Toronto Services Board in 1999;

And whereas as a result of this delegation of service provision of GO Transit, the Regional Municipalities of Peel, York, Halton and Durham and Cities of Toronto and Hamilton were expected to provide all funding for GO Transit operations and capital spending;

And whereas the Regions were forced to add these costs to their annual budgets at the expense of the local taxpayers which impacted tax increases in some municipalities;

And whereas starting in January 2002, the Province of Ontario took back responsibility for GO Transit;

And whereas the municipalities require the property-tax-generated funding that was previously redirected to GO Transit to be applied to their own transportation needs and should no longer be expected to provide this funding for a provincial service;

And whereas the Region of Peel implemented Development Charges to pay for its share of growth related GO capital costs and these funds will continue to be available for this purpose;

And whereas these funds will not cover the entire amount expected from the Region of Peel and the remainder will come from property taxes;

And whereas other municipalities did not implement Development Charges and will have to fund 100 per cent from property taxes;

And whereas the Province of Ontario still expects the regional municipalities in the GTA and the Cities of Toronto and Hamilton to share in the capital funding of GO Transit;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel objects to this expectation of the provincial government as it will place added pressure on property taxes which may require future tax increases to local property taxpayers and will impact the provision of those services that the Region is required to provide to its citizens;

And further, that the Province of Ontario be requested to mandate that all municipalities benefiting from GO Transit implement Development Charges to assist with growth related GO Transit capital costs;

And further, that the Province of Ontario be requested to amend the Development Charges Act to allow municipalities to raise funds for GO Transit in a manner where the non-growth related component will be funded by the Province of Ontario, in order that there be no impact on the property tax base;

And further, that the Province of Ontario be advised that the Region of Peel's position is that the Province of Ontario should be responsible for 100 per cent of its inter-regional transit service and not place this burden on the local municipalities;

And further, that the Federal Government be requested to provide sustainable fiscal support to the Province of Ontario in the delivery of essential inter-regional transit services, provided by GO Transit, in order to foster and promote a healthy economy in the Greater Toronto Area;

And further, that the Region of Peel request the Regions of Halton, York, Durham and Cities of Toronto and Hamilton to support this position and so advise the Premier of Ontario.

This information is provided for your reference and actions deemed necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emil Kolb".

Emil Kolb
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

JP:kw

c: Dan Labrecque, Treasurer and Commissioner of Finance
Ed Zamparo, Manager, Financial Policy