

March 4, 2004.

DC # O-04-001061

Mayor Michael DiBiase
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Dear Mayor DiBiase:

Re: Quick Start Routing Through Woodbridge

In a recent Regional Council meeting, there was a discussion concerning a move of the eastern terminus of Quick Start's Vaughan connector and Highway 7 routes to Martin Grove Road.

As you know, Quick Start is only the first phase of the YRTP program and is being implemented on a very short timeline, with start-up planned for fall of 2005. As such, Quick Start will go into operation before completion of the Environmental Assessments for the "full-build" phase in which centre-median transitways and major intermodal terminals with significant park and ride capacity will be constructed. Without the EA's being approved, the Quick Start phase is restricted to use of existing roadway infrastructure and cannot include the acquisition of property for and construction of major off-street facilities such as terminals and park-ride lots.

For Quick Start, we looked at several options for a western terminus, including Highway 427. One criterion was the need for a "turn-around" and layover facility. One does not currently exist at the 427 – Highway 7 intersection and the lack of an approved EA precluded us from building one there. Also, our ridership forecasting analysis also indicated that without an intermodal terminal with significant park and ride capacity, we would not have enough ridership west of Woodbridge to justify the service extension. Again, such a facility does not currently exist and can not be built before an EA is approved.

We chose Martin Grove as the terminus primarily because we did have an on-street looping available (Woodstream Blvd.) and because that location would ensure good connections with YRT serving Woodbridge.

We are hopeful that the EA's will be approved by the end of this year. When that happens, it may be possible to work with the Ontario Ministry of Transport to develop the needed "Western Gateway" intermodal terminal at the 427 – Highway 7 interchange in advance of construction of the rest of a Highway 7 median transitway and extend service to it, of course subject to funding.

We have also liaised with Brampton on providing connections across the Regional boundary. They have their own BRT plans and we both agree that we should maximize connectivity, although their target date is likely a couple of years after Quick Start. In the meantime, Route 77 will continue to provide the connection to Brampton along Highway 7 and will connect to Quick Start routes at the Martin Grove terminus.

I hope this satisfactorily explains our rationale on this issue. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further clarification. And thank you, again, for your continued support of the YRTP program.

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Frances Turner
Executive Coordinator

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Quick Start Routes: West of Yonge

SCOPE STOP KEY PLAN



Planned Full System Routes: West of Yonge

